

# 2002 02 23 Council Retreat

## LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL RETREAT MINUTES

Saturday, February 23, 2002

Pierce College

International House

9401 Farwest Drive SW

Lakewood, WA 98498

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

### ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: 6 - Mayor Bill Harrison; Deputy Mayor Claudia Thomas; Councilmembers Pad Finnigan; Helen McGovern; JosÃ© Palmas and Doug Richardson.

Councilmember Excused: 1 - Councilmember Larry Humphrey.

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Staff Present: City Manager D. Scott Rohlf; Assistant City Manager Jeff Butzlaff; City Attorney Heidi Horst; Finance and Systems Director Galen Kidd; Community Development Director David Bugher; Public Works Director Bill Larkin; Police Chief Larry Saunders; Human Resources & Services Director Debi Young; General Services Director/City Clerk Alice Bush; Community Relations Manager Candice Bock and Parks Manager Mary Dodsworth.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

#### Water District

Discussion ensued on three primary franchise-related issues yet to be resolved with the Water District; amending the franchise fee proposal to provide for the collection of a franchise fee; and holding semi-annual meetings with the Water District.

#### Safeway Building

Council reviewed several options for the use of the Safeway building. Discussion ensued on using the facility for police, a community teen center, considering leasing the facility, and providing for a public involvement process. Council asked that staff prepare cost estimates for the different potential uses, including adding a second floor or mezzanine.

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#### Role of Council

Discussion ensued on the merits of Council districting and having Council representatives for each neighborhood association. It was the consensus that Councilmembers are to rotate serving as Council representatives on each neighborhood association and that these meetings be added to the weekly meeting calendar.

#### Street Ends Survey

Discussion ensued on Beach Lane street ends and lake access, streets ending on American Lake; and street ends

not accessible to citizens.

It was the consensus of the Council that staff conduct an inventory of street ends and right-of-way ends that abut the lakes in Lakewood and provide an analysis of which street ends may be feasible for lake access.

#### **Agreement with Great Northwest**

It was the consensus of the Council to let the existing agreement with Great Northwest expire in April 2002.

#### **Other**

Councilmember Richardson spoke about annexing Camp Murray into Lakewood's boundary. The annexation would provide no revenues to the City.

Councilmember Richardson spoke about the undergrounding of utilities as a long-term goal and budgeting for it under capital improvements. City Manager Rohlfs provided an update on electrical franchises and the provision for undergrounding of utilities. City Manager Rohlfs indicated that to move forward, the Council will need to adopt an undergrounding utility ordinance and franchise agreements with the utilities.

Councilmember Palmas spoke about the Pierce County Regional Council meeting he attended where it was discussed that the Legislature may take action to eliminate unfunded mandates that the State imposes upon cities. The Council requested that City staff develop a list of unfunded mandates.

Councilmember Finnigan asked that the shoreline regulations be reviewed relative to dock issues on the lakes.

After the State passes its new regulations, Mayor Harrison asked for a Council representative to serve on the Regional Access Program Committee. Councilmember Richardson expressed an interest to serve on that Committee.

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Mayor Harrison asked for Council's input on the issue of sewerage Tillicum/American Lake Gardens. He recommended that the City, Pierce County and Senator Adams meet to discuss ways of securing federal funding.

Mayor Harrison reported that the Steilacoom Mayor and Town Council are willing to discuss the issue of the annexation of Arrowhead/Partridge Glen. Councilmembers agreed to meet to discuss this matter.

Mayor Harrison asked for an update on Fire Marshal services. City Manager Rohlfs reported that City staff is working out some minor language to the agreement and the contract is forthcoming.

Mayor Harrison played segments of a tape that was heard at the League of Cities conference on trends in cities throughout the nation.

#### **Council Quasi-judicial Role**

Discussion ensued on the history of Council serving as a quasi-judicial body. It was the consensus of the Council to amend the ordinance to remove itself from the quasi-judicial role. City Manager Rohlfs indicated that applications that are vested under the current Municipal Code will still come before the Council should an appeal be filed.

#### **Backfill**

City Manager Rohlfs reviewed the proposed budget cuts to the General Fund in 2003 due to Initiative 695 backfill losses. Discussion ensued on the impacts of budgetary cuts to police, City departments and mitigation measures.

City Manager Rohlfs reviewed City staff positions that have yet to be filled that are being proposed for elimination.

The Council concurred with delaying the hiring of the Ombudsman position. Council requested City staff to provide the Council with a list of positions proposed to be eliminated or reduced.

#### **Budget/Taxes/Expenditures/Financial Statements**

(Consider Two-Year Budget cycle)

Discussion ensued on the merits of a two-year (biennial) budget versus an annual budget; and quarterly financial summary reports on expenditures.

It was the consensus of the Council to proceed with preparing an ordinance to consider a biennial budget prior to June 30, 2002.

Discussion ensued to consider adjusting gambling taxes as it relates to Jimmy G's and to consider this after the legislative session.

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##### Entryway Signs (Farwest/Steilacoom Blvd & Bridgeport/Pacific Hwy)

Parks Manager Dodsworth presented various City entry signs from other communities.

Discussion ensued on coordinating the appearance of the Pacific Highway/Bridgeport Way SW signs with proposals of the Lakewood Commuter Rail Station and the Redevelopment Plan; and the Interstate 5 entry signs being different from the Farwest Drive/Steilacoom Boulevard and Bridgeport Way SW/Pacific Highway signs. It was the consensus of the Council to hold off on the design for the major entry signs but to clean up the Bridgeport Way SW/Pacific Highway entryway.

##### Lake Steilacoom Treatment - 2002

Mayor Harrison reviewed the history behind the treatment of Lake Steilacoom.

Discussion ensued on the status of the Attorney General's opinion and the timing of the opinion to submit a permit for treatment; notifying the residents along the lake of the 9th Circuit Court's ruling and that the City cannot apply for a permit; transmit Representative Gigi Talcott's letter to the residents; and publishing an update in the City's newsletter.

##### Communications with Citizens and Televising Council Meetings

Councilmember Finnigan distributed copies of a communications proposal for Council meetings, citizen outreach and publications.

Discussion ensued about the Open Meetings Act providing for Council meetings to be held in a public forum and that receiving public testimony during Study Sessions can become challenging when sessions are for Council's deliberations and education.

It was the consensus of the Council to acknowledge each citizen who makes a comment before the Council.

Discussion ensued on televising Council meetings through AT&T or the Rainier Cable Commission and research the cost for televising meetings; publishing surveys; and providing for a question-and-answer period for citizens before or after Council meetings.

##### Comprehensive Plan/Zoning (C1 & C2)

Discussion ensued on readdressing the development codes and providing leniency for C1 and C2 zones on frontages. Frontages, for example, in certain parts of South Tacoma Way where pedestrians would not likely use, are hampering what could be parking spaces in the back of buildings thereby limiting redevelopment and economic development.

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##### Legal Case Management

City Attorney Horst reported on the number of legal claims on file in the Legal Department.

Discussion ensued on the manner in which the Council is presented with information on matters concerning legal

claims and suits and receiving information from both sides that is unfiltered and not presented from the City's perspective only.

**Other**

Councilmember Palmas suggested that a street light outage patrol program be implemented with the work crew or animal control officers for reporting outages.

Mayor Harrison asked for an update on sexually-oriented business litigations.

Mayor Harrison reported that Pierce County will be making a presentation before the Council on the Cross Base Highway at the Council's March 11, 2002 meeting.

Mayor Harrison indicated that Councilmember Humphrey requested that each Committee and Board provide an annual report before the Council. Council agreed with having each Committee and Board provide a report.

Mayor Harrison commented about the Community Oriented Policing (COP) program.

City Manager Rohlfs provided an update on the Thornewood Castle's issues concerning the City's Notice of Desist Order. He explained that the owners may be asking to increase the number of bed and breakfast rooms from six as allowed by Code, to eight. Further, the Notice of Desist and Order may be appealed before the Hearing Examiner.

Mayor Harrison asked for an update on Click, and the laying of fiber optics in Lakewood. Assistant City Manager Butzlaff indicated that the Tacoma City Council has approved Click's plan of putting fiber optics in Lakewood.

City Manager Rohlfs then reviewed the positions that would be eliminated as a result of Initiative 695 backfill.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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**BILL HARRISON, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**ALICE M. BUSH, CMC**

**CITY CLERK**