

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2008

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mayor Raines at 7:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

Jonathan Ciesla (Quinault Indian Nation)

Mary Nelson (Port of Grays Harbor)

Chris Vessey (City of McCleary)

Don Fargo (GH Transit)

Nick Johnson (City of Ocean Shores)

Mayor Bill Simpson (City of Aberdeen)

Commissioner Tom Casey (GHPUD)

Administrative Sub-Council

Chair – Mayor Vickie Raines (City of Cosmopolis)

First Vice-Chair – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)

Second Vice-Chair – John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)

Secretary – Mike Wessells (Timberland Regional Library)

Guests: Debbie Clemen (WSDOT), Brent Meldrum (Mobility Transport Company), Haley Raines

Council Staff

Vicki Cummings, Julia Gibb, Theresa Julius, Nancy Trask

3. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Jonathan Ciesla made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed.

➤ Approval of the December 20, 2007 Meeting Minutes

John Pellegrini made a motion to approve the GHCOG December 20, 2007 meeting minutes; second Chris Vessey. Motion passed.

➤ Administrative Sub-Council Report, Chair Raines

Chairman Raines reported that the Administrative Sub-Council met before this meeting and approved the January bills and the February payroll. The Sub-Council also discussed the GHCOG office lease option and approved to extend the lease for another five (5) years. Also the Sub-Council approved a cost-of-living allowance for COG staff. No further action was taken.

New Business

▪ Election of Administrative Sub-Council Officers for 2008

Chairman Raines announced the Administrative Sub-Council Officer nominations and asked for further nominations from the floor. No further nominations were made.

The nominations were as follows:

Mayor Raines was nominated for the position of Chairman. Motion carried.

Chris Thomas was nominated for the position of 1st Vice-Chair. Motion carried.

John Pellegrini was nominated for the position of 2nd Vice-Chair. Motion carried.

Jonathan Ciesla was nominated for the position of Secretary. Motion carried.

Mayor Simpson was nominated for the position of Rep at Large. Motion carried.

▪ 2007 Year End Report

Vicki distributed copies of the 2007 Year End Report and highlighted the following subjects: General Administration, Intergovernmental Coordination, Information Services Center, Community/Grant Development Services, Regional Maps/GIS Program, Transportation Planning and Planning Contracts.

4. STAFF REPORTS

• *Julia Gibb, Community Development Coordinator*

During December and January the following was accomplished for this program:

- ✓ Finalized Montesano Needs Assessment, prepared presentation for the new Mayor and newly elected Council in early 2008.
- ✓ Continue research and compilation of community development issues for Hoquiam and Cosmopolis needs assessments.
- ✓ Met with Darren Raines [second meeting] to review Cosmopolis needs assessment and take his comments.
- ✓ Finalized Draft Cosmopolis Needs Assessment.
- ✓ Prepared for December Cosmopolis meeting of Planning Commission to review needs assessment; reschedule to early January when meeting is canceled due to extreme storm first week of December.
- ✓ Attended Hoquiam Business Association meeting on the subject of Hometown Hoquiam implementation on November 28.
- ✓ Attended Ocean Shores November Council meeting; subject included their comprehensive plan update, new fire hall construction financing update; hearing examiner appeal on variance from ocean setback.
- ✓ Began review and notes - Ocean Shores adopted plans.
- ✓ Continue research and data compilation for community development project toolkit, both general information and case studies as well as development of specific priority projects identified by cities.

• *Theresa Julius, Planner/GIS Coordinator*

- ✓ Working with the Hoquiam Water Department on their mapping of their water systems.
- ✓ Distributed a flyer titled “GHCOG Public Funding Notification Alert” which gives the public grants and loans schedule for January through June 2008, which will be a great help for city staff.
- ✓ Working with Diane Souron at the Port of Grays Harbor regarding their 28th Street Landing.
- ✓ Working with the Grays Harbor PDA regarding their telecommunications map.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Vicki gave a heads-up for Hoquiam, Cosmopolis, McCleary, Montesano and Westport – DOT has been working on Managed Access Proviso which deals with communities and access to state highways. These are the communities in Grays Harbor County that have not yet responded to the multiple notices that have been sent out which means Vicki will be contacting each of the above cities and getting them together so they can sit down and discuss this subject.

6. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Visitor Brent Meldrum with Mobility Transport Company introduced himself and spoke about his van service business for special needs people and the elderly. Mr. Meldrum stated that his organization would like be able to participate however they can and help out however they can and see if there is a way they can help promote better transportation access.

Chairman Raines noted that for the record Mike Wessells arrived at the GHCOG Council meeting at 7:35 p.m., as he had performed a marriage earlier in the evening.

- City of Hoquiam, John Pellegrini
John reported that they are in the process of drafting their comprehensive plan update. The Simpson Avenue Bridge will be closed next month for repair work and will have an impact on the city. The city has suffered a substantial amount of damage to its water shed as far as the standing timber, with about 4 years of harvest lying on the ground now due to the December storm. John also reported that there was a great turnout of people to the recent pontoon site meeting.
- Grays Harbor PUD, Commissioner Tom Casey
Commissioner Casey asked the Council for help on a piece of legislation, House Bill 2533 concerning attachments to utility poles of locally regulated utilities. Commissioner Casey stated, “It’s legislative, pushing this stuff, they are relying on the fact that this is boring and doesn’t sound like a big deal and they can put it through. But from a policy standpoint, it is pretty serious for us, the PUD, and it is to remove local authority to design the structures on which facilities will be attached to your utility poles. And to also remove our authority to set the rental rates that we will charge for that. They do that by simply placing it under the State Utilities and Transportation Commission. This is your system, you take care of it yourself and you don’t need a regulator to protect you from yourselves; it’s a consumer owned system and it’s local controlled. So if you could please call other key members of the Coastal Caucus and say this is a problem for us. We simply don’t want local control fettered and replaced under State regulation.” Vicki stated COG staff will research that House Bill and get the background information and email to all COG members.
- City of Ocean Shores, Nick Johnson

Nick reported that the city approved the round-a-bout; they also changed their form of government from city manager to mayor.

- Grays Harbor Transit, Don Fargo
Don reported that GH Transit is running smoothly.
- City of McCleary, Chris Vessey
Chris reported that the city engineer has been looking for another water tank and the Town of Pacific has one to buy, depending on its shape and condition.
- City of Montesano, Chris Thomas
Chris announced that the city has three new council members and a new mayor; also the city is still recovering from the December storm that damaged their cottonwood timber harvest. They are now harvesting what they can and Chris said the market is actually good.
- WS Department of Transportation, Debbie Clemen
Debbie distributed flyers regarding the US101 Simpson Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project. Between February 19 and April 30, the bridge will be completely closed while crews rehabilitate the bridge's electrical and mechanical draw span parts. While the closure is in effect, traffic will be detoured over the Riverside Bridge.
- Quinault Indian Nation, Jonathan Ciesla
Jonathan said the Nation is in the process of updating their comprehensive plan; also the Nation has a nasty lawsuit that has moved to Jefferson County Superior Court. The Quinault Indian Nation requested letters of encouragement for the PUD to recognize and uphold the Nation's jurisdiction by supporting its request to the Commissioners regardless of the ruling in Jefferson County Superior Court.
- Port of Grays Harbor, Mary Nelson
Mary expressed the Port's appreciation for the great turnout at the pontoon meeting; people from the businesses, labor groups and general citizens were paying attention to the newspaper articles and turned out to the meeting. The Port is anxiously pursuing federal funding for Port Industrial Road, asking for money for the entire project so they can complete this project.
- City of Aberdeen, Mayor Bill Simpson
Mayor Simpson stated how nice it is to be back at the GHCOG table. He also was very pleased at the turnout of citizens at the pontoon meeting. City staff is currently working on their critical areas. Also Mayor Simpson said to be sure and check out the old D & R Theatre, the lights are fantastic.
- Timberland Regional Library, Mike Wessells
Mike reported that at the recent Pacific County COG meeting an issue came up that affects Grays Harbor and Pacific counties; they were talking about Senate Bill 6227, an act relating to strengthening Washington's outer coast marine resources committees. Mike stated that some Ilwaco fishermen were concerned it appeared that these committees were totally filled with representatives from Puget Sound and not one representative from the coastal counties. So the

