

**1996 07 08 SS**

**LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, July 8, 1996**

**Lakewood Library Meeting Room**

**6300 Wildaire Rod SW**

**Lakewood, WA 98499**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: 7 - Mayor Bill Harrison; Deputy Mayor Claudia Thomas; Councilmembers Ann Kirk Davis, Doug Richardson, Colleen Henry, JosÃ© Palmas and Sherri Thomas.

Staff Present: City Manager D. Scott Rohlfs; City Attorney Dan Heid; Finance Director Galen Kidd; Community Development Director David Bugher; Engineering Manager Bill Larkin; Civil Engineer Ken Gunther; Human Resources Administrator Debra Young; Police Chief Nik Dunbar; Administrative Secretary Juli Neher and City Clerk Alice Bush.

Staff Present: City Manager D. Scott Rohlfs; City Attorney Dan Heid; Finance Director Galen Kidd; Community Development Director David Bugher; Engineering Manager Bill Larkin; Civil Engineer Ken Gunther; Human Resources Administrator Debra Young; Police Chief Nik Dunbar; Administrative Secretary Juli Neher and City Clerk Alice Bush.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Herb Stumpf by request of Mayor Harrison.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Memorandum of Agreement with Pierce County relative to the Cross-Base Highway Project**

Engineering Manager Larkin provided an update on the Cross-Base Highway project and indicated that the Council will be asked to consider executing a memorandum of agreement with Pierce County designating the City of Lakewood as a cooperating agency for developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement at next week's Council meeting. Mr. Pat Baughman, Pierce County Public Works Project Manager, then provided the history on the proposed alignments being considered which began in the early 1980s. The project proposal began as a way to alleviate congestion around SR 512, SR 7 (Pacific Avenue), SR 161 (Meridian Road) and Canyon Road and to provide more direct

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access to the I-5 corridor. Out of discussions from local, county, city, business and military officials, in 1992 a corridor study was undertaken to examine the feasibility of a corridor. In 1994 a supplemental study was completed to look at alignments specifically in the American Lake Gardens area. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 came out of the 1992 corridor study and the 1994 study proposed three additional alignments, the Northern, the Central and South Central alignments. In late 1995, the Environmental Impact Study began with FHWA, DOT, Pierce County and cooperating agencies (McChord, Corps of Engineers, Ft. Lewis and City of Lakewood). In the fourth quarter of 1996 the Draft EIS is scheduled for completion with the final EIS being completed in the second quarter of 1997. There were several constraints associated with the alternatives including natural environment, military and built environment related

constraints.

Mr. John Perlich, Parametrix, then reviewed the three alternatives (South Central, Central and South Alternative 2) slated for environmental analysis and evaluation. At a previous hearing, equestrian uses were presented as a concern. There were concerns raised about the proximity to the horse barns and the effect it would have on their operations. One of the possibilities being explored is to build the road in the southern 150' right-of-way to provide a 50' buffer area between the roadway and the existing property line between Ft. Lewis and the City of Lakewood to provide noise attenuation for those properties. The facility will be carrying 35,000-40,000 vehicles per day. It must have full access control and no access from individual properties will be provided. There will be access points to American Lake Gardens in the proposed alternatives. There is also a clearly high percentage of low-income families in the area under consideration.

Councilmember Davis asked if the plan by Ft. Lewis to put in an industrial complex has been budgeted in the federal budget and has money been allocated; and what is the Corps of Engineers position on this. Engineering Manager Larkin indicated that staff does not have an answer at this point and will be contacting the Corps of Engineers. Councilmember Richardson commented that from the material provided it seems to indicate that based on the three alternatives, Alternative 2 seems to have the least mitigating impacts. Mayor Harrison indicated the equestrian group called Ft. Lewis and asked about this project and Ft. Lewis indicated there is no such plan and nothing is being done. Deputy Mayor Thomas asked at what stage can the Council review other alternatives. Engineering Manager Larkin indicated that any other alternatives must be identified as soon as possible to be included in the Draft EIS evaluation. Councilmember Palmas asked why the Central and South Central alignments have the most impact on low-income families. Engineering Manager Larkin indicated there is a significantly high percentage of low-income persons in the area, approximately 46 percent. Councilmember Davis indicated that two of the alternatives are impacted because of a high number of low-income persons in

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the area and the third alternative has an economic impact to the Lakewood community because it would destroy the equestrian area. Councilmember Davis asked what is the relative weight on low-income housing versus economic impact to the community. Engineering Manager Larkin indicated that since low-income housing is addressed by Presidential Order, it more than likely will have more precedent over economic impacts. City Manager Rohlf asked if this project was consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Baughman indicated that the corridor is included in the capital facilities plan and is identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Palmas asked if the 50' buffer has been implemented anywhere else. Engineering Manager Larkin indicated that the buffer was proposed to mitigate noise impacts and the equestrian area. Councilmember Davis asked what is the position of Ft. Lewis as far as the southern route is concerned. She asked if Ft. Lewis was willing to give more than 200'. Mr. Perlich replied that Ft. Lewis staff have indicated they are not willing to increase the 200' corridor. Councilmember Davis asked if Ft. Lewis is willing to consider giving more than 200', can a fourth alternative be considered. Mr. Perlich replied yes.

Speaking before the Council were:

*Phil Duvall, 7510 146th SW, indicated that the alternatives being proposed were not viable alternatives. He explained that the alternatives would split the community. He suggested constructing the road between the Madigan and Thorne Lane overpasses.*

*Esther Miller, 14511 Woodbrook Dr. SW, expressed concern about displacing low-income families and did not want a cross-base highway in the area.*

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Councilmember Henry asked what kind of timeframe is the Council looking at in order to include additional alternatives the Council may want to submit.

Engineering Manager Larkin recommended that the Council authorize the execution of the memorandum of agreement with Pierce County next week and the Council may include a motion at that time to add additional alternatives for consideration or a subcommittee can be established to develop additional alternatives as soon as possible.

**Briefing on Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor**

Engineering Manager Larkin explained that the Department of Ecology has requested that the City take a position on where it is most appropriate to locate the passenger train traffic to bypass Point Defiance and the waterfront route. He explained that the Prairie Line and Lakeview Branch routes will pass through Lakewood along the existing Burlington Northern Railroad corridor. The Department of Ecology is reviewing the merits of each of the routes.

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Engineering Manager Larkin indicated that staff recommends that that no action be taken at this time until the study on the proposed routes is completed. Councilmember Davis noted that passenger trains would have minimal impact compared to freight trains. She asked if there were any other variables the City should be considering besides at-grade crossings. Engineering Manager Larkin replied that staff recommends looking at grade separations. Deputy Mayor Thomas asked how these plans aligned with the Regional Transit Authority Plan. Engineering Manager Larkin indicated that this proposal was separate from the Regional Transit Authority Plan. Mayor Harrison indicated that the City should begin to formulate a position and making it known early in the process.

**Amendments to the Pay and Compensation Plan by adding new positions and establishing uniform salary ranges.**

Human Resources Administrator Young reviewed the proposed amendments to the Pay and Compensation Plan by adding new positions including a lead court clerk, land use technician, intern and management intern. She also noted that two title changes are being proposed to clarify and reflect current job responsibilities. Proposed changes include changing the Code Enforcement Officer to Zoning Code Enforcement Officer and changing City Clerk to General Services Director/City Clerk to reflect oversight of the Municipal Court. Mayor Harrison asked how will the unbudgeted positions be paid for. City Manager Rohlfs explained that in terms of the land use technician position, the current revenue streams are far in excess of what was budgeted and the revenues collected for services, in essence, will pay for the position. For the intern and management intern positions, rather than hiring consultants and staff, City Manager Rohlfs explained that the use of interns was an inexpensive way to assist with planning projects.

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**Council recessed at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:50 p.m.**

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Human Resources Administrator Young then reviewed the uniform salary range proposals for City positions. City Manager Rohlfs reviewed the intent of how the proposed uniform best fit salary ranges were developed. He noted that movement through the range will be addressed in the future. He explained that an employee committee was formed to review a system for performance evaluations based on movement through the range. He commented that management will be working with employees to explore and develop performance evaluations tied to salary increases. Discussion ensued on fringe benefits, vacation leave, sick leave accrual and usage, cost of living adjustments, and the difference between the 21.75% salary spread and the 26.8% salary

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spread. Council requested staff to bring forth the 21.75% salary spread for Council's consideration next week.

**Amendments to the Pay and Compensation Plan relative to management time.**

City Manager Rohlfs explained that the proposed ordinance provides for the City Manager to grant FSLA exempt employees up to six calendar days per year as management time off in acknowledgment for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week. Discussion ensued on compensation for employees that were not FSLA exempt employees.

#### **Review of Uncontrolled Weeds/Vegetation Ordinance**

City Attorney Heid reviewed the proposed changes to the uncontrolled weeds/vegetation ordinance which would require property owners the responsibility for maintaining property to keep weeds and vegetation under control. Mayor Harrison asked how does the City maintain uncontrolled vegetation on the City's right-of-ways. City Manager Rohlfs replied that staff is checking on the possibilities of securing the McNeil Island work ethic group and the Beautification Committee to assist with this endeavor.

**ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR THE JULY 15, 1996 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

1. Memorandum of Agreement with Pierce County relative to the Cross-Base Highway Project.
2. Amendments to the Pay and Compensation Plan by adding new positions and establishing uniform salary ranges.
3. Amendments to the Pay and Compensation Plan relative to management time.
4. Amending the City Council Rules of Procedure.

Councilmember Richardson requested that the amendments to the City Council Rules of Procedure be placed on the Consent Agenda for next week's meeting and that the appointment of the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor be considered at a special meeting on July 22, 1996.

## **REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Rohlfs announced that this week Community Development Director Bugher will be attending a Growth Management coordinating meeting with city and

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county planners regarding the City's application on growth management boundaries.

Mayor Harrison added that the meeting he and City Manager Rohlfs had with the Parkland and Spanaway action committee on the City's growth management boundary changes was positive and informative.

City Manager Rohlfs reported that staff has requested that the graffiti on the I-5 bridge be painted. He also noted that the railroad bridge on South Tacoma Way was painted.

City Manager Rohlfs reported that the U.S. Census Bureau recently informed the city that the 1990 census population for the City of Lakewood was 55,937 which was lower than the 58,000 figure staff has been using. He indicated that the State has been using the figure of 65,200 for current population which is based on the 1990 census and the number of building permits. City Manager Rohlfs indicated that the City needs to work on reconciling these figures.

City Clerk Bush introduced Juli Neher, administrative secretary to the City Clerk's Office.

City Manager Rohlfs indicating that the scoping project for the Chambers Creek EIS will be provided to the Council next week.

City Manager Rohlfs distributed a sign-up sheet for staffing the City's Summerfest booth on July 19, 20 and 21.

City Manager Rohlfs asked the Council which police vehicle decal the Council preferred - reflective or non-reflective. Councilmembers indicated a preference for the reflective decals.

## **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Henry reported that the community band has 68 students signed up to participate.

Councilmember Davis reminded Councilmembers Palmas and Thomas and City Manager Rohlfs and City Clerk Bush about tomorrow's meeting regarding the City Council's Retreat agenda.

Councilmember Palmas requested that a proof be provided using the City seal for the commemorative plaque. Mayor Harrison suggested that the City's date of incorporation and population be added to the plaque.

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Mayor Harrison requested Councilmembers to call Congressman Tate and Senator Gordon for their assistance to resolve the postal concerns of using the city name of "Lakewood" when addressing mail.

Mayor Harrison announced that he had the pleasure of presenting a proclamation to Janet Reasons, Miss Washington on Sunday.

Mayor Harrison reported that Richard Rabisa, Tillicum resident, informed him that a sewer grate was stolen in Tillicum and when he called the Fire Department and 9-1-1, no one responded to his call.

Councilmember Richardson indicated that Councilmember Henry is working on a calendar of events for the City.

Councilmember Richardson noted that the grass at the old settler's cemetery needed to be cut.

Mayor Harrison indicated that the City should approach Ft. Lewis to discuss what their plans are with regard to the Cross-Base Highway Project.

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Police Chief Dunbar reported that the search and rescue deputies and three detectives have helped chase leads for the missing 9 year old Lakewood girl. Mayor Harrison suggested that a thank you letter be sent to those who assisted when the search is completed.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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BILL HARRISON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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ALICE M. BUSH, CMC

CITY CLERK

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