

SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL

CANCELLATION NOTICE - SPECIAL LEGISLATION SESSION and AMENDED STUDY SESSION AGENDA

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2023 11:00 a.m. – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The special meeting (Legislative Session) of the Spokane City Council scheduled for **11:00 a.m. on February 16, 2023**, in the City Council Chambers, – City Hall, 808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington, has been cancelled.

The City Council will still be holding their regularly scheduled meeting (Study Session) in City Council Chambers – City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. The meeting can also be accessed live on CityCable5 and streamed online at <https://my.spokanecity.org/citycable5/live/> and <https://www.facebook.com/spokanecitycouncil> or by calling 408-418-9388 and using access code 2499 197 1781.

The meeting will be conducted in a study session format and will be open to the public both virtually and in person. No legislative action will be taken. No public testimony will be taken, and discussion will be limited to appropriate officials and staff. An amended agenda is below.

Agenda:

[Joint Statement on Regional Homeless Effort](#) – Gavin Cooley (15 min)

Transportation Impact Fees – Marlene Feist (35 min)

General Facilities Charge Discussion – Marlene Feist, Brooke Tacia, Jason Mumm, Melanie Hobart (35 min)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Spokane City Council Chamber in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) at the City Cable 5 Production Booth located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building, directly above the Chase Gallery or through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Human Resources at 509.625.6237, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or mpiccolo@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-00XX

A Resolution supporting the 90-day due diligence period to establish a regional, collaborative effort to effectively manage homelessness and its impacts in the Spokane region.

WHEREAS, the role of the Spokane City Council in terms of response to the homelessness crisis is to set City policy, enact City laws, and fund City budgets; and

WHEREAS, for at least the last three years, the City Council has been active in responding to the housing and homeless crisis in the region by passing numerous resolutions and ordinances, and taking other actions including adding millions of additional dollars to the City’s budget to increase sheltering availability and other services; and

WHEREAS, to continue both housing and service provider investment, it will take a regional, collaborative effort that may include a consolidated independent authority to accomplish the following:

- Bring the community together around this critical issue
- Depoliticize regional homelessness operational and funding decisions
- Integrate and coordinate management, data, services, facilities and financial resources to address homelessness in an efficient and strategic manner; and

WHEREAS, the first step in regional collaboration would be to have the governing bodies of affected municipalities agree on a path forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Spokane hereby endorses the attached joint statement that supports a 90-day due diligence period to establish a regional, collaborative effort to effectively manage homelessness and its impacts in the Spokane region.

Passed by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2023.

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Assistant City Attorney

JOINT STATEMENT

Collaborating for our Community

Spokane regional elected leadership announces a 90-day due diligence period to evaluate options for a regional and collaborative model to improve our collective efforts to address homelessness and its impacts on our community.

Our region's greatest strength is our ability to build community vitality through regional partnerships and collaboration, and now is the time to utilize that strength to more effectively and collaboratively address homelessness in our community. The Spokane region has a history of achieving big things when responsibility and successful outcomes are shared.

Homelessness affects communities across the country, and Eastern Washington is no exception. One of the biggest challenges communities face in addressing homelessness, is that much of the homeless response system relies on many people and organizations working effectively across jurisdictions and with a regional focus. Together, we can better coordinate our resources invested in housing and human services, to successfully and efficiently address this crisis.

As elected leaders, we know this isn't a political issue, it is a people issue, and it affects all of us in the Spokane region. We believe that working beyond political and jurisdictional boundaries may give us the best chance to build and deliver strategic and impactful solutions for our entire community for years to come.

About our Collaborative Effort

Developing an integrated strategy with shared responsibility is best achieved when all local elected officials work collaboratively.

One initiative we will be assessing, modeled after successful campaigns in Houston and Atlanta, is an effort to establish an independent authority tasked with making strategic, coordinated decisions and investments, to achieve the best outcomes. The Spokane region is ready to work to establish our own model, one that best fits our community's needs and desires.

We recognize that our many providers and other professionals throughout the homeless response system have worked diligently for many years, but often without the regional planning and support they've needed to achieve greater success. Such a collaborative effort could more effectively address these needs by properly aligning the region around strategies, funding, and many other resources, including the areas of health and services, housing, and public safety.

Three community leaders, Gavin Cooley, Rick Romero, and Theresa Sanders have volunteered to help organize and guide this effort. Each has a variety of business and public sector experience, and together have worked on numerous successful regional collaborations.

The Next 90 Days

The first step towards developing a regional collaborative authority, is a 90-day due diligence period. During this time, community leaders and many stakeholder groups will work together as quickly as

possible to identify how a regional and collaborative system could be created – a system that could be built on shared vision, finances, data, and other resources to optimize the address of homelessness and its impacts on our community. The due diligence period will focus on:

1. Reviewing **potential legal structures** for a regional effort, including pro/con evaluations, e.g. Public Development Authority (PDA), nonprofit, and others
2. Reviewing **potential governance models** and best practices, including roles of jurisdictions, elected leaders and community stakeholders in coordination and support of a regional effort
3. Review and discussion of **initial funding, costs and other financial information** in support of a regional effort
4. Review and discussion of **data collection and use** in support of a regional effort
5. Review and discussion of **initial staffing** in support of a regional effort
6. Review and discussion of how the **success of a regional effort** can be regularly quantified and evaluated

Gathering comprehensive regional stakeholder input will be key to our success. Many different stakeholder groups, providers throughout the homeless response system, people with lived experience, our local Continuum of Care Board, local, state, and federal government agencies their staff and advisory boards, as well as businesses, and residents, will be encouraged to actively participate in this process.

Throughout the due diligence period, there will be many avenues for community members to share their input and perspectives with elected and other leaders, including public forums and a website.

Following the due diligence period, legislative bodies will evaluate the information developed and the likelihood of success for a regional collaborative authority model, and give consideration as to whether and to what degree to participate in the regional authority or other envisioned regional homelessness efforts.

Together we can build a bright future for the Spokane region.

Signed,
City of Spokane Mayor
City of Spokane Valley
Spokane City Council
Spokane County