

2010 11 29 Special Study Session

LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Monday, November 29, 2010
City of Lakewood
City Council Chambers
6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: 6 – Mayor Douglas Richardson; Deputy Mayor Don Anderson; Councilmembers Mary Moss, Jason Whalen, Walter Neary and Claudia Thomas.

Councilmember Excused: 1 - Councilmember Mike Brandstetter.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

2011 human services funding recommendations.

City Manager Neiditz introduced Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Dodsworth, who then introduced Human Services Coordinator Dodds. Ms. Dodds reviewed the 2011 human services funding recommendations.

Discussion ensued about the Young Life Program; how the points allocation process works; what is the impact of a County-wide housing program on Lakewood; update on the Lakewood's Promise; what is the impact of the Community Development Block Grant program on the Boys & Girls Club; and the change in score for the First Five Fundamentals.

Further discussion ensued on earlier questions about score disparity, particularly in the Outcome-Based Evaluations section; the Clover Park School District Program in collaboration with the Computer Club; and Early Learning program funding.

Speaking before the Council were:

Dennis Haugen, Lakewood resident, spoke about the State welfare programs.

Dwayne Wilkinson, Executive Director, Pierce County AIDS Foundation, spoke about funding the AIDS program.

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Penny Maples, Sexual Assault Center, expressed concern about the City not funding their program.

Kelly Phanco, Burien resident, Executive Director, First Five Fundamentals, spoke about the purpose of the First Five Fundamentals program and requested the Council to increase the funding provided to the agency.

Ken Gibson, Executive Director, TACID, spoke about the services provided by TACID to Lakewood citizens with disabilities and requested the Council provide the same amount of funding in 2011 that was given to TACID in 2010.

Jim Anderson, Director of Homeless Adult Services for Catholic Community Services, spoke about the services provided by the Hospitality Kitchen.

Beth Elliot, FISH Food Bank, spoke about the substantial increase of people utilizing the food banks and urged the Council to

provide the funding recommended by the Human Services Funding Advisory Board.

Seth Kirby, OASIS program, spoke about the services and mission of the OASIS program and thanked the Council for continued support.

Doug Swanberg, Lakewood Family Support Center, spoke about the services that will be provided with the Lakewood's human services funding.

David O'Keefe, Director, Communities in Schools - Lakewood, spoke about the services that Communities in Schools offer in Lakewood.

Kurt Sample, Lakewood Computer Clubhouse and Lakewood's Promise, spoke about the services provided by the Computer Clubhouse.

Janne Hutchins, Executive Director of Lakewood Area Shelter Association (LASA), spoke about her concerns with the process of funding programs.

Steve Mazoff, Lakewood resident, Outreach Volunteer with Lakewood Area Shelter Association, (LASA) about the services provided by LASA and urged the Council not to get sidetracked by form over substance when making funding decisions.

2011 lodging tax funding recommendations.

City Manager Neiditz introduced Economic Development Manager Chambers-Grady who then reviewed the 2011 Lodging Tax funding recommendations.

Discussion ensued about Lakewood Gardens and the impact on the City from the funding provided to the organization. Explanation was provided about the metrics that are provided by funding recipients, about the annual audit process that ensures that all expenditures are appropriate in terms of state law and align with the intent and intended purpose of the contract, and the application process. Concerns were expressed about determining the effectiveness of legally aligned expenditures. Mayor Richardson requested that the Council be provided with copies of the lodging tax funding applications prior to the next Council meeting.

Further discussion ensued about the challenge and complexity involved with funding allocations; determining what is effective; how effectiveness should be measured; and a request from the Historical Society for additional funding from the Lodging Tax Fund balance.

Councilmember Neary stated that it might be beneficial for the Council to provide more guidance to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee about the purposes they would like to see pursued with the lodging tax monies.

Deputy Mayor Anderson clarified that approval of recommendations would not preclude the Council from bringing a use, whether enhanced or new, of the reserve funds in this category at any time.

Ms. Linda Smith, member of Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, and member of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee spoke about her recollection of an additional request from the Historical Society for reserve funds for the payment of rent; and although there has been discussion that monies should be utilized for marketing and advertising purposes rather than keeping the doors of the organization open, it has also been recognized that the Historical Society is gaining the momentum needed to become self-sustaining. She indicated that one of the challenges for the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee is going through the process, accepting the applications and going before the Council without prior direction or recommendation. She then indicated that it would be beneficial for the Council to provide input and their vision prior to the Committee's recommendations.

Review of University Place Court contract implementation and proposed Title 9A criminal code.

City Manager Neiditz commented on the implementation process and start up of the Court Services contract with the City of University Place effective January, 2011. Assistant City Attorney Savage briefed the Council on the steps taken to create an integrated court system with University Place including the revision of the Criminal Code.

Mayor Richardson asked if repealing the current Criminal Code and reenacting the revised Criminal Code would impact

existing cases charged under the current Criminal Code and was informed that there is not an impact on existing cases.

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Discussion ensued on a summary of Lakewood-specific items that are being repealed and the Council requested additional information outlining those items.

Councilmember Whalen asked if Judge Heller's position would become full-time with the addition of the University Place Court. He was informed that Judge Heller's position will not become a full-time position. He also asked if the \$225,000 contract would cover all expenses related to the University Place Court and was advised that at a minimum the contract is revenue neutral. Councilmember Whalen also requested regular updates from the Court.

Deputy Mayor Anderson expressed concern about the revenue projections.

Proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments.

City Manager Neiditz introduced Assistant Planner Johnson who briefed the Council on the proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan.

Discussion ensued about potential liability related to crematoriums.

BRIEFING BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Neiditz spoke about the memorial honoring the four fallen Lakewood Police Officers killed last November.

City Manager Neiditz commented on the cancellation of the November 22, 2010 Council Meeting due to weather conditions and briefed the Council on the efforts of the Public Works Department without support from Pierce County. He added that City employees had up to three trucks running at one time to clear arterial streets.

City Manager Neiditz announced that the City was successful in receiving \$5.7 million dollars in grant funding from the Transportation Improvement Board to cover two projects: South Tacoma Way from 96th Street South to 512; and Bridgeport from 75th South to 83rd which fully covers the remaining unimproved sections of both of those corridors. He also announced that the Stormwater Division was awarded a \$375,000 State grant for drywell replacement.

City Manager Neiditz reported on the Camp Murray gate issue and an inquiry from staff at Camp Murray about reopening the question as to whether the City would be granting a right-of-way permit for an alternative gate. He indicated that the environmental assessment still needed to be completed and that Camp Murray needs to follow the formal process as outlined in the letter to them in September 2010. He added that he will be meeting with General Lowenberg next week.

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City Manager Neiditz briefed the Council on a proposed annexation of the Forza Coffee Company on Steele Street. He noted that it is a complex issue that involves more than annexing one small piece of property and would require coordination with Pierce County and the City of Tacoma with tight deadlines that need to be met by January 2011.

Mayor Richardson clarified that Pierce County is only working on Comprehensive Plan amendments in 2011 and not 2012, and that if this is not pursued, the annexation consideration would need to wait until 2013.

Deputy Mayor Anderson expressed interest in the proposed annexation and indicated that there seems to be a natural position that is already established toward Lakewood for critical boundary for annexation.

Councilmember Neary commented on the proposed annexation and indicated that if the City can get assurance from the County Council that they are supportive of the annexation then he would recommend the expenditure of staff time to pursue this.

Further discussion ensued about pursuing the proposed annexation. City Manager Neiditz indicated that staff would do a brief cost benefit analysis as to what is involved, including a joint urban growth area as a first step that the City of Tacoma would need to agree on, and what the County requirements are for pursuing annexation and make further recommendations to the Council.

City Manager Neiditz requested a brief executive session of 10 minutes regarding pending litigation and a closed session on labor contract issues.

ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE DECEMBER 6, 2010 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Approving the 2011 human service funding allocations and authorizing the City Manager to execute agreements for said services. – (Motion – Regular Agenda)
2. Approving the 2011 lodging tax funding allocations and authorizing the City Manager to execute agreements for tourism-related services. - (Motion – Regular Agenda)
3. Repealing Title 9 and adopting Title 9A of the Municipal Code relative to the criminal code. – (Ordinance – Regular Agenda)
4. Adopting the Comprehensive Plan amendments. - (Ordinance – Regular Agenda)
5. Appointing an individual to serve on the Arts Commission through October 15, 2013. – (Motion – Regular Agenda)
6. Appointing individuals to serve on the Human Services Funding Advisory Board through December 31, 2013. – (Motion – Regular Agenda)

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CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Moss commented on the Planning Advisory Board meeting she attended on November 17, 2010 with an update on community concerns relative to the Pt. Defiance Bypass project.

Councilmember Moss spoke about the Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan and other long term plans that are in development. She also spoke about her attendance on behalf of the Mayor at the Change of Command for the 1st Battalion of the 38th Infantry.

Councilmember Neary complimented the Mayor and the City Manager for their remarks at the Lakewood Police Memorial Service.

Councilmember Whalen asked about an update on the Pt. Defiance Bypass project after receiving inquiries from citizens.

Councilmember Whalen spoke about citizen inquiries he received regarding mandatory hook-ups in Tillicum. Assistant City Manager Bugher indicated that there will be an internal draft report in December, public workshops held in Tillicum and Woodbrook, and the report released to the Council.

Councilmember Thomas spoke about the Youth Council and other youth involved with Stuff the Bus event.

Councilmember Thomas expressed her appreciation for the well planned memorial service this morning.

Deputy Mayor Anderson commented about improvement in snow removal over the service previously provided by Pierce County.

Deputy Mayor Anderson announced that he attended the change of command with Lakewood's Community Connector.

Mayor Richardson asked Councilmembers to review and approve a copy of a letter drafted to the clemency board regarding Mr. Harrison and Mr. Massey prison sentence for the death of the Steilacoom business owner.

Councilmember Thomas requested that a condolence card be sent to Connie Lacadie regarding the death of her son.

Mayor Richardson announced that \$31,000 was raised for the food bank today.

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Mayor Richardson asked City staff to send a letter of appreciation to the Pierce County Executive and County Council for a

Resolution to install a street sign at 116th Street and Steele Street and designate it as "Officers Memorial Drive."

Executive Session

At 9:34 p.m., Mayor Richardson announced that Council will recess into Executive Session for approximately 10 minutes to discuss pending litigation.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 9:34 p.m. and reconvened at 9:44 p.m.

Mayor Richardson announced that Council will recess into a closed session to discuss employee relations pursuant to R.C.W. 42.30.140(4).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

DOUGLAS G. RICHARDSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, MMC
CITY CLERK