

**1996 11 25 SS**

**LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES**

**Monday, November 25, 1996**

**City of Lakewood**

**City Council Chambers**

**9315 Gravelly Lake Drive SW**

**Lakewood, WA 98499**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Councilmembers Absent: 1 - Councilmember Doug Richardson (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)

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Staff Present: City Manager D. Scott Rohlfs; Deputy City Manager Andy Neiditz; City Attorney Dan Heid; Finance and Systems Director Galen Kidd; Community Development Director David Bugher; Engineering Manager Bill Larkin; Human Resources Administrator Debi Young and General Services Director/City Clerk Alice Bush.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Mayor Thomas.

**REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Rohlfs reported that the City and County have settled on the issue regarding which entity had financial responsibility for prisoner costs during the first 60 days of incorporation. He indicated that the total cost for those two months was \$36,000 and the City and County have agreed to each pay \$18,000 to avoid the cost of arbitration. He indicated that the exact dollar amount will be brought before the City Council for approval.

City Manager Rohlfs reported that Gerry Auger and Bob Arndt had been working on the issues regarding the city name of Lakewood versus the name of the Lakewood Post Office in Snohomish County. City Manager Rohlfs then distributed copies of their findings. Their report recommended that the Postal Service conduct a survey of the Lakewood Post Office boxholders with some specific suggestion for alternative "sound-alike" names like Lakewoode or Lakewoods.

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City Manager Rohlfs reported that the City's land use inventory is almost half-way done. He then distributed copies of the assessed valuation of the area's inventory.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Speaking before the Council were:

*Richard Rabisa, 2 ThorneWood Lane, spoke about the clean-up of the Tillicum area.*

*Ken Jones, Lakewood resident, spoke about some potential renters being informed by the military personnel not to rent in Lakewood.*

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*Betty Rabisa, 8503 Maple Street, spoke about another situation where military tenants were told not to rent in Lakewood. She expressed concern on how to keep military tenants in Lakewood.*

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Review of the second one-quarter percent real estate excise tax.**

City Manager Rohlfs distributed copies of revenue projections with and without the second one-quarter percent real estate tax. He noted that the second one-quarter percent real estate excise tax will be used for streets and parks. He then described alternative budget scenarios if the second one-quarter percent real estate excise tax was not adopted. He noted that another option was to seek a voter-approved revenue bond through an excess levy bond. Discussion ensued on voter support for a bond issue, utility tax options and business and occupation taxes. City Manager Rohlfs then reviewed the impact the second one-quarter percent real estate excise tax had in the cities of Lacey, Milton and Sumner, who recently adopted the second one-quarter percent real estate excise tax. Discussion ensued on placing restrictions on when the real estate excise tax could be collected and setting thresholds and limits on the amount of the tax that would be collected.

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The Council recessed at 8:50 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

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Councilmember Palmas requested that the City Attorney research the issue of exempting the poor and infirm from this tax.

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**Discussion of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to general business licenses and cabaret license fees.**

City Manager Rohlfs reviewed the options for cabaret business licenses. Discussion ensued on the owner of a masseuse business having to obtain a masseuse business license, manager license and potentially a masseuse operator license. It was the consensus of the Council to have staff bring forth suggested changes to the existing general business license and masseuse license fees prior to the next business license billing.

**Discussion of the final 1997 City of Lakewood Budget.**

Councilmember Richardson requested that the City take a graduated approach to the surface water management fees in 1997. He expressed concern about doubling stormwater management fees. Discussion ensued on the timing and billing of surface water management fees in the property tax statements. Councilmember Richardson suggested that the real estate excise tax monies of \$220,000 be moved to Arterial Streets from the Municipal Capital Improvement Program funds.

Discussion ensued on the proposed budget for police services. It was the consensus of the Council to keep the proposed police budget at the recommended funding level. It was the consensus of the Council to present two alternative ordinances regarding the 1997 budget. It was also the consensus of the Council that the ordinance on the

second one-quarter percent real estate excise tax be placed on the December 2, 1996, City Council agenda for consideration prior to consideration of the final 1997 City of Lakewood Budget.

**Review of Community Development Block Grant project applications for submission to the Consortium.**

Community Development Director Bugher distributed copies of the funding priority listing of the Pierce County Department of Community Services Citizens Advisory Board for Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Shelter Grant projects. Community Development Director Bugher then identified the areas in Lakewood that were considered low income. He then reviewed the City's priorities for physical improvement projects. He noted that the City is requesting approximately \$900,000 in grant funds. He then commented on the list of projects recommended for Human Services projects.

Discussion ensued on matching the City's list of project priorities with the listing of Pierce County priorities. Councilmember Henry asked for a status of the Tillicum Community Center building purchase with Community Development Block Grant funds.

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**Appointing Iris Urban as the youth advisor to the City Council. - (Motion)**

Deputy Mayor Thomas provided background information on the process for seeking a youth advisor to the City Council. She then recommended that the Council consider appointing Iris Urban as the youth advisor to the City Council for the 1996-1997 school year. Discussion ensued regarding Iris Urban and her qualifications as the youth advisor to the City Council.

**ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR THE DECEMBER 2, 1996, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:**

- 1. Appointing Iris Urban as the youth advisor to the City Council.**
- 2. Adopting the final 1997 City of Lakewood Budget and amendments to the pay and compensation plan. - (Ordinance)**
- 3. Establishing the ad valorem property levy. - (Ordinance)**

Mayor Harrison indicated that based on tonight's discussion, an ordinance on the second one-quarter percent real estate excise tax will be placed on the December 2, 1996, City Council agenda.

**BRIEFING BY THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Rohlf announced that the Council will be reducing property taxes by 28 percent next year.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Davis noted that based on the Regional Transit election results for Lakewood and University Place within Legislative District 28, the numbers came in higher than the 58.4 percent for Pierce County residents.

Councilmember Thomas asked for a report on the cost of the snow removal during last week's snow. She also asked that the Police Department provide an update on police activities.

Councilmember Henry announced that the B & I grand opening will be held on Wednesday, November 27, 1996, at noon. She requested all Councilmembers to attend.

Councilmember Richardson asked if streetlights are now being installed.

Deputy Mayor Thomas reported that the Parent Party Patrol recently raided several businesses on the illegal sale of liquor.

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**Mayor Harrison announced that Councilmember Richardson has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors for Safe Streets. He then reported on a meeting that he and City Manager Rohlfs attended with Executive Editor Dave Zeeck and Cheryl Tucker from *The News Tribune* to discuss the recent article on Lakewood crime. He then indicated that *The News Tribune* would go back and review the articles written on Lakewood since incorporation to look at the number of negative articles versus positive articles that have been published by *The News Tribune*. Mayor Harrison reported that the Saturday, November 23, 1996, parade at the Lakewood Mall was a success.**

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**Mayor Harrison announced that the Council would recess to Executive Session for approximately 45 minutes to discuss personnel matters.**

**The Council recessed at 10:55 p.m. and reconvened at 11:30 p.m.**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.**

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**BILL HARRISON, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**ALICE M. BUSH, CMC**

**CITY CLERK**