

**2004 6 14 SS**

**LAKESWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES**

**Monday, June 14, 2004**

**City of Lakewood**

**City Council Chambers**

**6000 Main Street SW**

**Lakewood, WA 98499**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Mayor McGovern called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: 4 - Deputy Mayor Helen McGovern; Councilmembers John Arbeeny, Bill Harrison, Walter Neary and Claudia Thomas.

Councilmembers Excused: 3 - Mayor Doug Richardson (arrived at 8:05 p.m.); Councilmembers Pad Finnigan (arrived at 8:30 p.m.) and Claudia Thomas (arrived at 7:20 p.m.).

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**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Police Budget Update.**

City Manager Rohlfs announced that 50 Pierce County lateral police officers were offered positions and 44 have accepted. Twenty five percent are ethnic minorities and twelve percent are female.

City Manager Rohlfs reviewed the police start up costs of \$4,484,370.12, which is approximately \$800,000 more than what was estimated in January, primarily due to the purchasing of newer versus older police vehicles. He explained that depreciation is being back funded into the budget for replacement vehicles.

Discussion ensued on the Transition Plan; what impacts the Police Guild may have on the budget; and timing of the bidding for police shifts.

City Manager Rohlfs then reviewed the 2005 police budget of approximately \$12.8 million. He explained that the City is looking to lease 800 MHz radios for the first year and purchase them after that time. Approximately \$500,000 for the purchase of the radios will come out of the drug seizure fund.

Discussion ensued on contracting with LESA for communication services.

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Councilmember Thomas arrived at 7:20 p.m.

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**General Fund Budget Update.**

City Manager Rohlfs explained that the court case relative to Drivers With License Suspended would result in revenue losses to the City in the amount of approximately \$150,000 in 2004.

He then displayed the projected General Fund Balance as of December 31, 2004 to be approximately \$792,725 and reviewed what would be available for a police facility. He noted that the estimated cost for a police headquarters is \$10,800,000 and the amount needed for the headquarters is approximately \$5,907,275.

Discussion ensued on the amount of funds required to be held in the Drug Seizure fund; the financial requirements for maintaining a contingency fund; option to exercise the sale of old Safeway Store and using those funds for a police station; concerns about relying on the projected Pierce County contract savings as a revenue source for a police station; and budgeting for higher gas prices at \$2.50 per gallon.

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City Manager Rohlfs announced that tonight is Bill Larkin's last Council meeting as Public Works Director before retiring. He thanked Mr. Larkin for his service to the City and community for the past 8½ years.

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**Continuation of police headquarters discussion.**

City Manager Rohlfs called on Mr. Peter Rasmussen, Architect, who reviewed a proposed budget for constructing a Police Station totaling approximately \$11,175,120.

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Mayor Richardson arrived at 8:05 p.m. He wished Councilmember Walter Neary and City Manager Scott Rohlfs a happy birthday. Council and members of the audience sang happy birthday.

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Council recessed at 8:05 p.m. and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

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**Adopting the 2005-2010 Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Program.**

Public Works Director Larkin provided an overview of the 2005-2010 Six Year Comprehensive Transportation Program and described the significant street projects and traffic signal improvements being proposed. He explained that the Plan was reviewed and approved by the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee.

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Councilmember Finnigan arrived at 8:30 p.m.

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Discussion ensued on the Bridgeport Way West widening project if Wal-Mart is constructed; funding the Gravelly Lake Drive at I-5 right turn lane project in phases; using data and facts to show what is the public benefit curbs, gutters and sidewalks provide for 74 percent of the street fund budget which is the most expensive street improvement versus the installation of street lights in areas like Ponders that also provide a public safety benefit; how the \$4,885,000 of City's funds is leveraging \$16 million in grant funds; and that Pierce County receives the road tax funds collected and the City does not.

Repealing Title 15 and creating Title 15A of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to the adoption of the 2003 Edition of the International Building Code for building and construction.

Community Development Directory Bugher reviewed the 2003 International Building Codes for building and construction, and described how the changes would impact residential structures and commercial businesses.

Discussion ensued on the comments provided by the Master Builders Association; definition of blight; and review of the proposed code by the Landmarks Heritage Advisory Board and the treatment of historic buildings.

Fire Chief Paul Webb spoke about the opportunity for reviewing the proposed code changes and the partnership the Fire Department has with the City.

Amending the fee schedule relative to building and plan review fees, administrative appeal fees, zoning certification fees, deleting of amortization fees for sexually oriented businesses, fire-related permitting fees, public works fees, decreasing fees for kennels, pet shops and pet grooming facilities and partially refunding 2004 business license fees for said facilities.

Community Development Directory Bugher reviewed the proposed fee schedule amendments pertaining to increasing building and plan review fees 21 percent to implement the International Business Code; increasing administrative appeal fees increase zoning certification fees by 20 percent; fire-related permitting fees; public works fees; and decreasing fees for kennels, pet shops and grooming fees and partially refunding 2004 business license fees for said establishments.

Discussion ensued on the benefits a developer would receive by a 21 percent increase in fees; what is being done to prevent conflict resolution with developers; concerns by developers on missed items during plan reviews that increased developer costs and the need for consistency, efficiency and quality versus speed; positive comments on the permitting process received by Goodwill at their grand opening; and reconsidering the \$750 fee for pawn brokers.

Amending the employee benefits program for payment of accrued and unused combination leave hours at the time of separation of employment.

City Manager Rohlfs reviewed the proposed ordinance and its effect to allow employees to donate combination leave to other employees who have exhausted their leave bank because of catastrophic reasons.

Discussion ensued on employees accruing 15 days of combination leave in the first year of employment and clarifying that the definition of combination leave consists of vacation and sick leave.

Calling for a municipal election on September 14, 2004 of a proposition to freeze the property tax levy rate at \$1.48367388 per \$1,000 assessed valuation commencing in 2005.

City Attorney Wachter reviewed the proposed ordinance calling for a September 14, 2004 primary election to freeze

the property tax levy rate.

Discussion ensued concerning the amount of property tax collected and that it is a two part equation. Freezing the rate is one part of the equation, and assessed valuation, in which the City has no control is the second part of the equation, which could increase property taxes over the 1 percent state limit. Further discussion ensued on a local voter approved tax rate that would not affect the state initiative; educating citizens about the mill levy rate versus assessed value and the impacts of an upcoming proposed 25 percent property tax reduction initiative; and clarifying the meaning of the ordinance language "...with such rate thereafter to be subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits."

Mayor Richardson directed staff to place this item on the Council's June 28, 2004 Study Session Agenda for further discussion.

Discussion on law enforcement "Raising the Bar" program.

Police Chief Saunders showed a power point presentation on the "Raising the Bar" program.

Discussion ensued on the crime statistics in bars; and concerns about the infringement on civil rights by conducting background checks.

Further discussion ensued on measures taken to prevent crime; and Council being provided the opportunity to be briefed and comment on new programs before it is launched.

Speaking before the council was:

*Dennis Haugen, Lakewood resident, expressed concerns about checking IDs in bars and the potential gun fights it could create was too dangerous. He commented that the communication between the public and police officers needs improvement. He described an example that if a potential crime is about to happen and it is reported to 911, that a police response will not be called out unless a crime has occurred.*

**ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE JUNE 21, 2004 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:**

**ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE JUNE 21, 2004 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:**

1. Adopting the 2005-2010 Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Program. - (Resolution)
2. Repealing Title 15 and creating Title 15A of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to the adoption of the 2003 Edition of the International Building Code for building and construction. - (Ordinance - Consent Agenda)
3. Amending the fee schedule relative to building and plan review fees, administrative appeal fees, zoning certification fees, deletion of amortization fees for sexually oriented business, fire related permitting fees, public works fees, decreasing fees for kennels, pet shops and pet grooming facilities and a partial refund for 2004 business license fees for said facilities. - (Resolution - Consent Agenda)
4. Amending the payment of accrued and unused combination leave hours at the time of separation of employment. - (Ordinance - Consent Agenda)
5. Proclamation declaring July 2004 as National Parks and Recreation Month. - *Mr. Roger Laybourn, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board*
6. Recognizing outgoing Youth Council members for the 2003-2004 school year. - *Councilmember Claudia Thomas*
7. Appointing Megan Clift, Sarah Peppers, Alexandra Battersby, Alexandria Hunter, Mac Sample, Abdullah Rauf, Yunhee Choi, Fallon Douglas, Helen Kang, Jennifer Alley, Toie Chatters, Phillip Barton, Tolo Gisa, Wayne Throckmorton, Sean Cenotto and Ria Johnson as members of the Youth Council for the school year 2004-2005. - (Motion)
8. This is the date set for a public hearing by the City Council on the 2005-2010 Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Program.

**BRIEFING BY THE CITY MANAGER**

**City Manager Rohlf**s announced that the Wards Lake grand opening will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 16, 2004.

**City Manager Rohlf**s noted that the Supreme Court did not accept the review of the New Players Club appeal. The Club will remain closed.

**City Manager Rohlf**s indicated that a Pierce County Police Transition Team meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2005 and is open to the public.

**City Manager Rohlf**s announced that committees to write voter pamphlet ballot measure pro and con statements must be appointed by July 11, and the County Auditor's 45-day Resolution cut-off date to call an election is July 30, 2004 or by the Council's regularly scheduled Council meeting of July 19, 2004.

#### **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Arbeen**y asked for a status report on the community survey.

**Councilmember Finnigan** expressed a desire to have the survey be changed to a budget survey.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

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**DOUGLAS G. RICHARDSON, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**ALICE M. BUSH, CMC**

**CITY CLERK**