

This is Casey Dolan with your local news and commentary for Wednesday, January 24, 2024 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

In a Special Meeting of the Port Townsend City Council Monday night, Resolution 24-006 calling for a ceasefire in Gaza was unanimously passed. After moving and personal testimony by members of the public in support of the Resolution, Council members debated the pros and cons and, upon agreement over new language in the resolution, supported its passage. The Resolution had been part of the Council's agenda the previous week, but the meeting was adjourned due to the heart attack of activist Otto Smith in the Council's Chambers. Smith is currently recovering successfully, according to Mike Ferguson of Jefferson County Palestine Solidarity.

Nearly everyone who spoke was a local Port Townsend resident. Several speakers mentioned that the City Council had passed a similar resolution in 2019 designating Port Townsend as a "nuclear-free zone" and calling for an end to nuclear weapons. This precedent was offered as an example of the City Council making decisions for the community that were not based within the scope of infrastructure demands.

Lori Bernstein, a former teacher in the Chimacum and Port Townsend School Districts, requested changes be made in the language of the resolution to reflect greater accuracy regarding Israeli and Palestinian casualties, among other factual discrepancies. Numbers in the draft of the Resolution are daily rendered obsolete.

Frankie Rafferty, a Jefferson County musician, farmer, and food security advocate, read a list of cities in the country, large and small, which have passed similar resolutions and called for Port Townsend to proudly join the list.

Andrea Armstrong, a Clinical Research Registered Coordinator and Oncology Nurse at Jefferson Healthcare, asked, "At what point is the dissonance too great for us to have trust in our leaders anymore? By passing this resolution, my hope is that it sends a message to our federal representatives that this is unacceptable."

After the public's input, the Council debated on whether it was right to pronounce upon what is fundamentally a foreign policy issue and how that would impact the community. There was some fear and speculation that the Resolution might encourage both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. That led to some alterations in the language from specificity to a more general condemnation of violence and calling on an immediate ceasefire on both sides. Mayor David Faber said, "It is impossible to deny that what is happening in Gaza is genocide," but he expressed reservations over "the nationalization of local politics" and that "it was not an easy resolution to pass."

The *Peninsula Daily News* is facing a crisis. According to Canada's Business News Network, BNN Bloomberg, Black Press Ltd., the owner of dozens of community newspapers across Western Canada, Hawaii, Alaska and Washington, including the *Peninsula Daily News*, said Monday it had entered creditor protection, secured a tentative sale of the company and that founder David Black is retiring. Black Press had owned the paper since November 2011. The British-Columbia-based publisher said that as part of proceedings under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, it has entered into a sales agreement to Canso Investment Counsel Ltd., Deans Knight Capital Management Ltd. and Carpenter Media Group. Black Press said it will seek court approval to launch a sale solicitation process, with the sale agreement to the three investors acting as a backstop.

As part of an ongoing outbreak investigation that includes 47 Salmonella cases in 22 states, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises people to stop eating the Fratelli Beretta Antipasto Gran Beretta sold by Costco. This product contains black-pepper-coated dry salami, Italian dry salami, dry coppa, and prosciutto and is sold as a two-pack. They ask that you throw them out or return them to the store. Five Washington residents were reported ill with Salmonella infections associated with this outbreak in December 2023. Four had eaten Fratelli Beretta Antipasto purchased at Costco before they got sick. None were hospitalized. Symptoms of Salmonella infection include diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain, and sometimes vomiting. Symptoms usually begin 1 to 3 days after exposure and last 4 to 7 days. Most people recover on their own without antibiotic treatment.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Casey Dolan and I thank you for listening.