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LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Monday, November 23, 1998

City of Lakewood

City Council Chambers

10510 Gravelly Lake Drive SW

Lakewood, WA 98499

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Councilmember Excused: 1 - Councilmember Doug Richardson.

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Staff Present: City Manager D. Scott Rohlfs; Deputy City Manager Andrew Neiditz; City Attorney Dan Heid; Finance and Systems Director Galen Kidd; Community Development Director David Bugher; Engineering Manager Bill Larkin; Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Brewster; Assistant Police Chief Eileen Bisson; Human Resources & Services Director Debi Young and General Services Director/City Clerk Alice Bush.

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Rohlfs announced that there will be no City Council meeting on November 30, 1998. On December 1, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Clare Hospital, there will be a joint Council and Planning Advisory Board meeting. On December 7, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, there will be a joint Council/State Legislators meeting followed by a regular meeting of the City Council.

City Manager Rohlfs called on Assistant Police Chief Eileen Bisson who presented Patrol Impact Awards to Deputies Chris Westby and Darrin Smith and a Medal of Merit Award to Sargent Steve Kemmerer for their excellent performance in the pursuit and arrest of a Florida suspect along I-5.

City Manager Rohlfs reported on the Rotary Club clean-up of McChord Gate Park over the weekend. He indicated that staff will be discussing with the Council the matter concerning the naming of the park.

City Council Study Session Minutes -2- November 23, 1998

City Manager Rohlfs noted that there have been nineteen inquiries on the Request For Qualifications for architectural services for the permanent City Hall.

City Manager Rohlfs announced that the Police Department will be doing a patrol emphasis in the retail areas from now through the holiday season.

City Manager Rohlfs reported that the Hearing Examiner has ruled in favor of the City's position on the revocation of a business license for New Player's Club. The Hearing Examiner has also ruled on the street opening permit with Pierce County. In terms of the condition that was placed on the street opening permit, the Hearing Examiner ruled in favor of the City on the conditions. The Hearing Examiner did not rule in favor of the City regarding future sewer connections.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Supporting the Thurston Regional Planning Council's planning efforts to investigate the feasibility of providing northbound freight movement on the rail line east of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad main line from Chehalis, through Yelm, Roy and Lakewood to reconnect to the main line in Tacoma, and supporting the City of Yelm's purchase of the Prairie Line segment of the rail line between 108th Street SW in Lakewood, through Ft. Lewis, to Yelm.

Engineering Manager Larkin asked Council for direction on the planning efforts of the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) relative to the Thurston County Freight Access by Rail Corridor. He then introduced Ms. Judi Willcher, from TRPC, who described the partnering effort of the freight access by rail corridor which involves the acquisition of 55 miles of freight rail from Chehalis through Yelm, Roy and Lakewood to Tacoma. She explained that the study will also include the economic impact for acquisition. A planning grant of \$270,000 was awarded for the planning study. The TRPC is allocating \$340,000 to assist with corridor acquisition.

Discussion ensued on the Prairie Line proposal; partnering with RTA on the Commuter Rail study; studying the impacts for grade separators and noise; studying safety impacts and the number of trains that would come through Lakewood; enhanced freight service in and out of Lakewood's Industrial Park and providing a provision for removing graffiti in the study.

Councilmembers agreed to support the TRPC's planning efforts to conduct the study.

Amending Sections 13.06.150 and 13.06.170 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to garbage utility rates.

Engineering Manager Larkin reported that Hidden Valley Landfill will be closing, and refuse will be long hauled to eastern Washington with Land Recovery, Inc., resulting in a residential rate increase of 7.83 percent; commercial increase of 10.64 percent and container drop box disposal fee increase of 22.54 percent.

City Council Study Session Minutes -3- November 23, 1998

Discussion ensued on landfill pass through contractual obligations, which are costs beyond the control of Lakewood Refuse; providing rebates back to customers for the \$30,000 increased revenues that would be collected; status on the 104th Street landfill; using \$30,000 for a Hazardous Waste Clean-Up Day or Street Clean-Up Day and partnering with Lakewood Refuse on a clean-up program; reviewing time-frames for future garbage or rate increases; drop box collection and disposal rate definitions and providing an option for a clean-up program in the garbage contract when it comes up for renewal.

Authorizing the execution of an agreement with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad providing for the improvement of the railroad crossing of Steilacoom Boulevard SW, east of Lakeview Avenue.

Engineering Manager Larkin explained that the proposed agreement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad provides for improving the railroad crossing at Steilacoom Boulevard SW, east of Lakeview Avenue.

Discussion ensued on moving the existing railroad signals on Bridgeport Way, north of Pacific Highway, to the crossing at Steilacoom Boulevard SW.

Amending Ordinance Nos. 143 and 179 establishing and amending the City of Lakewood Employee Recognition Program to provide for honorable mention awards.

Human Resources and Services Director Young explained that the proposed employee honorable mention awards of \$100 would be awarded at the discretion of the City Manager for those employees who didn't receive an Annual Recognition Award but deserved some form of recognition for excellence.

Discussion ensued on whether these funds would impact future Sewer Water Management fund indirect cost allocations. It was the consensus of the Council to provide a day off instead of a monetary award.

Authorizing the execution of an agreement with Hammond, Collier & Wade-Livingston Associates, Inc., to provide

preliminary engineering services for various sidewalk improvement projects.

Engineering Manager Larkin reported that the proposed agreement with Hammond, Collier & Wade-Livingston Associates, Inc., provides for preliminary engineering services for sidewalk design on Holden Road between 112th Street and Lake Louise Drive; on 150th Street SW from Spring Street approximately 1200 feet east; 34th Avenue from South 88th Street to South 84th Street; and on South 88th Street from the pedestrian entrance to Oakwood Elementary School east to Carol Street.

Discussion ensued on the mitigation funds the Clover Park School District would receive on the Holden Road project.

City Council Study Session Minutes -4- November 23, 1998

Authorizing the expenditure of City funds to abate a public nuisance at 9620 Washington Boulevard SW, and to take steps necessary, including legal process and liens on the property, to recover said funds.

City Attorney Heid explained that the proposed resolution would authorize the abatement of a public nuisance at 9620 Washington Boulevard.

Discussion ensued on the Lakewood Journal article about the 9620 Washington Boulevard public nuisance property.

Submitting grant applications to the State Department of Transportation for funding a Hazardous Elimination System program.

Engineering Manager Larkin explained that the proposed grant application to the Department of Transportation, if awarded, would fund the following projects:

1. Hipkins Road construction of curbs, gutters, and combination sidewalks/bike paths along Hipkins Road between 104th Street SW and Steilacoom Boulevard.

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2. Traffic signal at Bridgeport Way and San Francisco Avenue.

Traffic signal at Bridgeport Way and San Francisco Avenue.

3. Camera and necessary electronic equipment for enforcement of red traffic signal violations.

Camera and necessary electronic equipment for enforcement of red traffic signal violations.

4. Improvement of the railroad crossing at Bridgeport Way, north of Pacific Highway.

Improvement of the railroad crossing at Bridgeport Way, north of Pacific Highway.

5. Traffic signal at Union Avenue and Berkeley Avenue.

Traffic signal at Union Avenue and Berkeley Avenue.

6. Traffic signal at Motor Avenue and Whitman Avenue.

Traffic signal at Motor Avenue and Whitman Avenue.7. Flashing lights on School Zone signs at high traffic volume locations.

Discussion ensued on the need for traffic signals at Bridgeport Way and San Francisco Avenue and the traffic hazards at the Lochburn Middle School and Steilacoom Boulevard crossing.

Preliminary review of 1999 Community Development Block Grant funding applications.

Assistant to the City Manager Brewster reviewed the proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications to be submitted to the Pierce County Consortium for CDBG funding:

1. McChord Gate Community Center acquisition and development project.

2. Harry Todd Park restoration.
3. Wards Lake Park preliminary development project.
4. Curbs, gutters and sidewalks in the vicinity of elementary schools.
5. Other locations for curbs, gutters and sidewalks.
6. Bus shelters.
7. Flashing warning lights on certain School Zone signs.

Flashing warning lights on certain School Zone signs.

8. Crosswalks.

Crosswalks.9. Lakewood Families First.

Discussion ensued on submitting applications for projects for senior activities and for projects in the Tillicum and Woodbrook areas.

City Council Study Session Minutes -5- November 23, 1998

ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE DECEMBER 7, 1998, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Amending Sections 13.06.150 and 13.06.170 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to garbage utility rates. (Ordinance - Consent Agenda)
2. Authorizing the execution of an agreement with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad providing for the improvement of the railroad crossing of Steilacoom Boulevard SW, east of Lakeview Avenue. - (Motion - Consent Agenda)
3. Amending Ordinance Nos. 143 and 179 establishing and amending the City of Lakewood Employee Recognition Program to provide for honorable mention awards. - (Ordinance - Consent Agenda)
4. Authorizing the execution of an agreement with Hammond, Collier & Wade-Livingston Associates, Inc., to provide preliminary engineering services for various sidewalk improvement projects. - (Motion - Consent Agenda)
5. Authorizing the expenditure of City funds to abate a public nuisance at 9620 Washington Boulevard SW, and to take steps necessary, including legal process and liens on the property, to recover said funds. - (Resolution - Consent Agenda)
6. This is the date set for a public hearing by the City Council to consider the request to vacate Beach Lane from Lake Steilacoom southwesterly approximately 100 feet. (File No. VAC 98-003)

There were no comments.

BRIEFING BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Rohlfs reported on the swearing-in ceremony he and Councilmembers Palmas and Humphrey attended recognizing Assistant Police Chief Bisson.

City Manager Rohlfs asked if a Councilmember would serve on the interview panel for the Economic Development/Community Relations Officer position. The panel will also consist of Deputy City Manager Neiditz; Erling Mork, Tacoma-Pierce County Economic Development Board; and a member from the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and Lakewood Economic Development Advisory Board.

City Manager Rohlfs reported on a meeting he attended with City Managers from Tacoma, Gig Harbor, Puyallup and University Place to discuss how Pierce County cities should address regional issues that affect Pierce County.

City Council Study Session Minutes -6- November 23, 1998

City Manager Rohlfs distributed a draft letter for Council's review addressed to the Society of Environmental Toxicology and

Ministry on behalf of the Lake Steilacoom Improvement Club for a peer review study of Lake Steilacoom.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Davis complimented the lowering of the street winter banners. Councilmember Davis commented on her participation in the Lakewood Mall Holiday Parade. She then reported on the transportation meeting held last week to discuss moving the SR-512 Park-and-Ride location to the new commuter rail station. The next meeting will be in February.

Councilmember Humphrey reported on the meeting with Lake Steilacoom Club, Department of Ecology and others to discuss the peer review and permitting to treat Lake Steilacoom. Deputy Mayor Thomas added that it became evident that the lake will not be treated with copper sulfate as the Lake Steilacoom Club desired. She indicated that the City's position is to move forward and to work on behalf of all of Lakewood's lakes.

Councilmember Humphrey announced that the Pierce Transit Board approved a \$91 million budget for 1999.

Councilmember Palmas reported that LESA had evidently had a communication error when a rape victim was found in Federal Way who later went to St. Clare Hospital. Instead of using dispatch, a communication memo was used at the same time there was a personnel shift change, which somehow caused a miscommunication.

Deputy Mayor Thomas commented that Mayors from some of Pierce County cities are talking about preparations for a change of operations with a new Pierce County Executive. She indicated that the Mayors are beginning to talk about ways to open up better communication between the Pierce County Executive, the Pierce County Council and staff.

Mayor Harrison commented on a lunch meeting he had with McChord Air Force Base Colonel Johns.

Mayor Harrison reported that at last week's Lakewood Historical Society meeting, he learned that Barb Dalton is heading a committee to look at how to save the Lakewood Theatre.

Mayor Harrison commented that there was no mention of increasing Surface Water Management fees after Engineering Manager Larkin's speech before the Lakewood Chamber.

City Council Study Session Minutes -7- November 23, 1998

Mayor Harrison noted that the topic of discussion at the Pierce County Regional Council meeting was salmon. He explained that none of the cities have budgeted funds for the salmon, and cities are unclear about what needs to be done.

Mayor Harrison reported on the Visitors and Convention Bureau Legislative meeting he attended.

Mayor Harrison noted that at the AWC Legislative meeting he attended, there is a movement to pass a law that would prohibit new cities who incorporate from receiving sales tax equalization funds.

Mayor Harrison commented on the Emerald City softball team.

Mayor Harrison commented that the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) will be getting into the Olympics business. The PSRC supported nominating the Seattle regional area to be considered to hold the 2012 Olympics. He noted that Lakewood may be a viable candidate for equestrian and rowing activities.

ADJOURNMENT

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

BILL HARRISON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, CMC

CITY CLERK

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