

Peshastin Community Council
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 17, 2021
Via videoconference

Council members present: Lauri Malmquist, chair; Doug Clarke, Leticia Vizcaino, Stan Winters, Patricia Ortiz, Steve Keene

Council member absent, excused: Cheryl Parsley

Guest: Chelan County Commissioner Tiffany Gering

Chair Lauri Malmquist started the meeting at 7:04 p.m. with introductions. Commissioner Gering was invited to share comments initially, then will leave prior to the rest of the meeting.

Commissioner Gering took office in January 2021, and is still in the learning phase. She reports the Short Term Rental task force is requested to submit their report with recommendations at the end of April 2021.

The county is working on a water mitigation program, which will include fees and meters in the future. This arose from concerns that farmers may lose water rights to housing development in the county.

Community Development department has hired 3 code enforcement officers who will start training on March 1; they are employees of the Sheriff's office, but will be trained in Community Development as well as the Sheriff's department and will be tasked with enforcement of County Codes.

Commissioner Gering stated her impression is that the Short Term Rental code as it applies within the Manson and Peshastin UGAs is acceptable as it stands. Stan offered that she could discuss with Community Development the option of training the new enforcement officers within these UGAs.

Doug raised the issue of trespass laws not being enforced on growers' properties, and he has been contacted about this by five large growers in the area. Growers continue to have encroachment of pedestrians, bikers and cars onto their properties, and have passers by steal fruit. He would like to have long term agricultural areas protected from the negative effects of tourism, including not allowing Bed and Breakfast or Short Term Rental uses. The interface of agriculture with tourism uses is a constant threat of conflict, made worse by lack of enforcement. Commissioner Gering will research this and contact Doug with a response.

Commissioner Gering left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting January 20, 2021 were read and approved.

Treasurer's report: Bank balance of \$680.49, with no outstanding bills.

Lauri was contacted by Lisa Therell of Leavenworth about the potential need for food assistance in the Peshastin area. She has discussed with Lindsay Camp and Vania Winters the possibility of creating a free food bank in the Peshastin area. Tricia recommended she discuss this with UV MEND, as the food bank there is well staffed, well stocked, and open 6 days a week. In addition they do delivery for those unable to come during open hours, and have a stocked refrigerator available 24 hours a day.

Lauri, who is the Council Representative to the Parks and Recreation Service Area board reports that the PRSA is hiring for a part time position to do outreach, with the goal of assessment of need throughout the catchment area. The PRSA currently would like to do improvements to the pool area; the consensus is that Peshastin residents do not use the pool as much as Leavenworth residents and tourists. It was suggested that the board consider changing the boundaries of the PRSA to remove Peshastin from its area; Lauri will pass this on to the board.

A brief discussion followed regarding the need for housing in the Peshastin area, and the effects of tourism on the Peshastin community. Troy Campbell, a representative from the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, has been invited to attend the next council meeting, and these issues will be shared with him.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. March 17, 2021, via videoconference.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ortiz, secretary