

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011  
CITY HALL  
22710 E. COUNTRY VISTA DRIVE  
7:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION**

Given by Mayor Van Orman

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Mayor Van Orman, City Council and City Staff

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Mayor Van Orman opened the meeting by discussing the City's participation in Central Valley School District's (CVSD) Partners Advancing Character Education (PACE) program. She introduced the character trait for January – fairness.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pro Tem Crump  
Council Member Kaminskas  
Council Member Owens  
Council Member Romney (absent)  
Council Member Schuler  
Council Member Beckett  
Council Member Langford

Ann Swenson, City Clerk  
Doug Smith, Community Development Director  
Brian Asmus, Chief of Police  
Sean Boutz, City Attorney  
Pamela Mogen, Director of Library Services

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to excuse Council Member Romney, seconded by Council Member Langford. Motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Council Member Langford moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Crump. Mayor Pro Tem Crump subsequently asked to include "Council Retreat" under Agenda Item 10, Unfinished/New Business. Motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda as modified.

## CITIZEN COMMENTS

Steve Peterson, 719 N. Lancashire, Liberty Lake, WA: commented about last night's meeting with Council Members Owens and Beckett regarding the arboretum. He talked about the essential to try to get it done. In addition to using revenue from admissions tax, Mr. Peterson suggested reallocating 2011 pedestrian bridge and stormwater funds to begin hardscaping work for the arboretum.

Damion Johnson, 24013 E Maxwell, Liberty Lake, WA: commented he is pretty new to the arboretum discussions for planning and interest in the project. He too attended last night's meeting. He stated, "We need to move forward immediately, especially because there is money to go forward with the project." He spoke about this being a good time to start building because construction costs are still favorable. He also said he is sure he is not the only one who would like to get this going and "take care of the aesthetic eyesore that is there."

Mark Ruggiero, 917 N. Homestead, Liberty Lake, WA: also attended last night's arboretum meeting. He said participants reviewed the plan and discussed numerous benefits of an arboretum. He came to speak tonight to represent those discussion points and appeal to council to consider this a worthy capital project. He commented this project idea started five years ago, and emphasized "we need to get this done". Mr. Ruggiero also spoke about leverage costs for supplies, commenting now is the time to invest. He asked the council to strongly consider getting this project to conclusion.

Rob Schneidmiller, 1029 N. Tanglewood Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: said he was ecstatic about doing something like the arboretum when it was first suggested five years ago. He spoke about establishment of parks as being one of the best things the city has done, but said an arboretum would differ from parks. Unlike a park, an arboretum would not have baseball fields or basketball courts, thus offering an alternate venue for people to come together. Mr. Schneidmiller expressed being somewhat disappointed that nothing has happened so far in forward movement toward an arboretum. He asked the council and city administrators to take a look at what can be done. He commented, "You don't need to do it all at one time, but putting in irrigation, etc. would be a good start".

Ron Ragge, 116 N. Lindeblad Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: asked if there was an update on funding for the improvement at Valleyway. Community Development Director, Doug Smith affirmed the funding was available. He also provided further report on the improvement plan later in the meeting during the city's update.

Pat Dockery 22213 E. Henry Rd, property owner 325 Simpson, Liberty Lake, WA: reported he was involved in the design process for the arboretum. He spoke about the advantage the city currently has because the design is ready and the property is available. He suggested the project can be done year by year until it has been completed. Mr. Dockery spoke in strong support of the arboretum, saying he was willing to volunteer money, labor, and time. He encouraged the council to "seriously consider this."

Travis Knudtson, 1115 N. Madsen, Liberty Lake, WA: also expressed his support for the arboretum. He said he has a young family of four kids and the arboretum would be a really nice resource in this community. Mr. Knudtson said he too would be willing to volunteer time to support the project.

**WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS**

Discuss Appointment of 2011 Standing Committee Members: Mayor Van Orman turned the floor over to Mayor Pro Tem Crump, who discussed the standing committee assignments for 2011. After brief discussion, Council Member Owens moved to suspend the Liberty Lake City Council Rules of Procedure so that committee assignments could be determined the first meeting of the year, opposed to the second. Council Member Kaminskias seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Council Members Owens moved to establish 2011 City Council Standing Committee Assignments as follows:

<u>FINANCE</u> <i>(Includes Human Resources)</i>	<u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u>	<u>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</u> <i>(Includes Public Works and Parks &amp; Rec)</i>
Mayor Pro Tem Dave Crump	Council Member Susan Schuler	Council Member Cris Kaminskias
Council Member Ryan Romney	Council Member Judi Owens	Council Member Odin Langford
Council Member Josh Beckett	Council Member Odin Langford	Council Member Susan Schuler
Council Member Judi Owens (alternate)	Council Member Cris Kaminskias (alternate)	Council Member Ryan Romney (alternate)

Council Member Schuler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Council Member Owens then moved to reinstate the Council Rules of Procedure.

After deliberation and discussion by council members to possibly reschedule committee meeting times, Mayor Pro Tem Crump seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Review of Regional Committee Vacancies: Mayor Van Orman then addressed vacancies for regional committees. She said the time commitment to serve on a committee is anywhere between 3-5 hours per month. Mayor Van Orman will provide additional information to council members who express an interest in serving on a regional committee.

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL / COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance Committee: Mayor Pro Tem Crump reported the Finance Committee met and discussed vouchers, the council retreat, and city staffing.

Mayor Report: Mayor Van Orman announced the passing of former Spokane Valley Mayor, Richard Munson. His memorial service is scheduled 10:30 a.m., January 8<sup>th</sup>, at CenterPlace. She also provided a Youth Commission report.

Additional Report: Council Member Owens provided an update from the arboretum meeting. She said participants discussed capital facility projects for the year, the promise of an arboretum for quite some time, beginning project work, the favorable building climate for public works, and possible funding sources. Council Member Owens strongly encouraged the council to give serious thought to beginning the arboretum project this year.

## **STAFF / AGENCY REPORTS**

Mayor Van Orman then turned the floor over to receive staff and agency reports. Directors provided City, Library, and Public Safety updates. Deputy Chief, Larry Rider provided a Spokane Valley Fire Department report, and Commissioner Tom Agnew provided a Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District report.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Consent Agenda: Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of the City Council Minutes from December 14, 2010 and December 21, 2010, and approval of checks through January 4, 2011 in the amount of \$141,002.73, seconded by Council Member Owens, Motion passed unanimously. Check sequences were 13528 through 13552.

## **UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS**

City Council Retreat: Mayor Pro Tem Crump discussed ideas for this year's council retreat. He proposed inviting the mayor and city staff to participate in the retreat to discuss 2011 goals. He suggested February 8<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup> as potential dates for the retreat. Mayor Pro Tem Crump will contact council members in the next couple of weeks to establish agenda items.

Mayor Van Orman announced that she and Mayor Pro Tem Crump will be absent on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and asked for excusal. She said council members will need to decide on a chair for that meeting.

Prior to final citizen comments, Council Member Schuler thanked everyone who came to speak tonight. She encouraged participants and audience members to tell their neighbors to come and get involved.

## CITIZEN COMMENTS

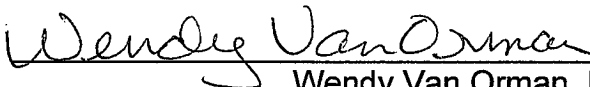
Steve Peterson, 719 N. Lancashire Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: asked the council to direct staff to come up with some hardscaping costs because "that gives us someplace to start for the next meeting to move forward." He thanked council members for taking the time to seriously consider an arboretum and the push to move it forward on the city's agenda.


Rob Schneidmiller, 1029 N. Tanglewood Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: commented, "One thing I have learned over last couple of months is that coming to these meetings, listening to council, and listening to community participation, has encouraged me to attend more meetings and express what is important me." Mr. Schneidmiller again expressed his support for the arboretum. He announced there are six homes for sale in the Tanglewood neighborhood and potential buyers would appreciate having an arboretum to look at in that area.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 8:59 p.m.

These minutes are approved on January 18, 2011.

  
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Wendy Van Orman, Mayor  
City of Liberty Lake

  
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*Notes and Transcription by Ann Swenson, City Clerk. This Council meeting was also audio taped. Anyone desiring to listen to the recording may contact the City Clerk.*