

2004 10 25 Study Session

LAKESWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Monday, October 25, 2004
City of Lakewood
City Council Chambers
6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: 7 – Mayor Doug Richardson; Deputy Mayor Helen McGovern; Councilmembers John Arbeeny, Pad Finnigan, Bill Harrison, Walter Neary and Claudia Thomas.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Supporting the efforts of “The Road Home: Ending Chronic Homelessness, a Ten-Year Plan for Pierce County.”

Program Grants Coordinator Larkin presented the proposed resolution supporting the efforts of “The Road Home Ending Chronic Homelessness, a Ten-Year Plan for Pierce County.” She reviewed the definition of a chronic homeless and explained that in the last count of homeless individuals in January 2003, 129 or nine percent of the homeless population in Pierce County were from Lakewood.

Ms. Helen Myrick, Greater Pierce County Network Coalition, asked that the Councils of Pierce County, Tacoma and Lakewood support the resolution. She invited the Council to the news conference with Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness on November 4, 2004, at 1:00 p.m., at the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

Discussion ensued on the number of homeless individuals in Pierce County; what will be done to end homelessness and what Lakewood's role will be; identifying housing units for this program; Greater Lakes Mental Health providing housing and needed mental case management services for the chronic homelessness; and the number of veterans who are homeless.

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Amending Section 8.40.020 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to property maintenance in portions of public rights-of-way.

Acting Public Works Director Vigoren explained that the proposed ordinance provides for the maintenance of property in portions of public rights-of-way at the discretion of the City Manager or designee.

Discussion ensued on addressing hazardous situations in public rights-of-way relative to acts of nature; determining when a tree is dead; certified arborists; Tacoma Public Utilities maintenance of trees on rights-of-way under light poles; Puget Sound Energy's support for assistance; organizing an emergency response team; and modifying the language in the ordinance to clarify the maintenance of property when it is a public hazard, imminent danger, or an emergency.

Speaking before the Council were:

Dennis Haugen, Lakewood resident, spoke about citizens being given the opportunity to vote on the proposed ordinance. He spoke about trees spreading roots as they mature causing cracks in roads and sidewalks. He then spoke about a rotten tree that caused damage to power lines. He expressed concern about how City employees enforce the code.

Mr. Harry Pittman, Lakewood resident, spoke about the public hazard and safety of a tree that was struck by lightning in the right-of-way that abuts his property. He spoke about an arborist that examined the tree. He expressed concern about the unhelpful manner in which he was treated when he asked for assistance on what to do. He suggested that there be an informational sheet of instructions for citizens on what to do and where to go for help. He spoke about developing a policy in Public Works that would give the department flexibility on solving a public safety issue.

Discussion ensued on whether there is a permitting process for removing a tree and who is responsible for the removal; using language such as “acts of God,” “accidents,” and qualifiers to determine when the City would be responsible; develop a citizen information sheet of instructions on what to do if a citizen must remove a tree; and when an arborist would be called upon.

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Creating Sections 6.02.086 and 6.10.060, and amending Sections 6.02.010, 6.02.100, and 6.10.010 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to Dangerous Dogs and Potentially Dangerous Dogs.

Police Chief Saunders reviewed the proposed ordinance relative to the removal of animal waste from public areas; the duties upon injury or death to an animal; and a provision for dangerous dogs.

Discussion ensued on educating citizens through the City newsletter on the revisions to the ordinance; adding the definition of ‘potentially dangerous dog’ and ‘dangerous dog’ in the ordinance; and posting a notice of the ordinance in parks on the removal of animal waste.

ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE NOVEMBER 1, 2004 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Supporting the efforts of “The Road Home: Ending Chronic Homelessness, a Ten-Year Plan for Pierce County.” – (Resolution – Consent Agenda)

2. Amending Section 8.40.020 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to property maintenance in portions of public rights-of-way. - (Ordinance – Consent Agenda)

3. Creating Sections 6.02.086 and 6.10.060, and amending Sections 6.02.010, 6.02.100, and 6.10.010 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to Dangerous Dogs and Potentially Dangerous Dogs. – (Ordinance - Consent Agenda)

4. Proclamation declaring November 17, 2004 as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day. – *Mr. Lane DeLarme, GIS Manager*

5. Proclamation declaring November 14-20, 2004 as American Education Week. - *Clover Park School District Board Member Connie Coleman-Lacadie*

6. Authorizing the submittal of the Growth Management Act Compliance Report; amending the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use and Zoning Maps; and amending Section 18A.20.400(D) of the Lakewood Municipal Code. – (Ordinance – Consent Agenda)

7. Repealing Sections 18A.70.700, 18A.70.710, 18A.70.720, 18A.70.730, 18A.70.740, 18A.70.750, 18A.70.760, 18A.70.770, 18A.70.780, 18A.30.550(C)(7), 18A.30.550(D)(7) and 18A.30.650(B)(11), amending Sections 18A.02.310 and 18A.20.600, and creating Sections 18A.40.400, 18A.40.410, 18A.40.415, 18A.40.420, 18A.40.430, 18A.40.435, 18A.40.440, 18A.40.445, 18A.40.450, 18A.40.455, 18A.40.460, 18A.40.470 and 18A.40.480 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to zoning for sexually oriented businesses. – (Ordinance – Consent Agenda)

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8. Denying claims for damages. – (Motion - Consent Agenda)

9. This is the date set for a public hearing by the City Council on the proposed 2005-2006 City of Lakewood biennial budget and the 2005 mill levy rate.

BRIEFING BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Rohlfs reminded Councilmembers to provide the Mayor with comments on the appointments to the Landmarks and Heritage Advisory Board and the Lodging Tax Advisory Board.

Mayor Richardson indicated that there are two additional vacancies on the Landmarks and Heritage Advisory Board and asked that these positions be advertised once again and that Council confirm the appointments for the five vacancies after the recruitment.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Harrison commented on the Pierce County Regional Council meeting he attended.

Councilmember Thomas distributed copies of the Youth Council's activities for "Make A Difference Day" on October 23, 2004.

Councilmember Thomas spoke about the Lake City Neighborhood Association meeting she attended.

Councilmember Finnigan spoke about the John Dower neighborhood group meeting he attended.

Councilmember Neary spoke about The News Tribune article on providing senior center services and asked about the funding the Clover Park Technical College would be providing the City.

Councilmember Neary asked if the City was preparing a farewell event for General Soriano.

Councilmember Arbeeney spoke about mail theft around Lake Steilacoom Drive and suggested citizens getting locked mail boxes.

Deputy Mayor McGovern spoke about the Youth Council "Make A Difference Day" events.

Deputy Mayor McGovern spoke about a letter Councilmembers received from an inmate.

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Deputy Mayor McGovern announced that Donna Fulton was awarded the Super Star recognition award from Safe Streets.

Deputy Mayor McGovern spoke about a slogan and poster "Dive Into the World: Read" for the Silent Reading Program.

Councilmember Thomas spoke about the Cold Stone Creamery grand opening and a portion of their proceeds being dedicated to Lakewood's Promise.

Councilmember Harrison asked that a copy of Mr. Pittman's email be provided to the Council.

Mayor Richardson indicated that a welcoming ceremony is being planned for Ft. Lewis and McChord Air Force Base Commanders.

Mayor Richardson announced that on October 29, 2004, from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., an open haunted house is being hosted by the Police Department at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

DOUGLAS G. RICHARDSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, CMC
CITY CLERK