



**City Council Workshop Minutes
Tuesday, July 06, 2021, 4:30 PM
REMOTE MEETING PARTICIPATION**

NOTE: Please see the published Agenda Packet for all item file attachments.

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Burton called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Greg Anderson, Bonnie Carter, Don Chaney, Steve Hogan, Shannon Roberts, and Melissa Smith

Staff: Sam Adams, Bernie Bacon, James Carothers, Jamal Fox, Sarah Fox, Jennifer Gorsuch, Cathy Huber Nickerson, Robert Maul, Shyla Nelson, Bryan Rachal, Heather Rowley, Denis Ryan, Nick Swinhart, Connie Urquhart, and Steve Wall

Press: No one from the press was present

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Greg Thornton, LaCenter Mayor, commented about the proposed interim city administrator.

Carrie Schulstad, Downtown Camas Association (DCA) Director, commented about downtown infrastructure.

Lauren Colas, 1318 E 1st Avenue, Camas, commented about property taxes, spending, and the proposed interim city administrator agreement.

Public comments received via publiccomments@cityofcamas.us are attached to these minutes.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

1. NW 12th Avenue Improvements Change Order 1
Presenter: James Carothers, Engineering Manager
Time Estimate: 5 minutes

This item will be placed on the July 19, 2021 Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.

2. Rose Property House Renovation
Presenter: Denis Ryan, Public Works Operations Supervisor
Time Estimate: 10 minutes

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Wall provided an overview and requested the bid approval be removed from the July 6, 2021 Consent Agenda. Discussion ensued. This item will be placed on a future agenda for Council's consideration.

3. Parker Estates Storm Facility Restoration
Presenter: Sam Adams, Utilities Manager
Time Estimate: 5 minutes

This item has also been placed on the July 6, 2021 Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.

4. Parker Estates Storm Facility Restoration Construction Management
Presenter: Sam Adams, Utilities Manager
Time Estimate: 5 minutes

This item will be placed on the July 19, 2021 Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.

5. Downtown Infrastructure Analysis
Presenter: Steve Wall, Public Works Director
Time Estimate: 15 minutes

Wall provided an overview of the Downtown Infrastructure Analysis. Discussion ensued.

6. Interim City Administrator Professional Services Agreement
Presenter: Jennifer Gorsuch, Administrative Services Director
Time Estimate: 10 minutes

This item has also been placed on the July 6, 2021 Regular Agenda for Council's consideration.

7. Staff Miscellaneous Updates
Presenter: Jamal Fox, City Administrator
Time Estimate: 10 minutes

There were no updates from staff.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Roberts met with perspective Camas City Council candidates.

Hogan attended the Finance Committee, a Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) meeting, and DCA's First Friday.

Carter attended equity listening sessions and the Finance Committee meeting.

Anderson provided a C-TRAN update.

Mayor Pro Tem extended her thanks to the following: the local agencies that provided cooling stations; the community for following the fireworks ban; Denis Ryan and Ryan Hickey for

addressing after-hours facility issues; police officer Jason Langman for his efforts as the School Resource Officer; and departing City Administrator Jamal Fox for his service to the City.

Burton commented about upcoming community events hosted by the Library and Parks and Recreation; the interim mayor process; resuming in-person meetings; and the Georgia-Pacific (GP) Mill clean-up.

Discussion ensued about the DCA's citizens advisory committee for the GP Mill clean-up. Hogan and Anderson volunteered as liaisons for the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Ley 444 NW Fremont Street, Camas, commented about the proposed interim city administrator professional services agreement, and the Rose property,

Public comments received via publiccomments@cityofcamas.us are attached to these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

From: [Douglas Strabel](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Five (5) Items for Discussion at the 7/06/2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Date: Monday, July 5, 2021 5:50:50 PM
Attachments: [_10222018-328.pdf](#)

WARNING: This message originated outside the City of Camas Mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the content. If you are unsure, click the Phish Alert button to redirect the email for ITD review.

After the last CC Meeting (6/07) and the last Town Hall Meeting (6/14) it has become very apparent that YOU have decided to avoid DIRECT PUBLIC CONTACT as much as possible. Some of the responses by yourselves and especially from your fire wall (Dir of Public Relations) have made that very clear. Therefore the following questions are OPEN and NEED to be ADDRESSED.

Note to Question #2 – the response during the TH Meeting ONLY mentioned DEBATE. The resolution covers CONVERSATIONS, Q&A and RESPONSE also.

Five (5) Items for the 7/06/2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Since the City has announced the reopening of City Facilities effective July 1st 2021 on what date will the City Council Meetings move from the Zoom Format back to a face to face format with Taxpayer/Citizens in attendance? And additionally address Item #2?

2. Resolution #1252 (dtd 02/2020) states

Citizens/Taxpayers are currently NOT ALLOWED to engage in a conversation, ask questions and expect a response or debate of any type.

There needs to be a Modification, Amendment or Repeal of Sec III Note E to thereby allow Conversation, Debate or Q&A.

Why do Comments/Questions to the City Council at CC Meetings not get answered or even posted into the City Website?

3. NW Lake Road and NW Sierra Street Traffic Signal:

This item has been moved again and is now listed as #8 on the City of Camas 2022-2027 Six Year Street Priorities with a schedule date of Jan 2024.

It now has a \$380K estimated cost.

This item was listed as a \$2.5M line item as part of the \$78M in the Failed Prop 2 in the 2019 Election.

Will it take a tragedy to get the project moved up in the priority list?

Why is this project LOWER than other items which have no potential for injury or death?

4. City Administrator Interim Consultant Contract: Has the Camas CC seen the attached MEETING MINUTES FROM BATTLE GROUND CITY COUNCIL DTD 10/22/2018

and discussed the content?

5. Northshore Development Phase 2 Consultant Contract:

This item is on the Agenda today at a starting price of \$225K to WSP.

The majority of Camasonians were not in favor of this project.

There are approx 25K people in Camas. Less than 1K participated in the Visioning portion of Phase 1.

When did the MAJORITY of 25,000 citizens ask for this Development?

Why are CONSULTANTS constantly being used to SELL ideas to the taxpayers/citizens?

The only winners when this is all said and done will be the Consultants (WSP), the Developers, the Contractors and those that have sold land to the city of Camas.

Not the CITIZENS.

What is the REAL PLAN for the almost 900 acres that are 25% owned by City of Camas?

When do the citizens FIND OUT?

Douglas Strabel

4307 NW Oregon St.

Camas, WA



**BATTLE GROUND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Battle Ground City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Dalesandro in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 109 SW 1st Street, Battle Ground, Washington.

City Clerk Kay Kammer called the roll. The following were:

- COUNCIL:** Mayor Dalesandro, Deputy Mayor Bowman, Council members Johnson, Cortes, DesRochers, Munson, and Phelps.
- ABSENT:** None.
- PRESENT:** City Manager Jeff Swanson, City Attorney Christine Hayes, Attorney Stephanie Alexander from Fisher Phillips assigned by Washington Cities Insurance Authority and City Clerk Kay Kammer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Dalesandro announced that council will enter an executive session at 6:05 P.M. to discuss potential litigation that the City reasonably believes may be commenced by or against the City, the City Council, or an employee acting in an official capacity for approximately 60 minutes with possible action to follow.

Attendees: City Council, City Attorney and Special Counsel

Attorney Hayes announced at 7:00 P.M. on behalf of the council that they would break for approximately 10 minutes and then reenter executive session for another 60 minutes.

Mayor Dalesandro reconvened the general meeting at 8:10 P.M.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Bowman moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-10 to immediately terminate the professional services agreement of Jeffrey Robert Swanson as Battle Ground City Manager; approving a separation agreement and release; and designating an Acting City Manager, each effective October 22, 2018.

SECOND: Council member DesRochers


AYES: Munson, Phelps, Bowman, Dalesandro, Cortes, and DesRochers.

NAYS: Johnson.

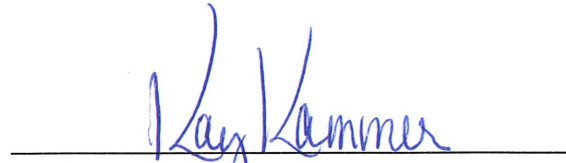
VOTE: Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.



Mike Dalesandro
Mayor



Kay Kammer
City Clerk

Date of approval by the City Council:

11-5-2018

Meetings of the Battle Ground City Council are recorded digitally. These recordings are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six (6) years.

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From: [charity noble](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Cc: [City Council Members \(GRP\)](#)
Subject: City council public comments
Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 10:51:58 AM

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I am deeply concerned that Mayor pro tem is hiring Jeff Swanson to consult as our city administrator. For \$200 an hour?!

He was also fired from his battleground position, effective immediately, out of fear of litigation. Did camas do it's due diligence in researching this incident?

Isn't it a conflict of interest to hire Mr. Swanson, since he also sits on the urban county policy board? Especially with the Housing plan and Northshore developments?

I'm also concerned that many local leaders, educators, school board members, mayor pro tem...are in private Facebook "action" pages. Pages that discuss city and school issues, this is not open, honest and does not serve the citizens of camas with honesty or integrity.

Charity Dubay
1826 NW 45th ave
Camas 98607

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Carrie C. Wiklem](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Proposed City Administrator Hire
Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 12:40:44 PM

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I would like to submit a few comments and questions with regards to the proposed consulting candidate, Exigy Consulting, as interim City Administrator:

Rather than enlisting yet another consultant, does the city retain any professional recruiting services that can seek and find candidates for a full-time hire? In my opinion, the city has been through so much instability as of late that another interim or contract player is not what we need. This is also a local election year, so more change is sure to come. I encourage the Council to take the time to find the right candidate, with enough skin in the game to approach the role as a long-term, 40-hour-a week (minimum) commitment, who can lead the ongoing management of a dynamic city faced with both modernization challenges and growth opportunities.

The proposed consultant represents under the brand Exigy Consulting. When I went to read about the company and its credentials, however, I wasn't able to due to the company not having a corporate web presence - rather an expired web domain. A second search on LinkedIn showed Exigy Consulting as having a single employee - Jeff Swanson. Is this a consulting firm or a sole proprietorship? If it's a sole proprietorship, why not just hire Mr. Swanson as a full time employee? Seems that is may be wasteful (and costly) to pay consulting firm prices (\$200/hour, 25 hours + expenses) for a single contractor.

It has come to light on the NextDoor social platform that Mr. Swanson was also previously in a similar position for the City of Battleground, but was dismissed during a special executive session that was held in 2018. Further details were not disclosed. Is the City Council aware of this, and if so, will you be issuing any kind of response for residents with concerns or questions?

It has also come to light in discussions among residents in my circle that there may be a potential conflict of interest due to Mr. Swanson's prior work history and involvement with municipal projects that the City of Camas also has a vested interest in. Can you assure us that no conflict of interest exists in your comments tonight?

Thank you.

Best regards,
Carrie Wiklem
3413 NW 23rd Ave
Camas, WA

From: [Carrie Schulstad](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of Downtown infrastructure improvements
Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 4:46:17 PM

WARNING: This message originated outside the City of Camas Mail system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the content. If you are unsure, click the Phish Alert button to redirect the email for ITD review.

This is the same content shared in the public comment period in the workshop on 7-6-21:

I'm speaking today in support of infrastructure planning and funding in our downtown. Thank you to Steve Wall for putting this issue before the council today to discuss future opportunities. Infrastructure improvements are vital to the health of our downtown both economically and experientially.

Our downtown is a healthy vibrant core but the infrastructure was built many a year ago, as you know, and upgrades are overdue. It's important to maintain and enhance what has already had significant investment by our community. As with most infrastructure, regular maintenance is important to keep things at best performance levels and waiting can cost our community much more in the long run. I'm afraid much has been left for too long and care is desperately needed.

We ask that you consider making the following investments for our citizens:

We would like you to consider funding immediate action on the safety risks of deteriorated sidewalks which are both a significant tripping and slipping hazard and impact the experience of people walking downtown with walkers or strollers. Even if these upgrades have to be redone in the future with larger infrastructure projects, it is worth the safety and experience for our citizens to have them attended to now.

We ask you also to immediately consider mitigation of safety concerns at street crossings on 3rd Avenue. We have actually had a person with a cane hit by a car going too fast and not stopping for pedestrians and far, far too many near misses.

We also fully support an immediate robust tree maintenance plan that

keeps our citizens safe and maintains the health of our trees and the amazing tree canopy that makes Downtown Camas feel and look the way it does and keeps people returning to support our downtown economy.

These above three items (sidewalks, street crossings and trees) were all considered the #1 Priority in the DIA to be attended to, due to both ADA compliance concerns and human safety risk.

The DCA strongly supports longer term plans for utility and storm water upgrades as we have substantial need for electrical improvements and significant property damage can occur with heavy rainfall as we learned this year. The DCA would act as partners with the City to keep the community informed and businesses thriving through the process.

Hopefully ARPA funds can be used to invest in our downtown infrastructure. We intend to give a more detailed presentation at a future ARPA fund use public hearing.

Ideally, a subarea plan for downtown would be done in the very near future, including mill property visioning, to get the full scope of what needs to be done downtown and what could be the possibilities for the best future for Camas. We continue to encourage the investment in a sub area plan and also creative visioning for making Camas not just functional but truly exceptional.

We ask that the City invests in both planning and action for downtown.

Thank you,
Carrie

Carrie Schulstad

Executive Director
Downtown Camas Association
360.904.0218 cell
www.downtowncamas.com

Let's Talk Possibilities!

"The mission of the Downtown Camas Association is to develop and promote historic Downtown Camas by creating a vibrant social, cultural and economic center of the

community while emphasizing preservation of our city's historic features."