

2002 10 16 Budget Workshop

LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Lakewood Sheriff's Precinct

Training Room

5504 112th Street SW

Lakewood, WA 98499

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: 7 - Mayor Bill Harrison; Deputy Mayor Claudia Thomas; Councilmembers Pad Finnigan, Andie Gernon, Larry Humphrey, Helen McGovern and Doug Richardson.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

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2003-2004 Budget Overview

City Manager Rohlfs reviewed the proposed changes to the 2003-2004 budget since the last budget workshop and reviewed a summary of major program budget cuts.

Discussion ensued on the proposed revenue increases.

Community Development

Community Development Bugher reviewed the mission of the department and services provided by the department.

Discussion ensued on weed and seed services provided by the Community Development Department.

Community Development Director Bugher then reviewed the Department staffing levels, programs that work well and problem areas.

Discussion ensued on the elimination of a Code Enforcement Officer position and its transfer to the Work Crew Leader position; what service level would change if Code Enforcement was reduced 33 percent; concerns about priorities and to do important programs well; ability to enforce abatements; what happens if the City does not comply with some of the department's legal mandates; how well does the new City Hall improve citizen service levels; and the drain on City funds for adult entertainment prosecution and enforcement.

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Community Relations

Community Relations Manager Bock reviewed the services provided by the Community Relations Department, which includes publishing four quarterly newsletters; Special Events; legislative lobbyist services; and maintaining the new City website.

Discussion ensued on the reduction of the legislative lobbyist services contract and coverage during non-legislative

times; changing the direction sign on the first floor to direct citizens to the main reception counter; importance of communicating to citizens through the publication of the City newsletter; investigating the possibility of including a City insert in the garbage billing or water newsletter; and the ability of funding NatureFest.

Police

Police Chief Saunders reviewed the Police Department crime statistics; and proposed staffing levels and reductions.

Discussion ensued on concerns of eliminating the Precinct front desk person and notifying the public beforehand that, with the elimination of front counter service, citizens will need to call 9-1-1 or a non-emergency number and that there will not be a staff person to greet citizens; whether the proposed reductions will provide the same level of service to Western State Hospital; the importance of notifying all residents what reductions are being made in public safety; concerns about reduction in photo radar and traffic enforcement; and informing the State to encourage supporting the photo radar program and the effectiveness of the program.

Police Chief Saunders reviewed the proposed grant funding levels for School Resource Officers (SROs) between the City and the Clover Park School District. He then reviewed the COPS In Schools grant and shared funding between the City and the Clover Park School District.

Discussion ensued on jail services.

Animal Control

Police Chief Saunders reported that animal control services will remain the same and that he is reviewing kenneling services.

Discussion ensued on reducing costs for kenneling; implementing user fees; and increasing licensing fees.

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Legal

City Attorney Wachter reviewed the Legal Department's budget and staffing levels.

Discussion ensued on staffing level comparisons with other cities of like size; reviewing success records; efficiencies in prosecution; duties of the attorneys; how increases in domestic violence (DV) impact the DV advocates; and avoiding prosecution costs for illegal aliens.

Municipal Court

Court Director Schneider reviewed the Municipal Court budget, staffing levels and reductions.

Discussion ensued on how well the new City Hall facilities have provided for Court efficiencies; impacts to the Court if the photo infraction program is not eliminated; impacts on reducing bailiffs; and if the work crew can provide services to other public agencies for a fee.

Other

Council agreed to hold a budget workshop on October 30, 2002, at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

BILL HARRISON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, CMC

CITY CLERK