

# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, January 23, 2023

6:00 PM

Mary Lou Steward – Mayor  
Richard May – Mayor Pro Tem

This City Council meeting will be conducted in-person and virtually. Councilmembers and the public will be in attendance in the City Council Chambers. Those wishing to listen or watch the meeting live will be able to call one of the numbers below, or click the link to watch the live stream. Other than the audience participation portion or a public hearing, all callers will be muted during the meeting. All City Council meeting recordings are on the City's website. Instructions on how to listen live to the City Council meeting are below:

**For members of the public who want to watch the meeting live, click the link below:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6326365553?pwd=MnhJQlFiU2hxWC9TcU9sN1J0N3VUUT09>

**For members of the public who want to listen to the meeting, call one of the numbers below:**

- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- 888 475 4499 US Toll-free
- 833 548 0276 US Toll-free
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- 877 853 5257 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 632 636 5553

Participant ID: #

Passcode: 427636

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6326365553>

**A. STUDY SESSION:** 4:35 PM – Public Records Act (PRA)/Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Training – Peter Ruffatto

**B. CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM**  
Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance – *Led by Mayor Steward*

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS: Garth Baldwin, Eric Davidson, Kerena Higgins, Mike Hill, Rhyan Lopez, Richard May, and Mary Lou Steward.

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** - Sign-up/Comment Sheet is located in the Council Chambers before the meeting. Members of the audience will have three minutes to speak. If you plan on commenting remotely via Zoom, instructions on how to comment are included at the bottom of the agenda. Audience members speaking remotely will be asked to participate first. After the remote audience participation is over, in-person speakers will be asked to speak.

1. Pete Nelson, regarding him being the new Director of the Blaine Senior Center.
2. Penny Tallman, regarding her being the President of the Blaine Senior Center Board of Directors.
3. Richard Ray, regarding crab buyers in box trucks from Seattle and Canada.
4. Yvette Ray, regarding crab buyers in box trucks from Seattle and Canada.
5. Paul Schissler, regarding affordable housing.

#### D. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. Email dated January 18, 2023, from Stacie Pratschner, regarding construction and development updates.

#### E. CONSENT AGENDA

*Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda at the request of a Councilmember.*

1. Voucher Memo:  
Approval of Bills: \$78,786.87
2. Approval of 2022 Open Period Bills: \$115,138.01
3. Approval of January 9, 2023, City Council Minutes.
4. Approving Resolution 1910-23, Which amends Resolution 1658-15 and the Public Works Advisory Committee term limits. (McSpadden)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD MAY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY GARTH BALDWIN, AND APPROVED 7-0.**

#### F. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

1. A Request to the City Council from the ad hoc Downtown Advisory Committee to Establish a City Council member liaison alternate for the Committee as described in the Project Charter approved pursuant to [RES 1897-22](#). (Pratschner)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD MAY TO APPOINT MARY LOU STEWARD AS AN ALTERNATE COUNCIL LIAISON TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MIKE HILL AND APPROVED 6-1 (MARY LOU STEWARD ABSTAINED).**

#### G. COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. Whatcom Council Of Governments – Richard May reported on all of the asks for Whatcom County. This includes the Bell Road overpass.
2. Small Cities Meeting – Mayor Steward reported on future funding for projects in the County. Sumas will be the top priority for these fundings due to recent flooding issues.

#### H. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Community Development Services Department – Stacie Pratschner reported on the recent ad hoc Downtown Advisory Committee meetings that occurred on January 5<sup>th</sup> and January 19<sup>th</sup>.
2. Public Works Department – Gary McSpadden reported on the G Street sewer update project, the proposed Bell Road railroad overpass project, the East Blaine water infrastructure plan, recent water well projects, as well as updating stormwater comprehensive plan and electrical comprehensive plan.

#### I. CALENDARS

*Information on how to listen to the meeting live will be on the City Council agenda which is located on the City's website homepage under Your Government, City Council, City Council Agenda. Please check the agenda prior to each meeting as the call in number or location may change.*

Monday, January 23

4:30pm – Study Session: OPMA/PRA Training

6:00pm – City Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 24

3:30pm – Civil Service Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 2

9:00am – Ad Hoc Downtown Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 9

6:00pm – Planning Commission Meeting

*Contact information for staff and Councilmembers can be found on the City's website.*

## **J. COUNCIL UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **K. COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Councilmember Davidson reported on the proposed interactive Marine Science Center at Drayton Harbor. This topic will be added to a future City Council agenda.
2. Mayor Steward reported on a recent letter from the Point Roberts Chamber of Commerce regarding the U.S. Canada border closure during COVID-19.

## **L. ADJOURNED: 6:40 PM**

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Mary Lou Steward, Mayor

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Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

*Council minutes for January 23, 2023, were approved at the February 13, 2023, Council meeting.*

*Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirement: The meeting location is accessible. If you require a special accommodation during your attendance at any public meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office (360) 332-8311 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting date you will be attending. Thank you.*

### **Information on how to view or listen to this City Council Meeting live is below.**

#### **Meeting Details**

For information on how to join a Zoom meeting via web browser, please read our advice here:

[How to Use Zoom Meeting](#)

**Follow the instructions below to join the meeting by desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone:**

1. Click the link to join the meeting:

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*Follow the instructions below if you want to **give testimony during audience participation or public hearing**. Please note that only testimony on the public hearing topic will be placed into the record.*

2. When the Chair opens the Audience Participation or Public Hearing, please “raise your hand” (via the “raise hand” option in Zoom) and you will be placed in a queue. When it is your time to speak, the Zoom moderator will call on you and provide you five minutes to make your comments (if you're not planning on providing public comment, no action is required once you join the meeting).

For information on how to use the **Raise Hand** function in Zoom, please read our advice here: [Zoom Tips on Raising Your Hand](#)

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