

OBSERVER REPORT FORM

This form may be completed electronically and the space expanded as needed. If completing this form by hand, please use the back of the page to add information as needed.

Name of Agency	Puyallup City Council	Date of Meeting	5/14/19
Observer Reporting	Nancy Dahl	Length of Meeting	3 hrs, 45 min.
Members Present	All members present (CM Farris arrived late)		
Others Present			

Content: What issue was discussed? Was some action approved? What discussion related to League positions or priorities? If discussion related to League priorities, do you recommend League action? What documents were made available about these issues?

1. A representative of Pierce Transit presented information about a new program being considered for the Meridian corridor to speed commute times called Bus Rapid Transit or BRT. Council member Kastama expressed concern about impact on existing congestion caused by dedicated lanes; CM Door wondered if traffic light control would cause problems for first responders and CM Jacobsen discussed the fairness of the amount of service in Puyallup based on the amount of sales tax received by pierce transit from the Puyallup area. There will be public education outreach over the summer and the community will vote of the initiative in 2020.
2. A public hearing related to vacating of a portion of 3rd Ave NW was delayed by 6-0 vote of the council
3. The consent agenda included many new spending initiatives: chip sealing, 9th Ave SW street improvements, replacement of 3 patrol vehicles, Wildwood Dr. sidewalk improvements, development of a waste water 20-year facility improvement plan and UV system replacement plan, the Tacoma to Puyallup Trail Connection planning, Interlocal agreement for Tactical Response Team, Public Safety Radio system, plus approval of accounts payable, payroll. The consent agenda was approved 7-0.
4. The First Reading of an ordinance amending the 2019 budget was approved 7-0
5. The first Reading of an ordinance to adopt chronic nuisance provisions as part of the Health and Safety code was approved 7-0. Discussion involved the need for better ways to address situations that involve repeated impacts to the community by businesses and homeowners who don't respond to current method of issuing warnings or repeat the same infraction over and over. Atty. Beck said voluntary compliance is the goal. The first reading was approved 7-0.

The change to the public nuisance ordinance is probably being driven by a hearing examiner ruling last year that the high-impact business license initiated in 2016 was capricious, since the only business subject to the license was the New Hope Center. The examiner ruled that the requirement to hire 24-hour security would unnecessarily burden their operation. (The nuisance ordinance was adopted at the May 21st meeting and the high impact business license was repealed at the June 11th meeting). The nuisance ordinance gives the city new tools for controlling nuisances but they could also be tools to continue to harass New Hope and its clients.

New Hope would like to work with the city to develop a more solution-focused approach to homelessness by the community. League members who agree could let their city officials and council members know that they favor an approach that helps the New Hope Center do a better job for the city's homeless and that harassment of people through the new nuisance ordinance is a waste of city resources as law suits continue to go against the city's tactics to discourage homeless from living in Puyallup.

6. A resolution was approved 7-0 to adopt a Safe Routes to School Plan. CM Kastama thought it important to quantify the total project and recommended a yearly report. CM Swanson suggested Photo Enforcement revenue be added to the project in the next budget.
7. The council considered a request by the community to construct the infrastructure to support local advertising of community events with cross-street banners to be provided by the sponsoring organization. Discussion identified LTAC funds (Revenue from city hotel tax) as a potential source of revenue to pay for the pole construction. CM Johnson supported 100% use of LTAC funds. He suggested that a method of selecting which organizations can use the infrastructure was needed. Accessing the LTAC funds was approved 7-0.
8. Public Safety Building: A discussion about how to finance the Public Safety Building focused on strategy to get community buy in. The council discussed resources that could be used to get the project funded until the Library bonds are paid off. Most didn't feel residents would approve a proposal to bond the whole \$88 M cost. Cash could be raised through selling city-owned lots. A review of the pros and cons of building new vs. renovation of existing facilities seemed to lean towards the cost-saving long-term advantages in maintenance, cost of transporting prisoners to leased jail space, income from leasing new jail space. CM Johnson suggested there was value in proposing an inclusive package. CM Jacobsen pointed out that the city hall bond will be paid off in 2026. She supported a reduced bond package on the ballot to get through until this bond is retired. CM Door asked City Finance Dept head if he would endorse the use of a reduced ballot measure plus Councilmanic bonds (general obligation bonds). He said he wouldn't recommend it as this is how the city got into financial trouble 10 years ago. CM Farris was also opposed to the use of Councilmanic bonds. Mayor Palmer proposed the following plan: \$65M measure on the 2020 ballot backfilled with Councilmanic bonds and cash. He said this would be more likely to pass with citizen approval and provide the ability to move ahead on the project until the library bond is retired, and that borrowing capacity can be accessed. CM door expressed approval for the Mayor's proposal. CM Swanson said he thought \$50M was the maximum bond level he could support. A final resolution on the plan was delayed to a future meeting.

The League should be thinking about and discussing the need for a jail in Puyallup. This feature of the proposed Public Safety Building plan is adding significant cost to the project at a time when the philosophy about criminal justice is changing away from incarceration solutions. The reasons for a jail articulated by the planners seems to revolve around the time and cost of transporting prisoners to Tacoma and the possible income generated by having jail cells to lease to other jurisdictions. This might be a discussion for a future Unit meeting.

I would recommend watching the PSB funding discussion on the city's website, item 7b. which starts at 2:12:26. This was a fascinating peek into the way city leaders think about the process of planning and funding large projects.

Other factors worth noting: Citizen comments were generally positive about making the ability to use cross-street banners available for community events. Several people commented with concern about the council's current spending and building initiatives, opposition to councilmanic bonds and the scope of the public safety building, questioning the need for a jail.

See <http://www.pacificallawgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/UTGO-Election-Timeline-Handout-for-Cities.pdf> for a discussion of how councilmanic bonds can be used in Washington.

Process and Protocol:

Characteristic	Yes	No	Comments/Explanations
Did members appear to have done their "homework"?	X		
Was material for the meeting made available to the public in advance?	X		
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
How did the group respond to your presence?	No response		

Reminder:

The purposes of the LWVT-PC Observer Corps are to:

1. Promote public interest in local government;
2. Be a presence to elected officials.
3. Alert the League Board to upcoming agenda items on which League has program positions to which League can speak.
4. Identify areas for future LWVT-PC study and action.

Observers play an important role as they learn about issues and processes and are in touch with what is happening in our community. A LWVT-PC Observer is impartial, silent and respectful. It is, however, appropriate to ask questions for clarification. Remember to wear your LWV badge.

Please attach the agenda and any other materials received at the meeting that you feel are important to your report. Please try to submit your report to LWVT-PC Observer Corps Chair, Paula Eismann, within one week of the meeting. Send information to Paula Eismann, peismann60@comcast.net, or c/o LWVT-PC Office; 621 Tacoma Ave. S., Ste. 202; Tacoma, WA 98402.