

1999 09 13 SS

LAKESWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION 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 9:10 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.

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.

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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Tom Phillips and Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$42,000, for preparing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing.

General Services Director/City Clerk Bush reviewed the proposed agreement with Tom Phillips and Associates to prepare the CDBG and HOME programs Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Discussion ensued on developing the strategic plan component of the Plan and the liquidated damages provision of the contract.

Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Cheryl Pleak, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000, for CDBG and HOME programs technical and administrative services through January 31, 2000.

General Services Director/City Clerk Bush reviewed the proposed agreement with Cheryl Pleak for CDBG and HOME programs technical and administrative services through January 31, 2000.

City Council Study Session Minutes -2- September 13, 1999

Discussion ensued on the proposed special employment contract.

Consideration of revenue alternatives for police and streets.

City Manager Rohlfs introduced a proposed utility tax that would be designated for public safety and streets.

He indicated that Shoreline and Lynnwood are the only two cities in the state above a 30,000 population that are without a utility tax. There are six cities over 11,000 population without a utility tax in the state. He then reviewed the per capita revenue with cities over 30,000 and 11,000 population without a utility tax. He noted that the utility tax makes up an average of 12 percent of the budget of those cities with a utility tax.

He then reviewed Year 2000 estimated revenues and expenditures for the Streets Fund and Arterial Streets Fund combined. He noted that there would be a significant impact to these funds if Initiative 695 is successful. In addition, Referendum 49 dollars would not be available. The impacts to these funds in Year 2000 would leave a cash flow of \$400,000, which would adversely impact the City's ability to provide matching funds for grants.

Sixteen of the twenty-one cities in Pierce County have a utility tax that generates \$38 million. The largest Pierce County city other than Lakewood, which does not have a utility tax is Orting.

He reviewed the amount of revenues that a utility tax would generate for Lakewood. He explained that the utility tax is needed for streets and public safety even if Initiative 695 does not pass.

Discussion ensued on whether the funds will be used "primarily" or "solely" for streets and public safety; supporting the utility tax on a conditional basis if Initiative 695 passes by imposing a time limit and placing it on the ballot for a vote; what the impacts of sunsetting a limited tax would be; repealing the Surface Water Management tax and reducing the solid waste tax to two percent; placing the City in a position to encourage economic development and using the tax to invest in the community to make it more attractive; meeting the needs in the Comprehensive Plan; disregarding Initiative 695, the City already has a problem in meeting street needs and public safety; and imposing no Surface Water Management fees and solid waste taxes.

Councilmembers requested staff to bring forth an ordinance to impose a utility tax with no Surface Water Management fees and no solid waste tax including language to evaluate the imposed utility tax after four years.

City Council Study Session Minutes -3- September 13, 1999

ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE SEPTEMBER 20, 1999, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Tom Phillips and Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$42,000, for preparing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. - (Motion - Consent Agenda)
2. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Cheryl Pleak, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000, for CDBG and HOME programs technical and administrative services through January 31, 2000. - (Motion - Consent Agenda)
3. Consideration of revenue alternatives for police and streets. - (Ordinance)
4. Appointing individuals to the Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Board. - (Motion)
5. Amending Sections 10.28.020, 10.28.030, 10.28.040, 10.28.050 and 10.28.070 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to impounding vehicles driven by drivers with suspended licenses. - (Ordinance - Consent Agenda)
6. Presentation on Study Circles on Race. - *Mr. Jeff Thurston, Lakewood Study Circles on Race Coordinator*
7. Amending Section 3.34.010 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to social card games tax. - (Ordinance)

There were no comments.

BRIEFING BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Rohlfs distributed copies of the annual revenues generated by gambling taxes. He also distributed copies of the information Council earlier requested on the Robin Hood Estates trail.

City Manager Rohlfs announced that the Initiative 695 meeting with the legislators and five cities is scheduled for September 23, 1999, at 6:30 p.m., at the Tacoma Country and Golf Club.

City Manager Rohlfs reminded Councilmembers to provide their recommendations to Mayor Harrison on the appointment of CDBG/Citizens Advisory Board members by September 15, 1999, for inclusion in the September 20,

1999 Council Agenda packet.

City Manager Rohlf's noted that publishing a four-page spread to promote Lakewood with Wyndham Publishing is \$16,000.

City Council Study Session Minutes -4- September 13, 1999

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Humphrey indicated that at tonight's meeting of Pierce Transit, the Board discussed the 38 percent impacts Initiative 695 would have on Pierce Transit. He noted that Pierce Transit will be making a presentation before Council on October 4, 1999, to discuss the impacts.

Councilmember Humphrey questioned the zoo tax election. City Manager Rohlf's indicated that there has been discussion about a zoo tax being placed on the February 2000 ballot.

Councilmember Humphrey suggested that a citizens advisory committee of lake property owners be created to work with the City on lake issues.

Councilmember Richardson asked for an update on staff's proposal for imposing a fee to fund a code enforcement officer. Engineering Manager Larkin indicated that he is working on alternatives for Council to consider.

Councilmember Richardson asked if the letter to the editor on the water charge increase in Steilacoom was a result of the Lakewood Water District.

Deputy Mayor Thomas asked staff to respond to the Maudie Nemeth letter about Robin Hood Estates.

Deputy Mayor Thomas reminded Councilmembers of her get-together on September 17, 1999.

Mayor Harrison reminded members of the audience to vote tomorrow.

Councilmember Palmas indicated that he will be representing the Mayor and City Council at the Centro Latino Event on Friday, September 17, 1999.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

BILL HARRISON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, CMC/AAE

CITY CLERK