

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom was called to order by Chairperson Troy Meyers at 6:33 p.m. Attendance was called.

2. ATTENDANCE

➤ Members:

- Councilmember David Lawrence (City of Aberdeen)
- Mayor Linda Springer (City of Cosmopolis)
- Mayor Josh Collette (City of Elma)
- Mayor Chris Miller (City of McCleary)
- Councilmember Scott Anderson (City of Ocean Shores)
- Councilmember Troy Meyers (City of Westport)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager, Karen Kienenberger (Timberland Regional Library)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
- Natalie Jensen, Office Coordinator

➤ Guests:

- WSDOT, Hunter Henderson, Transportation Specialist II

A quorum was established.

Vicki announced that we would record the meeting for the benefit of Natalie's first meeting.

3. GHCOG BUSINESS

➤ Action: Approval of Current Meeting Agenda

Chairperson, Troy Meyers, asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

Josh Collette made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ Action: Approval of June 2024 Minutes

Chairperson, Troy Meyers, asked for approval of the June 2024 Minutes. Vicki apologized for the 2023 typo on the agenda, that we were asking for approval of the June 2024 minutes.

Chairperson Troy Meyers pointed out an error in the minutes. Ken Mehin made a motion to approve as amended; second, Josh Collette. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairperson, Troy Meyers, reported a Sub-Council meeting was held. Bills and payroll were reviewed and approved. Discussion of agency being on schedule with the budget was held.

➤ **Action: Approval of July 2024 Claims Batches #24-07 which includes July 2024 Payroll**

Chairperson, Troy Meyers, asked for approval of the July 2024 Claims Batches #24-07 in the amount of \$43,711.78.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Linda Springer. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS

Action: Approval of Resolution #688 - Grays Harbor Council of Governments 2025 – 2030 Transportation Improvement Plan

Vicki explained this resolution is for the Grays Harbor Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and that our organization receives federal funding for STP administration and our only funding secured projects in the TIP is Surface Transportation Program Administration for 2025 through 2030. Other projects are regional and do not have a funding source currently.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Linda Springer. Motion passed unanimously

4. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Held brownfield kickoff meeting. Discussed projects in queue from Hoquiam and Elma, Aberdeen is ready to submit their projects. Moving ahead with 5 projects, and \$1 million in the grant. There will be funding for 18 phase 1 ESAs, 14 phase 2 ESAs, four site reuse plans and 1 areawide plan.
- Met with EPA consultant on the Elma Theater cleanup. Discussed with Brownfield consultants how best to utilize the grant money appropriately.
- Attended RTPO meeting, this was a second meeting due to lack of quorum. Discussed Transportation Alternative Funds, and ensured our local project was able to receive additional funding.
- CWCOG published their annual Freight newsletter. Ensured Port of GH updates were included.
- Attended meeting on Intercity Bus Services. Discussed better connecting the peninsula with the metro areas. Planning to continue working with this group.
- Fish barrier project will limit access on State Route 109. Use detour on Ocean Beach Road.
- Zana has been training the new staff member. She will be here until end of August.

➤ **Natalie Jensen, Office Coordinator**

- Natalie gave a brief introduction of herself, her background and excitement to support the GHCOG membership.

5. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

➤ **WSDOT, Hunter Henderson, Transportation Specialist II**

- WSDOT construction project updates can be found at:
<https://engage.wsdot.wa.gov/olympic-peninsula-construction/grays-harbor-county/>
- **US 12 Road Closures and Traffic delays**
 - MP 12.36 – Camp Creek
 - MP 17.56 – Unnamed Tributary to Wenzel Slough
 - MP 19.17 – Unnamed Tributary to Vance Creek
- **SR 8 Road Closures and Traffic delays**
 - MP 3.16 – Unnamed Tributary to Wildcat Creek
 - MP 9.10 – Unnamed Tributary to Mox Chehalis Creek.
- **SR 109 Hoquiam to Ocean City – Road Closures**
 - Monday, July 22, SR 109 at milepost 4.4 will close around the clock. The highway will close between Bay Ridge Lane and Valley Road. Reopens Sunday, Aug. 11th.
 - Detour via US 101, Ocean Beach Road, Grass Creek Road, and Powell Road.
 - SR 109 will close again, Tuesday, Sept. 3rd through Saturday, Oct. 5th near Kessler Lane.
- **SR 109 closures and detour between Ocean City and Seabrook**
 - SR 109 at milepost 24.5 is closed around the clock. The roadway will close to all travelers for approximately 28 days.
 - Starting Thursday, Aug. 1, SR 109 at milepost 19.4 will close around the clock. The highway will close between Pacific Lane and Chabot Road. The roadway will close to all travelers for approximately 30 calendar days.

➤ **City of Aberdeen, Councilmember David Lawrence**

- Removal of a number of signals on Market Street.
- Zelasko Park restored after major sewage pipe failure and replacement.
- Two sewer projects to begin construction in 2025.
- Pump Station 4 (Near Heron St. bridge) project may impact traffic.
- Inflow & Infiltration Mitigation starts in Spring, may impact traffic.

➤ **City of Cosmopolis, Mayor Linda Springer**

- Preservation grant for Mill Creek Park has begun.
- Cosi Art Fest Fundraiser for local artists was successful.
- In partnership with the Cosi Lions' Club, the city's Festival in the Park will be held Sept. 8th at the Lion's Club Park due to construction at Mill Creek Park.
- City's municipal building is taking shape. To be complete January 2025.
- Fire Department is fully staffed with 20 volunteers.
- Fire Department received grant for new gear from DNR. Planning a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.
- Partnered with the TRL for Storytime in the Park up at Highlands.

- Received \$53k grant for police training.
 - 46 new LED streetlights converted.
- City of Elma, Mayor Josh Collette
- Grocery Outlet grand opening at Eagles Landing this morning was a success.
 - 15 items on the next council agenda including: Authorizing the Half million to remediate the theater.
 - Received \$30k grant from Department of Commerce for AED placements in public buildings and police cars.
 - Adding 4 Dynamic Crosswalks, three in school zones, one in the business sector.
 - RCO grant in June for LED lights at baseball park.
 - Major street resurfacing project throughout town.
 - Kickoff Parks & Rec Plan for public input during National Night Out next month.
 - Working on design remodel for court and police station. Funded through a \$1.3 million Derek Kilmer grant.
- City of McCleary, Mayor Chris Miller
- Partnering with TRL for Storytime in the Park.
 - Received \$2.75 million decarbonization grant for solar farm, currently evaluating locations.
 - Moving forward in design phase of sidewalk project on Maple Street.
 - Mayor spoke with the community during Bear Festival last weekend.
 - Visit from State Rep. Walsh and Sen. Wilson to address concerns and discuss planning money for additional sidewalks.
 - Power poles being replaced on Power Line Road.
- City of Westport, Councilmember Troy Meyers
- Working on financing for deep water wells due to supply chain issues.
 - Closing in on signing agreement with FEMA on Vertical Evacuation structure.
 - New City Hall is coming along.
 - Adding new biking/walking path and redoing street on North Forrest Street.
 - TRL refresh complete next week.
 - Storytime on the Trail launched.
 - Met with Port of Grays Harbor to complete MOUs on various properties with shared responsibilities.
 - Beginning Environmental Assessment of old dump locations, and planning for future brownfield remediation.
 - Created a new Building, Lands & Parks Committee to help assess and sell properties owned by city.
 - Looking to hire a new Police Chief and two law officers.
 - Hired two people to replace City Clerk-Treasurer, Margo Tackett, who is retiring.
- Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin
- Finishing the remodel of the Hoquiam office to be complete by mid-August. Ribbon cutting Sept. 10th 3 p.m.
 - Attended First Amendment Audit Training. The course was free and highly recommended for all.
 - Working on State Audit this week.

- Awarded for \$2.6 million grant for building and property improvements at Hoquiam facilities.
- Booth planned for Grays Harbor County Fair this year.
- Timberland Regional Library, McCleary Library Manager Karen Kienenberger
 - Story Trails program launched. Each location is worth visiting, especially Westport.
 - Check out the Summer Library Program, activities for all ages, prizes & coupons. Please check the calendar of events.
 - Partnering with local Native American Tribes on “Since Time Immemorial” kits.
 - Kits include books written by Native Americans, information about local tribes, stuffed animals, binder and more.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Ken Mehin made a motion to adjourn; second, Linda Springer. Motion passed unanimously.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
115 S. Wooding St.
Aberdeen, Washington 98520

Troy Meyers
Chairman

Date

Vicki Cummings
Executive Director

Date