

1996 01 08 SS

LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL

WORKSHOP MINUTES

January 8, 1996

Lakewood City Hall

9315 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW, Suite 203

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: 6 - Mayor Bill Harrison; Deputy Mayor Claudia Thomas; Councilmembers Ann Kirk Davis, Colleen Henry, Jose Palmas, and Sherri Thomas.

Councilmember Excused: 1 - Councilmember Doug Richardson.

Councilmember Excused: 1 - Councilmember Doug Richardson.

Staff Present: City Manager D. Scott Rohlfs; City Attorney Dan Heid; Finance Director Galen Kidd; and City Clerk Alice Bush.

Graffiti Removal

City Attorney Heid explained the provisions of the proposed ordinance for the removal of graffiti in Lakewood. Discussion ensued on the merits of the ordinance. City Attorney Heid indicated that this ordinance is scheduled for the January 16, 1996 Council=s agenda.

Police Contracting

City Manager Rohlfs reported that the City of Tacoma is interested in talking with the City about contracting for certain services including police. He reviewed the data provided in the Council=s agenda packet outlining Pierce County=s cost estimates for police services. He summarized that the total cost provided by Pierce County for the current level of service on an annualized basis amount to \$8,701,640. In addition, the County has indicated that they intend to charge the City for ten months of jail services in 1996 and that the cost would increase in 1996. The City has budgeted for eight months of jail service. Mayor Harrison encouraged not separating jail services from police services.

Councilmember Henry questioned whether there was a conflict of interest if she participated in the discussions on police contracting since the City of Tacoma has expressed an interest in talking with the City. City Attorney Heid advised that she should remove herself from the dais during these discussions. Councilmember Henry excused herself and left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

City Council Workshop Minutes -2- January 8, 1996

City Manager Rohlfs reviewed different approaches for providing police services. He indicated that the City could consider providing its own investigation services versus contracting for a negotiated percentage of the Pierce County=s budget for the same service. Mayor Harrison asked that the City investigate if the City can pay by the hour for investigative services. City Manager Rohlfs indicated that based on past practices, he has found that it was difficult to accurately account for the amount of time spent on various police activities. City Manager Rohlfs stated that LESA service is also based on a percentage of Pierce County=s budget. City Manager Rohlfs indicated that the City should have some way to influence the County=s budget process if the City were to contract with Pierce County based on percentage levels of their budget. City Manager Rohlfs then

distributed copies of a preliminary 1997 budget showing proposed revenues and expenditures. He explained that the 1997 budget of \$14,173,100 depicts an ending General Fund balance deficit of \$1,352,820. He indicated that the City could be surprised by an increase in sales tax revenues, but that the exact amount won't be known until after the 1997 budget is prepared. He added that the City could restructure some services to reduce the deficit, but not at significant amounts. Discussion ensued on ways of reducing the fund deficit.

City Manager Rohlfs indicated that Lakewood residents are still County residents and that because Lakewood residents continue to pay for Pierce County taxes, Lakewood residents should have some sort of credit for services it continues to support, such as police. Councilmembers agreed with this concept.

City Manager Rohlfs stated that Pierce County has been receptive during the meetings and discussions on police services. He indicated that he will provide the Council with alternative service proposals for Council's review and consideration.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

BILL HARRISON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, CITY CLERK

.....