

**CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION  
December 3, 2024**

**ATTENDEES:** Council members Smith, Green, Arsanto, Burbank, Anderson and Bergerson.

Also in attendance were Mayor Burkett, City Administrator Brunell, Public Works Director Banks, Director of Parks and Recreation Snodgrass, Senior Planner Farnsworth, Police Chief Alfano and Deputy City Clerk Clark.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Potential Pump Track Donation:**

Jalen Johansen of Johansen Construction spoke to the Council regarding the generous proposed donation of a pump track to the City of Buckley near the Foothills Trail parking lot. Mr. Johansen told Council that the city could really utilize this and it is something that is becoming more popular and could be viable for the city. Council members asked questions and Mr. Johansen and City Administrator Brunell responded. The Council thanked Mr. Johansen for the donation. Next step will be to have Council approve a MOU.

**Comp Plan:**

Senior Planner Farnsworth updated Council on the revision of the Comprehensive Plan, these revisions include draft ordinance, Letter from Puget Sound Regional Council, updated pages of Volume 1 and Comprehensive Plan appendix (Volume 2). Mr. Farnsworth stated we are very close to adopting the Comp Plan next Tuesday at the City Council meeting. The Council and Mr. Farnsworth discussed the updates. Council member Arsanto reminded Council that Planning Commission has been working on this for over a year.

**Taxes, Rates & Fees:**

Public Works Director Banks explained that in general everything in the colored font in the taxes, rates and fees schedule was increased by 5% with an exception to the changes in building fees and that will increase by 10%. This was after our contracted building inspector pointed out that our current fees are way too low. Mr. Banks explained the changes in detail to the Council.

**Draft Camping Ordinance:**

City Administrator Brunell brought forward a no camping ordinance and stated that this is the third time the Council has reviewed this. The ordinance prohibits camping and personal storage in parks and open spaces. The ordinance will be added to the agenda for next week's City Council meeting.

**Draft CLG Ordinance:**

City Administrator Brunell explained to Council that this is the first time they have reviewed it. This is the first step for our city to become a Certified Local Government and supports the Council's goal in preserving Buckley's identity. The Citizens Advisory Commission was tasked with assisting in the establishment of Buckley's first Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Council received the draft ordinance, and a Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation handout titled "Benefits of Becoming a Certified Local Government", which includes grant opportunities, technical assistance and community incentives. Council member Anderson that is on the Citizens Advisory Commission stated that the commission has worked very hard on this.

**Fire Protection Impact Fees:**

City Administrator Brunell stated that Fire Chief Skogen has brought forward the needs for the Buckley Fire Dept. The City of Buckley is experiencing tremendous growth that will continue to result in an increase in Fire and Emergency Medical Services. The 2024-2044 Comprehensive Plan projects an additional 1,260 housing units being added for a population target of 8,235. Staff recommend the Council consider assessing fire impact fees from applicants seeking approvals for any development activity in the City for which building permits are required. Next steps will be rate recommendation and draft ordinance in early 2025.

**Park Impact Fees:**

Director of Parks and Recreation Snodgrass stated to Council that the park impact rate study has not been updated since 2016. This can be brought forward to Council this month, but if Council wants to look further into this more than it can wait until January. We currently do charge impact fees, and the updated rates will only apply to new development. City of Buckley's impact fees are quite a bit lower than some neighboring cities and City of Enumclaw and City of Orting are going through making the same adjustments. Park impact fees will be brought forward to Council at next weeks City Council meeting.

**City Council Comments:**

Council member Burbank asked for the status on Miller Park and Ms. Brunell said that they haven't heard anything new since the Council met last time. The city has received two of four grants, the project will be in three phases and the first phase is almost totally funded.

Council member Burbank also wanted to ask why there is more than one person doing meter reads and Public Works Director responded that he would look further into this.

With nothing further, the Study Session was adjourned at 7:23 PM.



City Administrator



Mayor

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