

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
May 25, 2004

The regular session of the Olympia City Council convened at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 25, 2004. Those in attendance were Mayor Mark Foutch, Mayor Pro Tem Laura Ware, Curt Pavola, TJ Johnson, Matthew Green, Doug Mah, and Jeanette Hawkins.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Councilmember Green explained the proposed resolution is no longer applicable since the USS Olympia has canceled its visit to the City. However, he noted that issues still exist. He suggested changing the public hearing to deal with the issues discussed in the resolution rather than this specific submarine's visit.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jim Lazar thanked the City for its support of the annual Bicycle Parade. He invited the Council to participate in the NW Tandem Bicycle Route as a spectator on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at St. Martin's College.

Mr. Pat Kilmer, 811 Bethel Street, said he is a member of Olympia Walkable Neighborhoods. He invited the Council and public to join the group at Lion's Park next Saturday for the second walk for parks and sidewalks. The walks allow participants to view different areas of the community and understand the need for sidewalks and parks in different neighborhoods.

Mr. Jim Reeves, 119 7th Street, addressed the Council about peace misconduct and the abuse against Iraqi citizens.

Mr. Jim Ashe, 410 Capitol Way North, thanked the Council for the budget meetings and for being the catalyst behind more public involvement in the process. He said a number of people at the meetings had questions; however, no time was allotted for questions and answers. He suggested allowing time for this at the next meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of May 11, 2004 Study Session

SECOND READINGS (Ordinances)

- B. Appropriations Ordinance in the Amount of \$350,000 for Devoe Street Transitional Living and Safe Haven Project (*Budget Committee/Ken Black, CP&D*)
- C. Ordinance Establishing 9-Hour Parking Meter Permit System (*David Riker, Public Works*)

FIRST READINGS (Ordinances)

- D. Ordinance Amending Temporary Use Permit (*Kraig Chalem, CP&D*)

FINAL ACTIONS

- E. Approval of Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Parks for Utilization of Millersylvania State Park (*Terry Rodgers, Parks*)

Councilmember Mah moved, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to adopt the consent calendar. Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution Concerning the Planned Visit of the USS Olympia

City Manager Steve Hall reported that on approximately April 20, the City received a letter from the Navy indicating that the USS Olympia might visit the City. Around this time, the Olympia Police Department was contacted by the Washington State Patrol requesting assistance in providing a 400-foot military perimeter around the submarine. Mr. Hall and Police Chief Michel declined the request because Olympia Police Officers are not trained or authorized to perform the type of protection services requested. At its May 18 meeting, the Council heard testimony from several citizens expressing concerns about military motives for the visit, nuclear powered vessels in the downtown, and security perimeter requirements that might impact other uses in Budd Inlet. After discussion, a majority of the Council agreed to hold a public hearing to discuss the potential visit. Since the May 18 meeting, the City received notice from the Navy that the USS Olympia would not be visiting at this time. Although the Council does not have the authority to tell the Navy the submarine cannot come to Olympia, some citizens have expressed a desire for the Council to declare Olympia a nuclear-free zone and to protect the City from potential nuclear-related incidents.

The Council decided to continue with the public hearing to discuss the issues as outlined in the resolution. Mayor Foutch asked all speakers to be respectful and not verbally attack anyone for personal opinions. Due to the number of citizens wishing to testify, Council reduced the testimony time limit from three to two minutes.

Mayor Foutch opened the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Mr. Donald Smith discussed Councilmember comments regarding the submarine as a “publicly funded killing machine.” He said one of the purposes for the visit was to allow the submarine to visit a port other than its own. If other ships visit Olympia in the future, he asked that the crew be respected and honored.

Senator Tim Sheldon noted the many outstanding memorials to veterans and said that all are honored by the state. He briefly spoke about family members who served in the military. He shared that when he returned to Olympia in January for the Legislative Session, he was welcomed and stated that the Navy should also be welcomed. He said he was disturbed there was not unanimous support to welcome the military to the City and hopes the Council will take action to support the military and honor the veterans.

Mr. Alan Tadlock, 6944 43rd Loop SE, discussed the resolution and its reference to open government and the secrecy of the submarine’s visit. He indicated that since the Olympia Police Department does not give notice of arrests on warrants, the military should not be expected to divulge

crucial information neither. He wondered why the security perimeter was such a big issue since the USS Olympia had previously visited the City. He suggested the Council should apologize to the Navy.

Mayor Foutch explained that the perimeter requirement is a new requirement by the Coast Guard and that it had not been in effect during the previous visits.

Mr. Tom Howdeshell, 718 Sawyer Street, thanked Councilmember Johnson for his request to hold a public hearing. He said he was glad to hear the Navy cancelled the submarine visit to the City and urged the Council to create a nuclear free zone in Olympia.

Mr. Sean Adams, 8532 Brookstone Lane, said he supported the USS Olympia's visit and opposed the proposed resolution. He stated he is an active duty member of the Navy, a submariner, and former crew member of the USS Olympia. He asked the Council to draft a new resolution in support of the USS Olympia visiting the City.

Mr. Cal Taylor, 2154 Beverly Beach Drive NW, stated he supports port calls by the USS Olympia and that it's impossible to separate the crew from the submarine. He urged the Council to abandon the resolution.

Mr. Don Brown, 2532 Pacific Avenue, expressed his concern, outrage, and embarrassment of the Council for not allowing the USS Olympia to visit the City. He indicated that the Council's action is a slap in the face to all veterans in the military and that the submarine is one of many reasons this country is free. He said a public apology is expected to the USS Olympia.

Mr. Philip Kratz, 2304 Crestridge, said he is embarrassed that the comments by the Council have been publicized by the press to millions of citizens and that the Navy was told they are not welcome in the City. Furthermore, he is embarrassed the Council expressed that they were ashamed to have the submarine sail under the City's name. He pointed out the Council did not speak on behalf on himself and he would remember the actions taken at the next election. He said the Council owes the people of Olympia, the State of Washington, and the members of the USS Olympia an apology.

Mr. Dick Szymarek, SE 2670 Bloomfield Road, Shelton, voiced opposition of the resolution. He said he supports military troops. He indicated he believes Councilmember Johnson initiated an attack against the USS Olympia and its crew. He said he did not want the actions of four Councilmembers to have an effect on the USS Olympia. He urged the Council to replace the resolution with an apology to the crew of the USS Olympia and the military.

Mr. David Beckenbaugh, Fall City, indicated that the suggestion of leaking nuclear chemicals is ridiculous because a submarine is a closed entity and there is no way any radioactive material can be released from the sub. He discussed the economic benefits the visit of the ship would provide local businesses.

Ms. Florence Dix, 21002 Edwards Road E, Sumner, stated the City of Olympia is the capital of the state and represents the entire state. She said people across the state are outraged at the actions of the leaders of the state capital. She indicated that she detests what the Council has done.

Mr. John Miller, Olympia, briefly described his experience of returning to the United States at the end of the Vietnam war. He explained how he was not welcomed and was flipped off by many citizens. He said he believes the Council has again done the same thing to all members of the military.

Ms. Melissa Rubert, Rochester, commented that the issue goes beyond the City of Olympia and impacts all military personnel whether on the USS Olympia or not. She noted everyone is listening to the Council and she asked them to recognize this. She requested that the Council apologize to the USS Olympia and invite the submarine to visit the City.

Ms. Jody Tiller, Olympia, commented she does not want a nuclear submarine in her city, nor does she want the City's name on the ship. She said she believes the submarine is only visiting for publicity purposes for the military.

Ms. Nadine Gult, Issaquah, said the most important thing the U.S. can do is to support its troops and ensure they know they are supported. She recommended that businesses of the City take a stand on the issue.

Mr. Dave Koch, Tacoma said it is inconceivable for a U.S. city to prohibit a port call of a US Navy vessel. He asked what is patriotic about denying a port call to the young Americans serving aboard the ship. He commented perhaps regime change needs to start here in Olympia with the Council.

Mr. Jerry Thorsell, Bellevue, declared himself ashamed, disappointed, and personally offended by the actions of the Council. He said the City welcomed the crew and ship with open arms on previous occasions and has always displayed support for the military.

Mr. Robert Thetford, 816 Tullis Street NE, Olympia, questioned why the City would choose to celebrate death. He said the safety of the community should be foremost. He commended the Councilmembers that stood up for the safety and protection of those in the community.

Mr. Charles Kelley, Olympia, said that the Council's action was an insult to all military personnel that have worn a uniform. He addressed the concerns voiced regarding safety and said that all submarines are put through an extensive screening process before the crew is allowed aboard.

Mr. Andrew Goldsmith, Olympia, explained he and his family have visited and toured military vessels during past visits to the City. He voiced confusion about who the enemy really is. He urged everyone to be civilized and to provide those who have dedicated their lives to protecting the country with civility.

Ms. Taryn Gearhart, Thurston County, said she opposes bringing the vessel into the Port of Olympia. She noted the issue should be discussed rather than just allowing the vessel to visit.

Mr. Harold Chambers, Yelm, indicated that the Council has taken steps to declare soldiers unwelcome in the City. He stated that whether the war is right or wrong, it is supported by the Congress and President. He commented that if people have a problem with the war, they should change the politicians instead of berating soldiers.

Ms. Cheryl Ames, 3724 Ensign Rd NE, Olympia, explained she is the mother of a young military soldier. She is disappointed to have to tell her son the Council did not have the courage to raise their hands to support and honor the country. She urged the Council to welcome military personnel.

Ms. Sandra Miller, 1833 7th Ave SE, Olympia, said the actions of the Council were wrong, arrogant, selfish, and unpatriotic. She noted that if the Council does not like the actions of the Bush Administration, each member, as a private citizen, not as a Councilmember, should work toward other solutions. She said she has great admiration for the military and their families.

Mr. Alvin Overacker, 4015 Alonna Dr NE, Olympia, commented the City should be proudly welcoming the USS Olympia and its personnel instead of talking about a resolution. He said he would like the Council to issue a public apology to all military personnel.

Mr. Dave Gordon reported concerns have been expressed about the USS Olympia being a weapon of mass destruction. He indicated that the Council insulted the ship and the crew. He urged the Council to become more aware of what they say.

Mr. Edward Dardis, 1710 Easthill Place NW, Olympia, said the Council should stand up and support the troops and the freedoms they afford the citizens. He indicated that the action the Council takes on this issue will greatly influence the next election.

Mr. Rod Kagy, Olympia, agreed with others who are in opposition to the resolution. He said he was upset with the Council's actions and requested the Council support the return of the USS Olympia.

Ms. Laura Gonzales, Bellevue, said the Council is forcing their values upon others. She noted that the USS Olympia is a deterrent and helps keep the country free.

Ms. Ina Jo Senn, 2015 Sycamore Avenue, Lacey, stated she is appalled at the Council's action. She said that the men and women of the military should be honored and noted that the submarine cannot be separated from the rest of the military. Without a strong military, how long does the Council believe it would be able to have the freedom they enjoy now?

Mr. Michael Scheppke, 6002 Capitol Forest Court SW, Olympia, spoke in opposition to the resolution. He noted the resolution welcomes the personnel of the vessel but not the submarine. He said this is like inviting an out-of-town guest but asking them to park outside the city limits. He indicated that the crew deserves nothing less than an unconditional welcome to the City and said that, as leaders of the community, the Council should be the first to thank them for their service.

Mr. Jim Stier, 5035 Laura Street SE, Olympia, stated he supports the troops and the opportunity to discuss the issue.

Mr. Ryan Parrish thanked the Council for standing up for the children who are afraid of speaking up. He stated he has heard a lot of anger tonight and encouraged everyone to imagine a world where everyone can listen to each other instead of enforcing violence.

Mr. Art Vaine, 2200 E End St NW, Olympia, said he has an appreciation for defending freedom and respects those who serve. However, he is opposed to the USS Olympia visit. He indicated this is not a

question of patriotism; however, it is the difference between paying respects and highlighting a military war weapon.

Mr. William Arensmeyer, 2200 E End St NW, Olympia, said he thinks the USS Olympia is a danger to the City and the entire world. He noted it was neither reasonable nor logical to build weapons that can destroy mankind and then to do it in the name of God and patriotism.

Mr. Bob Kackley, 712 NW Fox Run Ct, Olympia, said it's hard to believe the Council would consider voting on the resolution. He noted that men and women are putting their lives on the line for the country and deserve everyone's support.

Mr. Ted Shann, 9914 Berkshire Loop SE, Olympia, said the City could not find a more professional group than the USS Olympia crew and indicated that the Navy takes extreme safety measures to ensure the safety of everyone by marking the vessels location every few minutes as it moves through the harbor. He urged the Council to support the crew.

Mr. Jeffrey Russell, 1812 Jasmine Street, Olympia, said if an apology to the USS Olympia is written he would like to see it published in the newspaper. He noted that the Council's actions were a slap in the face to the men on the USS Olympia.

Ms. Kimberly Shann, 9914 Berkshire Loop SE, Olympia, reminded everyone of the phrase "United We Stand". She said the soldiers are working 24 hours a day to defend everyone's freedom and deserve support.

Ms. Janet Jordan, 1400 8th Avenue SE, Olympia, voiced her objection to the USS Olympia visiting the City. She urged the Council to sign the resolution forbidding entrance of the vessel into Olympia's port.

Ms. Samona Sharoni, 103 Plymouth St NE, clarified she trusts the government and the Council that represents her. However, as a parent, she said she cannot put a visit to a nuclear submarine on her event list of family activities. She indicated that the resolution is to protect the values and community for everyone in Olympia.

Ms. Mary Lou Staab, Kenmore, stated she would like to be able to support the USS Olympia and personally thank the members for their service.

Mr. Thomas Jones, 3725 Salt Chuck Lane, Olympia, indicated he is the president of the Navy League and spoke about the safety concerns raised. He noted that the safety record of warships is outstanding and said that U.S. nuclear warships and its reactors have been designed to the most rigorous standards. He said that in case of an accident, the Navy has procedures in place to handle the event and protect the crew and community.

Ms. Rebecca Stiles, 801 Oak Crest St, Olympia, asked the Council to not disrespect the personnel that serve the country.

Mr. John Regan, 5603 Countryside Beach Drive NW, Olympia, indicated that the resolution has nothing to do with support for the military. He said that in order to operate a nuclear submarine there must be heightened security, which costs money. He agreed with the Council's actions.

Ms. Michae ne Lona, 1619 7th Ave SE, Olympia, explained we are not citizens in the United States by the grace of the military but by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. She urged the Council to support the resolution.

Ms. Anne Fischel, 5603 Countryside Beach Drive NW, Olympia, thanked the Council for creating the resolution and for the courage and civic leadership it has shown.

Mr. Jim Sims, 93 SE Beracum Boulevard, Shelton, stated he was a “publicly funded killing machine” for 26 years prior to retiring from the military and is proud of it. He said the resolution is not about the USS Olympia but about hypocrisy; it’s not about safety and concern of the vessel, but about disdain and contempt for the military.

Mayor Foutch recessed the meeting for a break from 9:31 p.m. to 9:41 p.m.

Ms. Alice Zillah, 2616 Otis St SW, Olympia, said no one who opposed the submarine visit was opposed the crew visiting the City. She stated she does not want the town welcoming a vehicle responsible for killing one Iraqi man, woman or child.

Mr. Ken Filak, 5220 Sleater-Kinney, Olympia, explained that when the community has to conform to military standards, we are in trouble. He thanked the Council for the resolution.

Mr. Jim Cabbage, 3511 Overhulse Rd NW, Olympia, said he is proud the Council is considering the resolution. He encouraged the Council to continue the discussion.

Mr. Gerald Budelman, 2204 Dublin Dr, Olympia, said he has heard a lot that he agrees with from previous speakers, such as he is ashamed, disgusted, and an apology is owed to the military. He stands with a majority of the people in disgust with the Council’s actions. He noted that the discussion should have occurred prior to the creation of the resolution.

Mr. Noel Ostrander, 719 Carlyon Avenue SE, Olympia, said the USS Olympia is not a killing machine; however, it is a reason the country has the freedom to have a forum such as this. He suggested that those who do not approve of a vessel such as the USS Olympia should reconsider the country they live in.

Mr. Doug DeForest, 3028 Steamboat Island, Olympia, stated that the comments by one Councilmember have crossed the line from public policymaking to personal attacks on the greater community. He said this action has not accomplished the goals of a leader and noted he opposes the action taken by the majority of the Council.

Mr. Brandon Requa, Silverdale, explained that morale is essential to the Navy and the crew’s safety. He urged the Council to welcome the USS Olympia to the City.

Mr. Jordan Lyons, 4319 Indian Pipe Loop, Olympia, thanked everyone for showing the courage to speak. He pointed out that children grow up in a culture that celebrates tools used for a gruesome and deadly chore and values them above shared values of democracy, human rights, and social justice.

Ms. Donna Schumann, 3038 41st Ave NE, Olympia, stated she opposes the USS Olympia visiting the area and supports the City becoming a nuclear free zone. She is concerned about the visit because of the military's current plans to re-ignite the nuclear arms race and depleted uranium.

Mr. Mark Brodeck, 3038 41st Ave NE, Olympia, is against the visit of the USS Olympia to the port. He noted the manner in which tax dollars are used to support the military over civilian uses is appalling.

Mr. Franklin W. James, 8809 Steilacoom Rd SE, Lacey, stated he came to express his hope to share a nuclear submarine with his grandchildren. As far as he is concerned, the Navy has a good record over the years and the USS Olympia is more than welcome here.

Mr. John Harvey, 333 Thomas St NW, Olympia said the decision to censor the military is not a light matter. He mentioned there are many ways to show support for the troops; however, abandoning common sense is not one way to do so. He urged the Council to proceed and ban submarines from the port.

Mr. Rey Waltz, 1310 Caroline Ave, Olympia, said he would let his opinion be known during the next election. As a military member, he remembers what it was like not to be welcomed by your country. He applauded the effort at leadership but noted the tactic was wrong.

Mr. Phan Nguyen, Olympia, expressed dismay with people confusing the issue of the submarine as a prerequisite for loyalty to the country. He agreed that the crew of the submarine was welcome in the City; however, they should not be allowed to bring their submarine with them.

Mr. Barry Pfundt, 531 Boulevard Road SE, indicated that with regard to the issue itself, the process was flawed and he questioned the motives of the resolution. He said the Council needs to welcome all types of people from all backgrounds to the City of Olympia.

Mr. Gar Lipow, 815 Dundee Rd NW, Olympia, said he honors and supports the troops; however, the Constitution puts civilians in charge of the military. He suggested everyone should understand there is a separation between not welcoming the submarine versus the crew.

Mr. Dennis Otterstetter, 1938 Lake Blvd, Shelton, stated that, although he has never been in the military, he serves his community every day. He said he supports the troops, however, wishes the country would send them into other countries with books rather than guns.

Mr. Ken Schwilk stated he is also a veteran and is outraged by the people speaking on his behalf. He said it disturbs him when the discussion gets personal and people start name calling.

Mr. Larry Mosqueda, 2725 Westwood Dr NW, Olympia, said the proposed resolution was balanced and controlled concerning the safety for the crew of the ship and the citizens of Olympia. He said he was pleased to hear the Navy cancelled the visit of the USS Olympia. He noted that with all the correspondence and testimony, no one has voiced opposition to the military personnel, only the submarine.

Mr. Stanley Stahl, 120 State Avenue NE, Olympia, stated he supports the members of the Council that have called for the resolution. He agrees it is not a personal attack on the crew of the vessel. He concurred with the suggestion to declare Olympia a nuclear free zone.

Mr. Michael Vavarus, 2020 Elliot Circle NW, Olympia, discussed reading all the letters to the Council and listening to the disrespectful remarks toward the Council. He noted that as a democracy, people have the right to debate and oppose the militarization of communities.

Ms. Ruth Lipow, 815 Dundee Rd NW, Olympia, said the issue is not only about the resolution but an attack on free speech. She expressed disappointment about the harassment of Councilmembers who voted in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Joel Pawloski, 3211 Red Fern Dr NW, Olympia, said the resolution made him feel uncomfortable about some people within the City. He stated he has been on both sides of gratitude and hatred toward the military. He discussed that a sailor cannot be separated from his ship, and although he does not support the Council's action, he is still supportive of the Council.

Ms. Lin Nelson, 917 Fern St NW, Olympia, explained she spoke at the last meeting and voiced concerns with the issue of public safety. She said she is concerned about the kinds of dangers created from the use of nuclear weapons.

Ms. Gayle DeVries, 4316 Lavelle St, said she is proud to be an American and proud of the armed forces. She said she takes exception to people who say patriot like they are spitting it and then use it in the same sentence as a fascist. She would like to see the City welcome the USS Olympia to the City and the people that ensure the freedom of all citizens.

Mr. Eric Chase, 129 Percival Street, said that comments about those who oppose the submarine visit being traitors shuts down all dialogue. He stated that the glorification of war weapons is ludicrous, as is bringing nuclear reactors into an urban area. He noted he's glad the City encouraged the ship to port elsewhere and requested Olympia be declared a nuclear free zone.

Ms. Gloria Tilla, 1120 Giles Ave NW, thanked Councilmembers who supported the resolution. She does not believe the process of discussion could be furthered by allowing a nuclear submarine into the port.

Mr. Frank Gesswein, 5530 Jackson Farm Loop SE, Lacey, said he strongly believes the City should allow servicemen to visit any port in any City. He indicated that the soldiers need to be honored for putting their lives at risk to protect all citizens. He noted the armed services are a voluntary military and said the USS Olympia was only proposing a visit, not a permanent port in Olympia.

Ms. Ruth Stubbs-Lewis, 5619 Countryside Beach Rd NW, Olympia, indicated that she's a member of the Navy League and said that the Navy League asked the USS Olympia's visit to the City again. She recalled during the last visit of the submarine, there were crowds at the port welcoming the ship and its crew.

Mr. Matt Nagel, 6006 Capitol Forest Court SW, Olympia, pointed out that in this society it seems the minority speak loud and often. He said the deplorable actions of the Council reflect poorly on the citizens of the community, the state, and the United States. He noted that Councilmembers voting in favor of the resolution dishonored the members of the military.

Ms. Kate Fehsenfeld, 6811 Libby Rd NE, Olympia, stated she was pleased to hear the Council considered the possibility of not allowing the USS Olympia to visit the port.

Ms. Ann Yeo, 222 West Bay Dr NW, urged the Council to remember they represent a wide spectrum of residents. She asked them to very carefully listen to the diverse views. She voiced opposition about the war on Iraq; however, she does accept the need for a strong military force in this non-peaceful world. She indicated she supports all troops defending the country and does not support the resolution banning the vessel from Olympia.

Ms. Laura Ratcliff, 722 Ferry St, Tumwater, expressed her support for a visit by the USS Olympia. She noted the submarine would be docking somewhere in the United States regardless of the risks and safety concerns and said the City should be willing to share in the cost and risks associated with the submarine, as any other U.S. city would.

Ms. Janet Johnson, Cedar Lane NW, Olympia, said she was heartbroken to learn the vessel was not coming to the City.

Ms. Carrie Lybecker, Olympia, expressed her support of the proposed resolution. She said she supports the troops even though she opposes the visit of the USS Olympia.

Ms. Mary Jean Hrbacek, Shelton, voiced her support for the USS Olympia visit. She stated that containers being delivered to ports are more likely dangerous and pose more of a threat than the USS Olympia ever would.

Ms. Lisa Marsh, 3039 Langridge Loop NW, Olympia, said that to the crew, this resolution is about them. She discussed points of the resolution and wondered how the determination was made that Olympia be declared a nuclear free zone since a vote was not taken by the citizens of Olympia. She asked the Council to hold public hearings prior to creating resolutions in the future.

Mr. Steve Moore, 3422 Wilderness, Olympia, said he does not support the proposed resolution. He indicated that the message of the resolution is wrong and should be fixed.

Mr. Walt Jorgensen, 3439 14th Ave NW, Olympia thanked the Council for scheduling the public hearing as an appropriate forum to discuss the issue. He commented that while it was suggested matters such as the visit is beyond the purview of the Council, all politics are local.

Mr. Dave Brastow, 2305 Trosper Road SW, Tumwater, stated he opposed the submarine visiting because it is being politicized by the government. He voiced total support of the troops.

Mr. Charles Adler, 502 Tullis St NE, Olympia, commented he is nervous about nuclear submarines and warships. He said that members of the ship are worthy of respect but does not believe the current leadership is not supporting the troops.

Mr. Richard Erwin, 3610 Forest Ct SE, Lacey, noted he was disappointed in what he has heard and indicated that it appears this has become more of a personal agenda or opposition of the war. He stated a pilot cannot be separated from his airplane anymore than a crew can be separated from its submarine.

Ms. Phyllis Booth, 2509 Caitlin Ct SE, Olympia, applauded the Council for deciding to hold the public hearing. He indicated that her impression of the resolution is that it is a position against the war.

Ms. Cecila Allinder, 6814 Cedar Flats Rd, commented she was mad when she read the article in the Olympian and said the Council's action is horrible. She said if the Council does not oppose the resolution, they would not be re-elected to their positions.

Ms. Anna Schlecht, 429 SE Frederick, Olympia, said she supports the resolution. She noted she is against the war and proud of the Council for taking the stance and for supporting the greatest American fundamental right - freedom of speech. She urged the Council to continue to support the resolution.

Ms. Deb Langhans, Millstone Lane, Olympia, said the resolution is not about disdain for the military. Everyone wants to feel safe. She thanked the Councilmembers that supported the resolution.

Ms. Chris Carson, Eastside Street, Olympia, questioned how this is supporting the troops. She said it's important to look at the militarization of the community space and indicated that the resolution was trying to get to the threshold of allowing the community to get to a new place.

Mr. Jeffrey Denison, Olympia, asked the Council to pass the resolution and encouraged everyone to work together to bring peace to the state and country.

Mr. Bernie Meyer, 402 Patterson Street, said he spends most of his time looking for peace and studying how to be non-violent. He considers nuclear weapons to be immoral and illegal.

Mr. Chris Jackson stated he supported the resolution. He said he would support the troops when they put their weapons down.

Mr. Jim Ashe, 410 Capitol Way N, concurred with comments made by Ms. Marsh. He stated his concern was that everyone listened to a lot of people speak about the military with little knowledge of facts.

Mr. Kaleb Jobey, 1717 Jefferson, stated if the Council wanted to send a message to the military it should be in opposition of sending military and weapons to Iraq.

Mr. Theron Hutsmore, 2130 East Bay Drive, said this issue has nothing to do with the Iraq war but that it is a personal attack on nuclear warfare.

Mayor Foutch closed the public hearing at 11:56 p.m.

Mayor Foutch thanked everyone for their testimony and for respecting the opinions of all speakers.

Councilmember Pavola clarified that the resolution was removed from the agenda. However, the Council decided to continue with the public hearing to convene a discussion on the issues that have been raised.

Councilmember Mah thanked everyone for expressing their opinions and commended everyone for taking advantage of the freedom of speech.

Councilmember Mah moved, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia recognizes the importance of the United States Armed Forces in protecting our national interests and personal freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia supports the men and women that have served and are serving in the United States Armed Forces and welcomes them in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has a long and proud maritime heritage and values its almost 110 year association with US Naval ships named OLYMPIA; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia appreciates the service and dedication of the men serving in the US Submarine Corps and specifically the men that have served and are serving on the USS OLYMPIA (SSN 717); and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has enjoyed prior visits by the USS OLYMPIA and seeks to support future visits; and

WHEREAS, many citizens of Olympia have expressed concerns regarding possible public safety risks posed by nuclear powered vessels such as the USS OLYMPIA:

NOW, THEREFORE THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:

The Olympia City Council declares its continued support of visits by the USS OLYMPIA; and

Instructs the City Manager to contact the US Navy, US Department of Energy, and other concerned agencies for the purpose of identifying and clarifying the necessary security, environmental, and public health requirements to allow for the safe and secure arrival, departure, and stay of the USS OLYMPIA in our community.

Councilmember Mah indicated that on the Tuesday before Memorial Day, the Council should do what it can to support the men and women of the military. As the state capital, the City should have a balanced resolution and statement to express the City's values and concerns. He asked the Council to support the resolution and indicated that the last time the USS Olympia visited, he was one of the 3,000 people that toured the vessel. He noted that what impressed him most were the people who served on the ship and their pride in serving our country.

Councilmember Hawkins thanked everyone for addressing the Council and expressing their opinions. She said she supports the resolution proposed by Councilmember Mah because of the thought behind it and opportunity it provides the Council to welcome the USS Olympia if it comes to port again.

Councilmember Pavola stated that while the Council should support some kind of resolution to provide clarity on the issues, it is not the one proposed by Councilmember Mah. He said he opposed the abandoned resolution and wanted to clarify that the Council is not making statements about the military personnel. He said that everyone is welcome in the City of Olympia. He proposed the Council not take any action and continue discussion at a later date.

Councilmember Johnson voiced opposition to Councilmember Mah's proposed resolution. He said the Council needed to take action that reflected balance but the proposed resolution did not reflect that. He mentioned that opinions of those who addressed the Council were evenly divided. His pointed out that his

responsibility was to listen to the citizens and discuss the issues. He stated that the Council did not take a position on the issue last week; it simply stated it would hold a public forum. He said this issue is not about supporting the troops and noted that he respect every individual whether in uniform or not. He said the submarine crew was welcome in the community but the submarine was not, due to legitimate safety concerns.

Councilmember Ware said she opposed the proposed resolution, although she supports the language except for the continued support of the USS Olympia visits. She indicated that she could not support continued visits because of the safety concerns. She mentioned that the prior visits were before the USS Cole was attacked, before 9/11, and before the war. She said the resolution was not to state such opposition to the war, rather it was to have a public forum to discuss the issues of a nuclear submarine visiting Olympia. She thanked everyone for coming and speaking to the issue.

Councilmember Green stated he was glad the Council had the public forum and said there was nothing to be ashamed about. He commented on the Council's support of the troops. He said he made a mistake last week in allowing anyone to believe that the public hearing and consideration of a resolution represented non-support of the troops. He discussed past Council actions honoring the military. He said that it was important that any resolution focus on the soldiers. He suggested that it was possible for the Council to reach consensus, but not during this meeting. He recommended that the Council discuss and adequately review the issues and create a resolution the Council can pass unanimously.

Councilmember Green moved, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to table the proposed resolution for two weeks for further discussion.

Councilmember Green said the intent is not to take any action on a resolution at this time to allow the Council time to agree unanimously on a resolution.

The motion passed (5-2). Councilmember Mah and Hawkins opposed the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Foutch adjourned the meeting at 12:35 a.m. on May 5, 2004.

Misty Denny, Recording Secretary
Puget Sound Meeting Services