

1999 09 13 Joint Council/Legislators

JOINT LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL

AND STATE LEGISLATORS

MINUTES

Monday, September 13, 1999

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 6:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Washington State 2nd District Legislators Present: 3 - Senator Marilyn Rasmussen (arrived at 7:30 p.m.) and Representative Roger Bush.

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Washington State 28th District Legislators Present: 3 - Senator Shirley Winsley (arrived at 6:25 p.m.) and Representatives Mike Carrell and Gigi Talcott.

City 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; Police Chief Larry Saunders; Human Resources & Services Director Debi Young and General Services Director/City Clerk Alice Bush.

FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harrison.

DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE ITEMS:

Primary Issues/Concerns

Sales Tax Equalization

Sales Tax Equalization

City Manager Rohlfs indicated that sales tax equalization makes up 18.7 percent of the City's budget which comes from the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. He requested Legislators to support sales tax equalization for municipalities, especially as it applies to Lakewood.

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Discussion ensued on the amount of sales tax equalization Lakewood, University Place, Fircrest, DuPont and Steilacoom receive. Representative Carrell discussed his proposal to introduce a bill to minimize the impacts of

Initiative 695 for municipalities, so that municipalities could keep a portion of the sales tax generated by that city.

Sewer Franchises

City Manager Rohlfs expressed the need to construct sewers in certain portions of the city. He reviewed the events of a Superior Court decision on the County's authority to regulate sewers. He explained that proposed legislation providing for the franchise authority of cities could require the County to provide sewer systems.

Senator Winsley arrived at 6:25 p.m.

Discussion ensued on the language of the proposed legislation statute; and what position the Association of Washington Cities had on the proposed legislation.

Shoreline Management Act

Community Development Director Bugher spoke about the City's concern with regard to the Shoreline Master Program rule as it relates to septic systems.

Telecommunications Rights of Way

City Attorney Heid spoke about the need for cities to maintain control in their rights-of-way.

Discussion ensued on pending law suits on obligations and responsibilities of the parties. He explained that at the present time there is no legislation.

Status of Land Adjacent to Western State Hospital

City Manager Rohlfs reported that the State, County and City have negotiated an agreement regarding the use of Ft. Steilacoom Park. He explained that next week there is a hearing about the land adjacent to Western State Hospital and the proposed legislative hearing has caused some delay in the signing of the memorandum of agreement.

Discussion ensued on the proposed improvements and use of Ft. Steilacoom Park.

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Local Transportation Funding

Engineering Manager Larkin spoke about the need for transportation funding for streets. He urged the Legislature to maintain the existing levels of transportation funding at the local and regional levels.

Construction of I-5/SR-512 Interchange

Engineering Manager Larkin strongly urged the Legislature to upgrade the I-5/SR-512 interchange to a higher level of funding priority. He explained that delaying the project will have a detrimental impact to businesses and affected properties. He explained that the interim fix is not sufficient.

Discussion ensued on the impacts of egress and ingress traffic at the I-5/SR-512 interchange and its effect on the industrial park and businesses.

Gambling Tax

City Manager Rohlfs indicated that with the potential impacts of Initiative 695, any change in the gambling tax will impact the revenues generated by the City. This year the City would receive \$1.7 million in revenues.

Amendment of Utility Tax Statutes

City Manager Rohlfs indicated that cities are authorized to impose up to a six percent utility tax. However, the law does not allow cities to tax a public utility that operates within the city. City Manager Rohlfs expressed concern that the statute does not provide Lakewood the authority to impose a sewer and water tax and requested the Legislature to

consider this matter.

Initiative 695 (9/23/99)

City Manager Rohlf indicated that Initiative 695 would impact the City by \$4.85 million, or 26.1 percent of the City's budget. He explained the disparity on how Initiative 695 impacts each city. For example, Initiative 695 impacts the City of Tacoma by 2.7 percent of its budget. He explained that 62 percent of the City's budget is applied to public safety and the legal mandates required. This will impact Lakewood significantly. He requested that consideration be given to sharing the impacts proportionately, should the Initiative pass.

Discussion ensued on how the City will address the impacts with other surrounding municipalities.

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Other Issues

Â· Sales Tax on Personal Dance Services

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Â· Arrest of Violators Outside the Immediate area of Violations (MVA's)

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Â· Reimbursement of Incarceration Costs

Reimbursement of Incarceration CostsÂ· Consequence of Failing to Appear in Court After Written Promise to Appear

Upcoming Legislative Issues

Â· Telecommunications and Energy Taxes and Government Taxation Issues

Telecommunications and Energy Taxes and Government Taxation IssuesÂ· Annexations and Incorporations and the Impact on Tax Revenues, Viability of New Cities and Land Use of Annexations and Incorporations

Mayor Harrison indicated that the Legislators will be provided with the City's position on these items.

Representative Carrell indicated that he is developing a proposal on the matter concerning failures to appear in court and the definition of indigent.

Representative Bush discussed upcoming educational opportunities for economic development growth.

Discussion ensued on the need to provide for municipal courts; and health insurance options.

Senator Rasmussen arrived at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

BILL HARRISON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, CMC/AE

CITY CLERK

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