

# City of SeaTac

## Council Study Session Minutes Synopsis

January 26, 2016  
4:30PM

City Hall  
Council Chambers

**CALL TO ORDER:** The SeaTac City Council Study Session (CSS) was called to order by Mayor Rick Forschler at 4:30 p.m.

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Rick Forschler, Deputy Mayor Michael J. Siefkes, Councilmembers (CMs) Kathryn Campbell, Peter Kwon, Tony Anderson (*participated by phone*), Pam Fernald, and Erin Sitterley.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Interim City Manager (ICM) Donny Payne, City Attorney Mary Mirante Bartolo, City Clerk Kristina Gregg, Senior Assistant City Attorney Mark Johnsen, Assistant City Manager (ACM) Gwen Voelpel, Program Manager Soraya Lowry, Community & Economic Development (CED) Director Joe Scorcio, Planning Manager Steve Pilcher, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Wiwel, Economic Development (ED) Manager Jeff Robinson, Human Resources (HR) Manager Vanessa Audett, and Police Chief Lisa Mulligan.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to the agenda items listed below):** Dr. William Oliver requested Council consider an Ordinance requiring landlords to have just cause in order to evict tenants.

### **PRESENTATIONS - INFORMATION ONLY:**

#### **Introduction of new City employees: Interim City Manager (ICM) Donny Payne and Facilities Manager Brian Ruda**

Mayor Forschler introduced Mr. Payne.

ICM Payne introduced Mr. Ruda.

### **AGENDA BILLS:**

#### **Agenda Bill #4234; A Motion authorizing the Mayor to execute an employment agreement with Interim City Manager (ICM) Donny Payne.**

**Summary:** On January 19, the City Council selected Donny Payne as ICM. The City Attorney was requested to negotiate a contract with Mr. Payne for Council consideration.

The proposed contract is a result of discussions with the Legal Department, Human Resources (HR), and Mr. Payne. The highlights of this agreement are as follows:

Mr. Payne's salary would be \$12,499.92/month (\$149,999/annually), plus benefits on the same basis as other Department Directors. This salary is less than the previous City Manager, less than some Department Directors, and is in line with City Manager compensation at other comparable cities.

The term of the agreement is one year. However, the contract explicitly provides that the City Council may terminate the agreement at any time, with or without cause, and with or without notice. This give the City Council maximum flexibility should the Council decide to terminate the services of Mr. Payne.

A section is inserted related to Mr. Payne's obligation to perform periodic duties with the Washington National Guard. Although this contract provision is not required, it is being included to ensure that the City Council is aware of this obligation when entering into this agreement.

Although this contract was negotiated between Mr. Payne and City staff, contracts with the City Manager are a Council decision. Should members of the City Council wish to make changes prior to adoption, those changes can be discussed at the Council Study Session (CSS). Staff will then be able to make necessary edits to the contract prior to Council action at the Regular Council Meeting (RCM).

As a result of the City paying severance to the previous City Manager, it may be necessary to amend the budget to account for this additional expenditure. However, the need for a budget amendment will depend on other cost savings.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Johnsen reviewed the agenda bill summary.

**AGENDA BILLS (continued):**

**Agenda Bill #4234 (continued):** Discussion ensued regarding the ICM position and timeline to search for a permanent City Manager.

Ms. Audett stated the one year term allows the ICM to be taken more seriously.

**Council consensus:** Refer to the 01/26/16 RCM Action Item

**Agenda Bill #4235; A Resolution amending the City Council Administrative Procedures.**

**Summary:** At the January 12, 2016 RCM, staff was requested to draft a proposed amendment to the City Council Administrative Procedures. First, it was requested to amend Section 3, by adding the four previous Council Standing Committees (1) Administration and Finance (A&F), (2) Land Use and Parks (LUP), (3) Transportation and Public Works (T&PW), and (4) Public Safety and Justice (PS&J). It was requested that these committees not meet on a regular basis, but rather as needed. Second, it was requested to amend Section 4 (A) by adding the words "and its committees" pertaining to meetings that are open to the public.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Johnsen reviewed the agenda bill summary.

Council discussion ensued regarding the proposed changes. Comments were made regarding language about minutes for standing committees, whether to limit membership to three CMs, and removing "such regular dates and times" language.

Mayor Forschler stated the Council Administrative Procedures is also a topic for the upcoming Council retreat.

**Council consensus:** Refer to the 02/05/16 Council Retreat

**PRESENTATIONS - INFORMATION ONLY:**

**Code Compliance Statistics**

CED Director Scorcio commented on staffing issues: one code compliance program coordinator position currently vacant; part-time admin assistance position currently vacant; temporary agency staff being used; and complaints continue to be received at a typical rate.

He stated the 2016 budget was amended to add \$48,000 for abatements. An abatement policy and implementation procedure are being finalized. Two initial sites targeted for abatement may soon be resolved by property owners.

Planning Manager Pilcher provided an update on activities for 2015 Total and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter confirmed code violation types. He stated the city averages more than one complaint per calendar day. There's no indication to expect that to decrease.

Mr. Pilcher reviewed the code compliance dashboard and performance measures. 45 days is the median resolution time goal. In October it was 29 days, in November was 58 days, and December was 38 days.

Discussion ensued regarding graffiti, length of cases before closing, and closed cases versus number of new cases.

CM Kwon stated he will be in Olympia January 27 to testify in support of bill 4196 which will put the city at the top of the list for receiving up to \$2,000 when spending money on abatements.

Mr. Pilcher stated cases are closed because they were either resolved, owner addressed issues, or determined there is no code violation.

Mr. Scorcio stated staff will provide Code Compliance Statistics approximately every third Council meeting.

**Quarterly Public Safety Statistics**

Deputy Fire Chief Wiwel reviewed 4<sup>th</sup> quarter statistics. The trend continues to be that the majority of calls are for EMS. He reviewed Fire Prevention, Code Enforcement, and recent trainings.

Discussion ensued regarding code enforcement (fire code violations include electrical, extinguishers, and exiting).

**PRESENTATIONS - INFORMATION ONLY (continued):**

**Quarterly Public Safety Statistics**

Police Chief Mulligan reviewed 2014-2015 crime trends, January 2015-December 2015 crime trends, City of Burien versus SeaTac for November 15 versus December 15. Part 2 crimes increased significantly in December 2015 due to fraud, mail theft, and trespassing. Auto theft increased significantly and is above the 10-year average. Just recently a car theft ring leader was taken into custody so there is hope that the thefts will decrease.

Discussion ensued regarding the statistics comparison for Burien, comparisons for Tukwila or southsound region, rental car facility thefts (POS jurisdiction), and crime statistics for POS.

Ms. Mulligan stated a crime prevention meeting is being held in the Council Chambers January 27 at 6 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS - COUNCIL DIRECTION:**

**A Presentation of the City's 2016 State Legislative Agenda and overview of the 2016 Legislative Session.**

ED Manager Robinson introduced Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell Government Affairs Vice President Briahna Murray.

Ms. Murray reviewed what to expect in 2016. The main goal of the session is to make amendments to budgets, narrow majorities in both the House and Senate, and the legislature is focused on responding to the McCleary Supreme Court decision and developing a plan to fully fund education by 2018. There will be limited opportunities to begin preparing for 2017-2019.

She reviewed the cities protocol on Legislative Issues: external/internal legislative agendas, weekly report from Ms. Murray, and main point of contact is Mr. Robinson.

Ms. Murray highlighted the city's 2016 top priorities: ensure timely delivery of SR 509, foreclosed homes, and nuisance abatement cost recovery.

Council discussion ensued regarding the revising the priorities. Council concurred that making any changes at this point won't affect anything. Future discussion will occur related to the 2017 session.

Ms. Murray reviewed some of the legislative successes for 2013-15: secured funding for SR 509, securing funding for an International Marketplace Transit Oriented Development (TOD), and secured funding for the 28<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge. In addition, SeaTac's views were expressed on many bills.

She also reviewed bill 2576 related to Public Records Reform. There is a hearing, January 28, 2016.

**New Items:** There were no New Items.

**RECESS:** Mayor Forschler recessed the meeting to an Executive Session on Potential Litigation at 6:15 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Potential Litigation RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) (13 minutes)**

**RECONVENED:** Mayor Forschler reconvened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** Mayor Forschler adjourned the Council Study Session at 6:33 p.m.