

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

ATTENDEES: Council members Reed, Howard, Irons, Boyle Barrett, Tremblay and Montgomery. Also in attendance were Mayor Johnson and Chief of Police Arsanto

Mayor Pro Tem Boyle Barrett called the workshop to order at 7:03 PM.

AGENDA

1. Discussion on Jail Status

Chief Arsanto provided a current report on the status of the jail and reviewed it in detail providing input on where we stand at this point in time. We are still on track to post a loss of approximately \$75,000 by the end of the year. Unfortunately, the cost of doing business has gone higher than what the jail can currently bring in. A lengthy discussion ensued. Chief Arsanto made it very clear that closing the jail is not something he wants to see happen.

2. Regulation of Medical Marijuana

Mayor Johnson explained that there have been inquiries in the City recently regarding medical marijuana dispensaries. She consulted our legal team and they have suggested adding the language "must comply with all local, state and federal laws" to our current business license ordinance (Council members received a copy of the draft ordinance). At this time we have three options available to us: (1) do nothing; (2) emergency moratorium on business licenses for medical marijuana dispensaries; and (3) update language in our current ordinance as indicated above. It was decided that the Mayor would speak to the City Attorney regarding drafting an ordinance for an emergency moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries in order to give the Council more time to research and study this issue.

3. Natural Gas System Survey

Mayor Johnson estimated that approximately 76% of survey respondents said yes to selling the City's gas system. Council member Montgomery said he has been contacted by Ed Hawthorn and he said a few things that made him raise his eyebrows. (1) he felt that in reading the survey there was really only one logical way to answer; and (2) as part of Enumclaw's gas department he works with PSE to provide energy efficient appliances, etc. Council member Montgomery feels we need to find out what is actually available for our citizens. Council member Tremblay stated that this is a discussion we need to have; however, more fact finding is needed before we

hold a Public Hearing. Questions were raised about available rebates and building equalization, as well as liability and risk management. Mayor Johnson stated that the survey responses clearly indicate that we need to take this to the next level and the next step is additional information. Council member Tremblay suggested a sub-group be formed to help staff with this task. Council member Howard asked if there is any money in the gas fund to pay for a study.

4. Young Life's Use of the Youth Center

Council member Montgomery explained that Young Life has requested a fee waiver for use of the Buckley Youth Activities Center. His committee has discussed this, but they felt that it needed to be discussed by the full Council. Main sticking points are whether or not Young Life is a religious organization, and if so, is it right to have them conduct their business in a City facility. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding what is and is not allowed under the "P" zone ordinance because we chose in the past not to modify it, the various levels of waiver available at the Youth Center and the criteria for each, religious versus non-religious organizations and accepting community service in exchange for a fee waiver. Council member Howard feels that Young Life is a religious group that would be meeting for religious purposes in a City building and because of that we need a legal opinion before we can allow this. Council member Tremblay said waivers should only be granted to non-profit groups; it is our duty as a Council that every fee waiver be appropriate. Council member Boyle Barrett said there cannot be a gift of public funds, but if Young Life is willing to do community service in exchange for a fee waiver then they qualify for a Class II fee waiver. Mayor Johnson said she will discuss this issue with Recreation Services Director Boyd and bring it back to the Council.

5. Booster Station Update

Mayor Johnson provided a review of the Booster Intertie Project and explained that we have no back up if the South Prairie water line goes down. This Booster Intertie Project allows us to tap into Tacoma's system and take water, and also to bring the trailhead well on line. We have been granted a PWTF loan at .5% interest. Several sites have been evaluated, and she read City Engineer Miller's recent letter analyzing each prospective site. In conclusion it appears that the site near the Post Office would be best. A long discussion ensued.

6. Purchase New Police Vehicle

Police Chief Arsanto said he would like to purchase a new police vehicle and explained why. This expenditure is included in the budget. He is looking for the Council's approval to go forward with this purchase.

7. Miscellaneous

WRSC will be mothballing stuff from the Middle School and Collins Cottage, and we will be one of the first allowed to go through and choose things we may need.

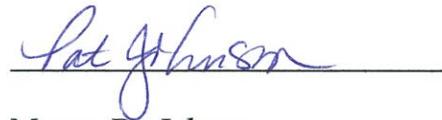
Mayor Johnson will be attending a meeting tomorrow at Glacier Middle School regarding the discontinuance of bussing children living within one mile of Elk Ridge and Glacier. She suggested we commit to more strict enforcement of speed limits in school zones as well as other traffic enhancements, 4-way stops, etc., which will slow traffic and make walking to school safer for the children.

Council member Boyle Barrett stated that she has been contacted by the Winks. They are running out of time to build out a new area if they are required to move the Haunted House to another location. Code says a sprinkler system is required, but that comes with a cost of about \$200K, which is not possible. Chief Predmore is working that issue. The Winks said that there is really only one resident with issues and if they continue another year in their current location would it be okay for them to go out and obtain signatures of support from other nearby neighbors. Council member Tremblay stated that other things can be done to mitigate problems, fencing, etc. He personally has a problem with the use where it is currently. Council members felt it would be good to get signatures of support from other neighbors.

Workshop adjourned at 9:25 PM.



City Administrator, Dave Schmidt



Mayor, Pat Johnson