

MINUTES – ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 04.11.2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, Thursday, April 11, 2024 in the Council Chamber with the following in attendance:

Council Members

J.C. Harris (Chair)
Yoshiko Grace Matsui (Vice Chair)
Gene Achziger

City Staff

Tim George – Interim City Manager
Tyler Beekley – Surface Water/Environmental Engineering Mngr
Denise Lathrop – Community Development Director
Laura Techico – Planning and Development Services Mngr
Jason Woycke – Senior Planner
Peyton Murphy – Land Use Planner II
Alicia Jacobs – Land Use Planner I
Cong Nguyen – Civil Engineer I
Matt Hutchins – Assistant City Attorney
Taria Keane – City Clerk
Sara Lee – Deputy City Clerk
Jodi Grager – Admin. Coordinator I

Guests – Mayor Traci Buxton, Councilmembers Matt Mahoney and Harry Steinmetz
Barbara McMichael

AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes from the 03.14.2024 meeting
2. Comprehensive Plan Update – Conservation and Environment Element
3. CIP Project Updates
4. Southwest Suburban General Sewer Plan Update

MEETING:

1. Unanimous approval of the 03.14.2024 minutes.
2. Senior Planner Jason Woycke introduced this item which included; a background memo, Chapter 4 of the Comprehensive Plan with mark-up comments and a PowerPoint reviewing the Comprehensive Plan proposed changes related to state, regional and county requirements. The goal of the presentation was to receive council feedback and engagement on policy considerations. The committee discussed HB 1717 concerning tribal participation under the growth management act and HB 1181 related to climate and the natural environment. Director Lathrop stated that the Comprehensive Plan is considered a policy document rather than a regulatory document, in general, references to DMMC code are not included. As the update

process continues the Conservation and Environment Element will be added to an Environment Committee agenda for additional discussion.

3. Manager Beekley introduced Cong Nguyen, Civil Engineer I for a Capital Project Update review. CE I Engineer Nguyen summarized the projects under current construction and projects that are in the planning stage. Details on a couple of projects from the list were highlighted:
 - The Massey Creek Pocket Estuary and Fish Project has hit a couple of roadblocks concerning a large PSE easement through private property. PSE will not allow for the estuary to encroach on their easement and private property owners are not interested in working with the City for providing an easement. The is project will likely be shelved after the design work is complete.
 - The Des Moines Creek Pocket Estuary which will promote salmon habitat is in the information gathering stage. Consultants are using feedback to guide their design work. Since this project focuses on the restoration of salmon habitat outside funding will be more readily available.

4. Manager Beekley provided the Southwest Suburban Sewer District Comprehensive Sewer Plan that is required to be submitted to the state every five years. Engineering and Community Development staff are working to organize City concerns and comments which are due by April 24th, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jodi Grager, Admin Coordinator