

7-7-20 Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Minutes

July 7, 2020

MINUTES

Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT*Committee:*

Stacy Goodman, *Councilmember (Chair)*
 Will Parkinson, *Hilton Garden Inn*
 Patricia Hagar, *Visit Issaquah*
 James Calabrese, *Springhill Suites by Marriott*
 Kathy McCorry, *Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce*

Administration/Staff:

Wally Bobkiewicz, *City Administrator*
 Jen Davis Hayes, *Economic Development Manager*
 Benton Coblentz, *Economic Development Coordinator*

Guests:

Beth Javens, *Visit Issaquah*

CALL TO ORDER

a) Committee Membership

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Stacy Goodman at 3:04 AM.

Councilmember Goodman began the meeting by reviewing a brief history and overall composition of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) September

Will Parkinson moved to approve. Patricia Hagar seconded. Motion passed to approve the minutes from the September meeting 5-0.

AGENDA ITEMSa) **Overview of COVID-19 Impacts on Tourism / Hospitality Industries (D)**

Presented by:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

Jen Davis Hayes went over the effects of the COVID Crisis on lodging tax funds. She noted that the City had seen an 83% reduction in March in lodging tax receipts.

Will Parkinson and James Calabrese spoke about the experience of their respective hotels during the crisis.

Kathy McCorry expressed her concerns about when King County would move to Phase 4 and the effects that a long-term shutdown would have on local business.

City Administrator Wally Bobkiewicz spoke about the projections for lodging tax receipts. He reviewed projections from the City of Issaquah's Finance Department that foresaw revenues of \$76,000 in 2020 and 2020 ending fund balance of \$330,000, significantly lower than had been budgeted for 2020 (Attachment A)

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b) **\$25,000 Funding Request from Village Theatre (A)**

Presented by:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator

Frank Stilwagner, Director of Advancemet, Village Theatre

Councilmember Goodman then asked the representative from the Village Theatre, Frank Stilwagner, to speak to the Village Theatre's application for lodging tax funds. Frank Stilwagner presented the Village Theatre's *Surviving COVID-19 and Beyond* (Attachment B). City Administrator Wally Bobkiewicz introduced the presentation.

After the presentation from Village Theatre, the Committee discussed the history and process to recommend the use of lodging tax funds. Councilmember Goodman moved to put forward for discussion Village Theatre's application for lodging tax funds, but there was no second.

c) **Future Lodging Tax Revenues and Funding Ability for Visit Issaquah (D)**

Presented by:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator

City Administrator Wally Bobkiewicz deferred the discussion about long-term planning for the Committee and the use of lodging tax funds for a future meeting. Kathy McCorry made a suggestion that meetings be held more regularly.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Goodman adjourned the meeting at 4:39 PM.