

2009 10 12 Budget Workshp

LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

Monday, October 12, 2009
City of Lakewood Police Station
Multi-Purpose Room
9401 Lakewood Drive SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: 7 ? Mayor Douglas Richardson; Deputy Mayor Don Anderson; Councilmembers Ron Cronk, Pad Finnigan, Helen McGovern, Walter Neary and Claudia Thomas.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION:

Proposed City of Lakewood 2010 Budget .

City Manager Neiditz provided an overview of the work of the Health Care Task Force relative to health care coverage. He indicated that there are three bargaining units in which most employees are members of and recommended that the Council discuss bargaining matters in closed session.

Assistant City Manager Halladay reviewed the recommendations of the Health Care Task Force which are:

- 1) Stay with current Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Health First Plan for 2010.
- 2) Add AWC?s Health Savings Plan as an option
- 3) Do not join the City of Tacoma?s self-insured Plan
- 4) Do not form a stand-alone self-insurance plan
- 5) Continue to work with the City of Puyallup to determine costs and risks of joining their self-insurance pool in 2011.

Discussion ensued on exploring the concept of having a stipend per employee for shopping for health coverage; and how the Health Savings Plan operates.

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Development Services

Assistant City Manager Bugher and Economic Development Manager Chambers-Grady reviewed the Community Development and Economic Development services being offered in 2010, which includes the transition of code enforcement into the Community Safety and Resources Team; transition of the Community Development Block Grant program; implementing the Tillicum Neighborhood Plan; and infrastructure improvements in Woodbrook Business Park; administering the Office of Economic Adjustment and Department of Labor grant process; updating the Shoreline Management Plan; updating the Comprehensive Plan; updating capital facilities program; maintaining existing permitting service levels; and implementing the Employment-Based 5th Preference (EB-5) program.

Discussion ensued on the increase in Full Time Employee (FTE) contract position; status of the City's Capital Facilities Plan; concerns that the 2010 U.S. census data will arrive too late to update the 2011 Comprehensive Plan and have relevant information for the Plan; and the reason why there is a 27 percent increase in medical insurance expenditures for the Building Division.

City Manager Neiditz noted that the budgets in the General Services Department are shown the same; however, the staffing will be transferred to the appropriate departments.

Public Works

Public Works Director Wickstrom reviewed the Public Works budget including the street operations and maintenance fund, street capital projects, surface water management fund and the facilities maintenance fund.

Discussion ensued on the portion of the utility tax that goes into the streets and capital fund; what was the cost of the Waughop Lake weed treatment; where are major City facilities repairs budgeted (502 fund); and funding anticipated ongoing facilities maintenance and depreciation costs.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Department Director Dodsworth reviewed the parks programs and capital improvement projects including updating the Parks Master Plan, American Lake and Springbrook Park playground improvements; Wards Lake Park Master Site Plan, Ft. Steilacoom Park golf course study and street end improvements.

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Discussion ensued on why fund a feasibility study for a Ft. Steilacoom golf course and enter into a risky business; using more of lodging tax dollars for signature events such as soccer tournaments, historic events, etc.; a possible Farmers Market event and placing such an event in a location accessible to traffic and people; why medical costs are higher; and whether the County is having conversations with the City to not fund the maintenance of Ft. Steilacoom Park.

Mayor Richardson announced that a budget workshop is scheduled with the Citizens Advisory Boards and Committees on October 14, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

DOUGLAS G. RICHARDSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, MMC
CITY CLERK