



## **LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION AGENDA**

Monday, July 24, 2023

City of Lakewood

Council Chambers

6000 Main Street SW

Lakewood, WA 98499

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Whalen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: 7 – Mayor Whalen; Deputy Mayor Mary Moss; Councilmembers Mike Brandstetter, Don Anderson, Patti Belle, Trestin Lauricella and Paul Bocchi.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

#### **State of the Fire Department.**

Chief Jim Sharp, West Pierce Fire & Rescue (WPFR) reported that calls for service increased 10% over the last two years, with WPRF responding to 18,000 calls in 2022. He then spoke about impacts of the pandemic on operations and Vision 2020 accomplishments including the addition of two squad services units and a fifth medic, a Multi-lingual Outreach Coordinator position to provide outreach and education to the community, a Connected CARE program which provides community access referrals and education, and the re-engagement of a Second Battalion Chief.

He reported that since 2020 WPFC secured \$3 Million in grants in support of heavy rescue vehicle and training, paramedic training, Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) training and equipment and American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) funding from the City of Lakewood for the Emergency Management Operation and HAM Radio Dispatch.

He then shared that Proposition 1, a 4-year Maintenance and Operations Levy, will be on the Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> ballot requesting to continue support of fire and EMS services. Discussion ensued.

#### **2023-2024 Strategic Plan Update.**

Assistant to the City Manager Michael Vargas shared the Strategic Plan provides an overview of the history of Lakewood, resident and business demographics and

presents the six City Council goals, which include Economic Development, Dependable Infrastructure, Public Safety, Fiscal Accountability, Transparency, and Robust & Active Community. He then provided a high-level overview of changes incorporated to the document. Discussion ensued.

### **Parks Capital Improvement Program Update.**

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Mary Dodsworth was joined by Stacey Reding, Parks Program Coordinator. Dodsworth reviewed the projects that have been completed such as gateway monument signs, the American Lake north parking lot, an updated to the Street End study, Wards Lake Park land acquisition, and the Springbrook Park expansion and restoration. She then reviewed the projects currently underway which includes the Fort Steilacoom Park Boundary Line Adjustment, the Motor Avenue lighting project, and the Chambers Creek Trail Planning and Development.

Reding highlighted phases of the Wards Lake Park improvements, American Lake Park Access Improvements and the Fort Steilacoom Park turf infield project noting that the ground breaking ceremony will be held on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Dodsworth then highlighted the Seeley Lake improvement project, Nisqually Partnership and proposed memorandum of understanding and workplan for the installations at Fort Steilacoom Park. She then reviewed the Oakbrook Park and Primley Park improvements as well as the park sign design replacement project.

She shared that upcoming projects include two gateway monuments, playground improvement projects throughout the community, the Edgewater Park Master Plan updates, Harry Todd pickle ball courts and Fort Steilacoom Park Pavilion acoustic improvements.

Dodsworth then reported that future projects also include the Fort Steilacoom Park, H-Barn renovation project, Downtown Park and Camp Murray Boat Launch improvements. Discussion ensued.

### **ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 7, 2023 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:**

1. Proclamation declaring August 6-12, 2023 as Farmers Market week.  
– *Sally Martinez, Recreation Coordinator*
2. Presentation from Lakewood's CHOICE. – *Marcos Sauri and Lisa Watt Banks*
3. Clover Park School District Report.
4. Approving the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)
5. Information Technology Plan Update. – (Reports by the City Manager)

**REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Caulfield shared that a new provision at the federal level allows occupational licenses to be utilized from one state to another, which will benefit all military communities and spouses.

He shared that The Pierce County Library Services (PCLS) anticipates to open their interim Lakewood library at the corner of Alfaratta Street and Gravelly Lake Drive in the first half of 2024 and they are moving forward to demolish the closed library building on Wildaire Road, which could take place beginning in December 2023 through February 2024, depending on weather conditions.

He then spoke about the concept of a new tool in Washington State that allows cities and towns to form a Creative District, for both cultural and economic activity, the City will evaluate whether the formation of Creative District would work in Lakewood.

He shared that the Behavioral Health Contact Team (BHCT) will be fully staffed with two new mental health professionals onboarding through the City's contract with MultiCare.

He reported that RedFlex, the City's photo infraction, red light and school zone enforcement company was acquired by a larger company and the result has been ongoing problems with system operations. Given the changes, and the contract expiration of date September 19<sup>th</sup>, the city will go through a Request for Proposal process to solicit providers for this service.

He then shared that the City will be hosting a Volunteer Recognition event at the end of September or early October to recognize community volunteers.

He then announced the following upcoming meetings and events:

- July 25 to September 19, 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., Lakewood Farmers Market, Fort Steilacoom Park
- July 25 to August 29, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., Summer Concerts, Fort Steilacoom Park Pavilion
- July 26, 12:00 P.M. to 3 P.M., Employee Recognition Event, Fort Steilacoom Park Pavilion
- July 27, 5:00 P.M., Groundbreaking for the Fort Steilacoom Park Turf Fields Improvement Project, Fort Steilacoom Park
- August 1, 5:00 P.M., National Night Out Events, various neighborhood locations

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Bocchi shared that last week he attended the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) meeting and the next meeting is September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councilmember Lauricella spoke about leadership embracing diversity, equity and inclusion. He shared that he looks forward to participating in National Night Out, attending the Lakewood Farmers Market and encouraged residents to get out and vote.

Councilmember Belle shared that she is looking forward to participating in National Night Out events.

Councilmember Brandsetttter shared that he attended the Community Services Advisory Board meeting and he looks forward to participating National Night Out events.

Councilmember Anderson complimented the Parks Capital Improvement Program presentation and spoke about visiting various parks over the weekend and in support of park expansion projects. He then spoke about vehicles speeding on Nyanza Road and suggested installing speed humps in the center lane to slow vehicles down. He then shared that he attended the Pierce County Regional Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Moss complimented the Parks Department for the landscaping that was complete around Waughop Lake. She shared that she attended the 2/2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team Change of Command Ceremony and looks forward to participating in National Night Out events.

Mayor Whalen thanked those who covered for him while he was traveling. He shared that he plans to attend the Lakewood Farmers Market and National Night Out events.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.



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JASON WHALEN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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BRIANA SCHUMACHER  
CITY CLERK