

2006 07 24 Study Session

LAKESIDE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Monday, July 24, 2006
City of Lakewood
City Council Chambers
6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: 6 ? Mayor Claudia Thomas; Deputy Mayor John Arbeeny; Councilmembers Ron Cronk, Pad Finnigan, Helen McGovern and Walter Neary.

Councilmember Absent: 1 ? Councilmember Doug Richardson (arrived at 7:10 p.m.).

BRIEFING BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Neiditz reported that the second quarter 2006 financial reports are available for Council's review. He announced that the Tillicum/American Lake Gardens sewer extension informational meeting will be held on August 10, 2006, at 6:00 p.m., at Woodbrook Middle School. The discussion will focus on properties that align with the proposed main sewer lines. He then announced that August 1, 2006 is the National Night Out event in Lakewood.

City Manager Neiditz reported that a detailed briefing will be made before the Council on the status of the Police Guild negotiations.

City Manager Neiditz commented on The News Tribune editorial about the City not having a definition of the Public Safety Advisory Committee's role and responsibilities. He then read excerpts of the Ordinance defining the role and responsibilities of the Public Safety Advisory Committee.

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Councilmember Richardson arrived at 7:10 p.m.

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Update on lake algae treatment.

City Manager Neiditz called on Mr. Ed Brooks, President of Lake Steilacoom Improvement Club, to discuss their proposal to treat Waughop Lake with chemicals that could also be used for Lake Steilacoom for the treatment of algae. He asked if the Council would be interested in partnering with the Improvement Club to try the treatment. If it was successful, the same treatment would be used on Lake Steilacoom. The cost for treating Waughop Lake is \$40,000.

Mr. Brooks explained that the reasons for not treating Lake Steilacoom with the proposed chemicals at this time, is because of the Solar Bee treatments being tested in Lake Steilacoom now and that the agreement in effect calls for assessing the effects of the solar bees in December.

Discussion ensued on the volume of water in Waughop Lake and Lake Steilacoom and if there were similarities between the lakes; what is the cost benefit on the volume of treatment; and what the cost would be for treating Lake Steilacoom.

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Speaking before the Council was:

Ken Severe, Lakewood resident, spoke about treatments in the lakes.

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Further discussion ensued on the method used for treating Waughop Lake versus Lake Steilacoom; the timing of permitting applications; if the treatment is successful at Waughop Lake, will the City be able to apply the same treatment to other lakes in Lakewood. Mr. Brooks indicated that the Lake Steilacoom Improvement Club would reciprocate in good faith if the City partnered with the Club and provided \$40,000 for the experiment. Further discussion ensued on the status of forming a management advisory group of City and Lake Steilacoom Improvement Club representatives as a result of the lake settlement; the effects the treatment would have on water fowl and water species; informing users of Ft. Steilacoom Park about the proposed treatment of Waughop Lake before treatment occurs; and concerns about risking \$40,000 of public funds on an experimental treatment without substantive data on the success of the treatment.

It was the consensus of the Council to proceed with the permitting process for the treatment of Waughop Lake.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Lakewood Communications Program Overview.

Councilmember Neary disclosed his affiliation and employment with Comcast and announced that he will recuse himself from discussions about televising.

Government Relations Director Bock provided an overview of the City's communication efforts and engaged in a dialogue about communicating with citizens and how the City is doing. She spoke about perceptions of Lakewood. She then reviewed the current communications program and some new ideas for communicating to citizens.

Discussion ensued on using utility bill stuffers for citizens to sign up to receive *City Happenings* newsletter; improving The News Tribune headlines; the distribution list for *City Happenings*; aim/target specific topics in communication pieces as eye catchers, specifically with the perception on high crime rates and Lakewood businesses; placing an insert in the Clover Park School District newsletter; and using a

survey tool available by Association of Washington Cities at no cost.

Councilmember Neary left the meeting tables.

Further discussion ensued on televising City programs and features; considering Clover Park Technical College, Comcast and Bates Technical College for programming and televising City programs; and whether there is a monthly fee for users of the Rainier Communications Center.

Councilmember Neary returned to join the Study Session.

Speaking before the Council was:

Dennis Haugen, Lakewood resident, spoke about people wanting the Council to hold City staff accountable. He indicated that writing flashy news is not effective.

Further discussion ensued on a community service feedback system.

Council recessed at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

Amendments to the Chambers Creek Properties Master Site Plan.

Senior Planner Deborah Johnson introduced Pierce County Public Works staff to review the amendments to the Chambers Creek Properties Master Site Plan. Pierce County Assistant Public Works Director Joe Scorcio and Ann Marie Marshall reviewed the proposed amendments to the Master Site Plan.

Discussion ensued on public safety at the Chambers Creek site; and skin boarding recreation activity at the Chambers Creek Park described in a recent The News Tribune article.

Mr. Scorcio requested Council's concurrence on the proposed amendments. Senior Planner Johnson indicated that the proposed amendments are scheduled for Council's consideration and action at the August 7, 2006 Council meeting.

Further discussion ensued on the draft Environmental Impact Statement relative to lodging facilities at the properties; if the County is supportive of the 124 lodging units on the site; if the number of units is sufficient to support the golf course; if the County would lease the property and who would operate the facility; when the opening of the golf course is anticipated (May 2007); why University Place (UP) does not want lodging available until 2012 is due to the timing of the UP Towne Center improvements; and providing for an off-leash dog park at the Chambers Creek properties.

Review of Council Rules amendments.

Deputy Mayor Arbeeney commented on the Council's Subcommittee's meeting to review the Council Rules. He spoke about questions that were raised about the use of e-mails without violating the Open Meetings Act; defining a "group" as the criteria for public comment; when and where public comments should be allowed and what public comment is for; using a standard procedure on how Council handles action items; how to place agenda items on the agenda; content of Council minutes; Council and staff interaction in responding to citizen inquiries; disclosing of conflict of interest issues; and the "hiring and firing" of citizen advisory boards. He asked the Council to review the comments of the Council's Subcommittee and provide comments back to the Subcommittee within the next two weeks. He indicated that a draft of the Rules should be developed within four to six weeks.

Speaking before the Council was:

Ken Severe, Lakewood resident, expressed concern about telephone voting and that, in his opinion, it is being done for the benefit of the majority of the Council and not for the citizenry.

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Further discussion ensued on the definition of "attendance" at Council meetings and telephone conference calls when voting.

Speaking before the Council was:

Fredric Cornell, PROD, commented that he appreciated the discussion at tonight's meeting and the discussion among Councilmembers. He then expressed his disagreement about Council McGovern's comments about The News Tribune's writing of headlines of Lakewood events and positively acknowledged Councilmember Neary's comments about doing positive things that is deserving of positive comments. He then spoke about Chambers Creek project and that the public needs to know more about the project and where it is. He then spoke about the needed work to be done on the Council Rules. He indicated that he is a member of the Washington Coalition of Open Government and encouraged Councilmembers to attend their seminar. He added that conducting telephone conference calls during meetings should be included in the Council Rules.

ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE AUGUST 7, 2006 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Amendments to the Chambers Creek Properties Master Site Plan. ? (Resolution - Consent Agenda)
2. This is the date set for a public hearing by the City Council regarding the use of additional public funds, in the amount of \$2,083.52, for the abatement of a dangerous building at 3418 84th Street South. ? *Community Development Director*
3. Adopting the Six-Year (2007-2012) Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program. ? (Resolution ? Regular Agenda)
4. Appointing individuals to the Public Safety Advisory Committee. ? (Motion ? Regular Agenda)
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5. Authorizing the execution of an agreement relative to insurance services. ? (Motion ? Regular Agenda)

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6. Approving the issuance of tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds of the Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County for Blade-Tech Industries, Inc., to finance the acquisition and construction of a manufacturing facility at 112th and South Tacoma Way, Building B, Space B-2, in the Lakewood Corporate Center. ? (Resolution ? Regular Agenda)
7. Awarding a bid for the construction of school zone yellow flashing lights at various locations in the City. ? (Motion ? Regular Agenda)
8. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Architects Rasmussen Triebelhorn relative to the architectural design of the police facility. ? (Motion ? Regular Agenda)

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Neary commented on the Clover Park School District and Council Joint meeting about the book, *Smart Communities*.

Mayor Thomas reported that the Arts Task Force will meet on August 7 and 21, 2006 and bring their recommendations on forming an Arts Commission soon.

Mayor Thomas spoke about calling together a meeting of leaders of neighborhood groups on building community following the neighborhood National Night Out event.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

CLAUDIA B. THOMAS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, MMC
CITY CLERK