

2002 04 24 Council Retreat

LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL RETREAT MINUTES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Pierce College

International House

9401 Farwest Drive SW

Lakewood, WA 98498

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Councilmember Absent: 1 - Councilmember Doug Richardson (arrived at 5:13 p.m.)

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Staff Present: City Manager D. Scott Rohlf; City Attorney Heidi Horst; Finance and Systems Director Galen Kidd and Parks Manager Mary Dodsworth.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Overview of Council's Role.

Mr. Stan Finkelstein, President, Association of Washington Cities (AWC), briefly discussed the important role Senator Shirley Winsley played with regards to the backfill funds.

Mr. Finkelstein then distributed a handout.

Publications Mr. Finkelstein recommended for further reading include: *Local Government Policymaker's Handbook*; *Councilmember's Handbook*; *Code City Handbook*; and *Mayor's Handbook*.

Mr. Finkelstein pointed out the following facts: that Lakewood is the eleventh largest city in Washington; that Washington state is 60 percent incorporated; that the recent annexation case could be a problem; and that annexation and backfill would be a big focus in 2003 for AWC in the legislative session.

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Councilmembers have derived authority - they serve at the pleasure of their constituency.

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Two problems:

1. Councilmembers acting independently of Council

(Council can only act collectively)

2. Councilmember crossing from policy into administration and implementation.

Discussion ensued.

Council recessed for a brief break.

Financial Reports.

A meeting had been held on this subject with Councilmembers Humphrey and Finnigan and Finance and Systems Director Kidd subsequent to the last Retreat.

Councilmember Finnigan commented that the goal is to have financial reports prepared in a simple and useful format for comparison purposes.

Deputy Mayor Thomas commented about how much work this is for staff.

Councilmember Richardson asked about the impact of how revenue comes in.

Discussion ensued on the timing of when revenue is receipted, which is either reflected monthly or quarterly, making the financial reports look out of balance as a result. Deputy Mayor Thomas brought up the example of grants.

It was the consensus of the Council to not prepare financial reports department by department.

City Manager Rohlfs asked the Council how they want FTEs reflected in the financial reports.

Discussion ensued on going by the budget, percentage filled or unfilled as well as to account for any contractual employees; concerns relative to providing an inaccurate picture of the budget relative to staffing including concerns about grant-funded positions.

City Manager Rohlfs clarified that this means distinguishing between FTEs and budgeted, full-time positions.

Councilmember Richardson suggested that this be reported the same way that they are reported in the budget presentation and discussion of year-to-year comparisons.

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Councilmember Humphrey added that the use of exception notes where something is unusual might be helpful.

It was the consensus that Councilmembers Finnigan and Humphrey meet with Finance and Systems Director Kidd to continue work on this matter.

Follow-up on the Council Retreat of February 23, 2002

Safeway Building Uses

Mayor Harrison opened with a report that he, Councilmember Richardson and City Manager Rohlfs had met with the Tacoma-Pierce County Visitor and Convention Bureau. He indicated that they talked to Fred Shanaman and Kevin Phelps and that Mr. Shanaman suggested having a LeMay car museum in Safeway. He explained that Mr. Shanaman believes that LeMay would agree to this and that Lakewood could possibly benefit from this with the generation of admissions tax.

City Manager Rohlfs reported on the Springbrook Community Center Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant and how it may relate to the Council's desires relative to the Safeway building. He indicated that CDBG funds cannot be utilized for a down payment; and that there were three potential locations that were presented by Communities In Schools.

Discussion ensued on what the Council would want to do with community center facilities.

Parks Manager Dodsworth added that the City needs to prioritize and that the Dunn property is available if that is being considered.

Deputy Mayor Thomas spoke about looking into a school-based model to provide social services through the collaboration and that she strongly favors getting something in Springbrook since the neighborhood is isolated from their school which is located on-base and the idea of a parks facility would work. She added that she no longer support social services out of the Safeway building and favors making a place for seniors to walk and possibly put police there too.

Councilmember McGovern brought up Mr. Larry Faulk's idea from Dallas (which failed in Tacoma) where citizens handle capital facilities. Mayor Harrison said Mr. Faulk's materials were distributed to the Council approximately six months ago.

Councilmember Humphrey spoke about Springbrook being the number one priority and agreed with Deputy Mayor Thomas' comments.

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Discussion ensued on the use of the Safeway building with Councilmember Palmas suggesting doing something that generates revenue or at least revenue neutral; with Councilmember Humphrey seeking a projection for police over the next ten years; with Councilmember McGovern suggesting selling the Safeway building to maybe a public-private partnership if we do not have the funds to develop it and seek public input; and with Mayor Harrison suggesting a possible skating rink.

The following items reflect the consensus of the Council on this subject:

¼ No Community Center in Safeway (at least for current planning)

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¼ Follow-up with anyone who has expressed interest such as LeMay.

¼ Once we have options, then get public input.

¼ Hold off on costing out options for Safeway until we know who's interested in investing.

¼ Dunn property - other properties? Appraisal (go forward with appraisal)

¼ Look at other sites for a Springbrook Safe Haven.

Right-of-way Street Ends Inventory List

City Manager Rohlfs commented, in reference to the information in the Council packet, on the public access points or right-of-way ends for American Lake, Gravelly Lake and Lake Louise.

Discussion ensued on the priority of this project at this time and possibly assigning this project to a Legal Rule 9 intern.

Undergrounding of Utilities

City Manager Rohlfs reported, in reference to the information in the Council packet, that undergrounding of utilities is addressed in each of the franchise documents for electric providers; that the language dealing with undergrounding appears to be agreeable to the provider and the City staff and an undergrounding ordinance remains an option.

Deputy Mayor Thomas indicated that she will be bringing forward Seattle City Light undergrounding language from Sound Transit.

It is the consensus of the Council not to proceed with a City ordinance on undergrounding.

Discussion with the town of Steilacoom on Arrowhead/Partridge Glen

City Manager Rohlfs indicated that he is setting up a meeting with Mr. Paul Loveless, the Town Administrator for Steilacoom, to discuss the unincorporated area of Arrowhead/Partridge Glen.

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Cable TV Programming Options

City Manager Rohlfs reported, in reference to the information in the Council packet, on options for televising Council meetings and the use of cable programming for other special programs.

Councilmember McGovern suggested that the use of the Internet be considered.

Councilmember Palmas indicated that this is not a high priority and to get feedback from citizens about having meetings televised.

Junk Vehicles

Councilmember McGovern indicated that she is getting citizen complaints about junk vehicles and expressed concern on the types of cars that could be included.

It was the consensus of the Council to amend the junk vehicle ordinance to remove the word "unlicensed."

Gambling Tax

City Manager Rohlfs asked for Council's direction relative to the gambling tax rate imposed on social card games.

Discussion ensued on options to consider and timing.

Council's direction was for City Manager Rohlfs to talk to business owners and report back to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

BILL HARRISON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, CMC

CITY CLERK

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