



Snohomish County Council

General Legislative Session

Meeting Minutes

Stephanie Wright, Council Chair
Megan Dunn, Council Vice-Chair
Councilmembers: Sam Low, Nate Nehring, Jared Mead

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

9:00 AM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

PRESENT:

Council Chair Wright
Council Vice-Chair Dunn
Councilmember Low
Councilmember Nehring
Councilmember Mead
Geoffrey Thomas, Council Chief of Staff
Heidi Beazizo, Council Staff
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff
Elena Lao, Asst. Clerk of the Council

**See name(s) listed below of individuals providing public comment.*

A. Call to Order

Council Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and provided instructions for those wishing to provide public comment remotely via Zoom.

B. Roll Call

The clerk called the roll and stated that all five members were present.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Nehring led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Public Comments

The following individuals commented in opposition to proposed Ordinance 21-098:

1. Gay-Lynn Beighton, resident of Edmonds
2. Deana Knutsen, resident of Lynnwood

E. Committee of the Whole**F. Resolutions****G. Consent Agenda****H. Administrative Matters****I. Action on Items from Committee**

1. **Finance and Economic Development**
2. **Law and Justice/Human Services**
3. **Conservation, Sustainability and Recreation**
4. **Planning and Community Development**
5. **Public Works and Infrastructure**
6. **Committee of the Whole**

- a. Ordinance 21-097, creating a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency (C-PACER) Program in Snohomish County

[2021-0977](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided a staff report explaining the proposed C-PACER program.

Council Vice-Chair Dunn thanked Councilmember Mead and County departments for working with her in drafting the proposed ordinance. She also provided additional information regarding the C-PACER program.

ACTION: Council Vice-Chair Dunn made a motion to schedule a public hearing to consider Ordinance 21-097 on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at the hour of 10:30 a.m. Councilmember Mead seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- b. Ordinance 21-098, authorizing a sales and use tax for affordable housing and behavioral health; providing for administration of the tax [2021-1012](#)

Heidi Beazizo, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided a staff report explaining the proposed authorization of a sales and use tax for affordable housing, behavioral health facilities, and related services.

Councilmember Nehring noted objections to fast tracking the proposed ordinance for public hearing. He suggested scheduling the public hearing after the holidays to allow the opportunity for further discussion and transparency. He stated his intent to draft an amendment to require a ballot measure for the public to vote on the funding proposal.

Ms. Beazizo responded to Councilmember Low's questions noting an estimated revenue of \$16,525,554 for 2022, and \$23,156,869 for 2023. She noted that the information is reflected in the HB 1590 Business Plan.

Councilmember Low agreed that the proposal should be brought to the public for a vote. He noted the need for transparency and a plan for residents to see how the County will spend taxpayers' money. He favors having an advisory vote on the ballot for affordable housing, as well as, for public safety.

Council Vice-Chair Dunn indicated that the HB 1590 Business Plan is available to the public, and contains information on the funding proposal. She commented on the timing for scheduling a public hearing and the need to provide relief for the County's most vulnerable residents. She added that the proposed plan fulfills the commitments outlined by the Snohomish County Housing Affordability Regional Taskforce (HART). She pointed out that the issue is also related to public safety since most nuisance crimes are connected to homelessness.

Discussion ensued as Councilmember Nehring and Council Vice-Chair Dunn commented on Council's hearing timeline and information released by HART.

ACTION: Council Vice-Chair Dunn made a motion to schedule a public hearing to consider Ordinance 21-097 on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at the hour of 10:30 a.m. Councilmember Mead seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 3 to 2, with Councilmember Nehring and Councilmember Low opposing.

J. Other Business

K. Public Meetings/Hearings

L. Executive Sessions

Geoffrey Thomas, Council Chief of Staff, stated that the Council will convene into two remote Executive Session to discuss matters relating to labor relations, pursuant to pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b), and pending/potential litigation, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), for an initial 30 minutes with no anticipated action to follow.

At 9:26 a.m., Council Chair Wright recessed the Council into the remote Executive Sessions.

1. Labor Relations
Pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b)
DPA: S. Bladek

PRESENT:

Council Vice-Chair Dunn
Councilmember Low
Councilmember Nehring
Councilmember Mead
Geoffrey Thomas, Council Chief of Staff
Jim Martin, Council Staff
Heidi Beazizo, Council Staff
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff
Deb Bell, Council Staff
Eric Parks, Deputy Executive
Ken Klein, Executive Director
Lacey Harper, Executive Director
Kendee Yamaguchi, Executive Director
Josh Dugan, Executive Chief of Staff
Nathan Kennedy, Finance Director
Brian Haseleu, Budget & Systems Manager
Rhea Reynolds, Human Resources Director
Rob Sprague, Chief Labor Contract Negotiator
Jason Cummings, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Bridget Casey, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Steve Bladek, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

The first Executive Session started at 9:26 a.m. and ended at 9:49 a.m.

2. Pending/Potential Litigation
Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)
DPAs: J. Cummings, B. Casey & S. Bladek

PRESENT:

Council Vice-Chair Dunn
Councilmember Low
Councilmember Nehring
Councilmember Mead

Geoffrey Thomas, Council Chief of Staff
Jim Martin, Council Staff
Heidi Beazizo, Council Staff
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff
Deb Bell, Council Staff
Ken Klein, Executive Director
Lacey Harper, Executive Director
Josh Dugan, Executive Chief of Staff
Sheila Barker, Risk Manager
Jason Cummings, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Bridget Casey, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Steve Bladek, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

The second Executive Session started at 9:49 a.m.

At 9:56 a.m., an extension was announced for 15 minutes to 10:11 a.m.

At 10:11 a.m., an extension was announced for 10 minutes to 10:21 a.m.

At 10:21 a.m., an extension was announced for 10 minutes to 10:31 a.m.

The Executive Session ended at 10:31 a.m.

M. Adjourn

At 10:31 a.m., Council Vice-Chair Dunn reconvened the meeting and recessed the Council until the Public Hearing, immediately following General Legislative Session.