CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2008
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 Staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:
Council Member Crump
Council Member Jenkins
Council Member Langford
Council Member Olander
Council Member Owens
Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs
Council Member Schuler
Mayor Van Orman

Absent: None

Also Present:
Chief of Police, Brian Asmus
Director of Community Development, Doug Smith
City Attorney, Sean Boutz
Administrative Services Manager, Jessica Platt
City Engineer, Andrew Staples
Executive Assistant, Ann Swenson
Planning and Building Services Manager, Amanda Tainio
City Treasurer, Ann Marie Gale

AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Crump moved to accept the agenda as modified, which added B and C under the Action Items section. Council Member Jenkins seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The public is invited to attend. Parking and meeting rooms are accessible for persons with disabilities. Contact the City at 755-6700 with 24-hours advance notice for special accommodations.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Van Orman indicated that the City Council meeting minutes from September 16th will be submitted during the next City Council meeting for approval.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Beth Cocchiarella, 715 S. Liberty Drive, Liberty Lake, informed the City Council about what happened at the Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District's Board meeting last week. She mentioned that City employees went ahead and began working on an area of Trailhead Golf Course to install a 10th hole, but the area that was being worked on was not the City's property and belonged to the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. Ms. Cocchiarella commented that, "The City did not serve you well", and asked that any future planning in the area of the golf course be presented to the citizens and the Planning Commission before any action is taken by City staff.

Doug Smith, Planning & Community Development Director, responded to Ms. Cocchiarella's comment. He indicated that it was never the City's intent to encroach upon the Sewer District's property and the go-ahead to commence work for a 10th hole was based on a five-year memory of a record of survey. Mr. Smith mentioned that approximately 20,000 square feet of native vegetation was removed, with the anticipation of bringing sod over from the Liberty Lake Golf Course's site and using it for Trailhead.

Council Member Olander asked what the current plan is now that the work has already been started. Mr. Smith replied that he felt this could be remedied by a request for an easement, and that the City provide the Sewer District continued access to the outlet channel. Council Member Crump asked what the damage was to the Sewer and Water District's property. Mr. Smith reported that no property damage was done and that actually there is better accessibility now than there was previously. Council Member Owens asked if the Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District felt this was done intentionally and whether it felt the relationship between the City and the District has been deteriorated because of it. Commissioner Tom Agnew, speaking on behalf of himself and not representing the Sewer District's Board, indicated that this incident doesn't influence his perception in regard to the relationship with the City. Council Member Schuler then suggested that checks and balances need to be in place within the staff to make sure these mistakes do not keep happening.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Crump reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed the six-year financial forecast, reviewed vouchers, and discussed Pavillion Park improvement suggestions on a historical basis. In addition to addressing the bids for the new facilities building, the Finance Committee also talked about streamline sales tax and levy rates.

Council Member Owens commented on the City's Legislative Reception that was held yesterday. She said she finds it to be a very worthwhile process, but was somewhat dismayed that there was no legislative agenda to present during the reception, and suggested that in the future she would like to see that an agenda is established before inviting others to come. Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs agreed that the Legislative Reception should be viewed as a process, and suggested that the Council start working on establishing the

City's legislative agenda as soon as the legislature adjourns; start work on it in January, and have it ready by the next Reception in 2009.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs then reported about his attendance at a governmental follow-on transportation meeting to the Little Tent meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs represented the City at the Municipal Transportation Caucus. He referred to the information provided in the Council packets and mentioned that one request will be to include the NTC's recommendations in our City's legislative agenda. Other jurisdictions are considering those recommendations as well.

Mayor Van Orman reported that she attended the GMA Steering Committee meeting, which also is a showing of collaboration throughout the region and a step towards a regional process. The Mayor said, "This is a great step in a right direction; making sure that whenever we put anything else into the UGA that we do it as a region and not as one piece of property at a time."

Mayor Van Orman informed the Council that STA has asked for an Interlocal Agreement to secure the right of ways for the light rail system. STA also requested notification of pending projects for the system. The agreement is expected to come before the City Council soon.

The Mayor reminded everyone about the Arbor Day tree planting ceremony that will take place at Rocky Hill Park on Friday at 4:00 p.m. and invited everyone to attend.

STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS

Municipal Library

Pamela Mogen, Director of Library Services, reported that September is historically a slow month for the library, however, statistics are still very good and are still increasing. She reported about the Rotary Club starting its presentations on a monthly basis; a new brochure for voter information; the annual Halloween party on October 30th; the audio-advisory committee, which was formed by the Washington State Library, and it efforts to investigate and recommend a program through which small public libraries might offer downloadable audio books to their patrons; and that the Liberty Lake Municipal Library has reached a milestone by successfully transmitting its entire holdings to the OCLC/WorldCat, which marks Liberty Lake's library as a fully participating member of the library community – being a lender, not just a borrower from other libraries. Council Member Crump commented on the library's growth over the years, and congratulated Pamela on this achievement for the library.

City Staff

Doug Smith, Community Development Director, touched on some of the things that have been happening in the City. He said that regional support technical group, which represents jurisdictions throughout the region on the Interstate Justification Report, had met today to discuss the beginning phases of alternatives. He noted that the budget and building bids for the library and public safety building have also been worked on and will be discussed this evening. He said the season is winding down, with the anticipated completion of Rocky Hill at the end of the month and the finalization of the signalization at Molter and Appleway. Mr. Smith stated for the record what a wonderful job staff has done for the budget presentation this season, commending their efforts for delving into the past and forecasting the future.

Mr. Agnew also talked about a joint city project for water conservation and the devices that are available to aid with conservation.

Council Member Schuler inquired whether there is concern from the District's standpoint about the Department of Ecology having more input on when it can either take in or discharge into the river and what their relationship was like with the DOE. Commissioner Agnew replied that State DOE has to abide by the Clean Water Act, mandated by the federal government, and that the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District complies with the State and Federal regulations to responsibly treat wastewater. Mr. Agnew then provided some background on the relationship with the DOE since the City's inception and acknowledged that the District has a good relationship with them and has been fortunate in receiving funds from them.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs discussed the reduction of phosphorous and the total volume discharge issues for the plant expansion, and asked if there was a date calculated when the 1 million gallon threshold would be passed and the District's need for an expanded permit. Commissioner Agnew said the date has been moved out probably beyond a year.

Council Member Crump asked Commissioner Agnew to talk to the District's Board about the situation that happened at the golf course, and inform the City Council if there is a sense and need for reparation and whether or not the Board feels the action taken by the City employees improved the land. Council Member Crump emphasized the need for clarification of the relationship between the Water District and the City. He mentioned that since both entities work closely together on collaborative efforts, he would like to see them move toward a shared progress for the greater good of the community.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Ann Swenson read into record the proclamations for the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, declaring October as "Drug-Free Spokane County" and "Community Planning" month.

ACTION ITEMS:

Council Member Crump moved to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs. The Consent Agenda included vouchers totaling $761,333.95. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Check sequences were: 10252 through 10352
Voided check sequences were: 10256-10266.
September payroll, including benefits, were: 4901 through 4973.

City Engineer Andrew Staples discussed the bids for the library and public safety building remodel. A total of seven bids were received, with the low bid by Meridian Construction, Inc. at $648,900.36, which includes all bid alternates. Mr. Staples said that $675,000 was allocated for improvements for the building, and he recommended acceptance of the base bid and all four alternatives first, then acceptance of the lowest bid by Meridian.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs moved to accept the base bids and all four bid alternates, seconded by Council Member Crump. Discussion was held regarding funding for the project, with Council Member Schuler stating again for the record that the depletion of the Capital

Improvement fund was her biggest concern and that is why she opposed it in the past. Council Member Olander reminded Chief Asmus and Pamela Mogen that there was a discussion about being frugal with the spending for the new building and it was the Council's idea to "do a very lean and mean building this year and keep all the bells and whistles for future years". He stated that if there is anything that can be put off for a few years, then that is the attitude the Council should be taking. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion passed; in favor: Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs, Council Members Schuler, Olander, Crump, Langford, Owens; opposed: Council Member Jenkins.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs then moved to award the bid to Meridian Construction, Inc. in the amount of $648,900.36 and give the authority to the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Meridian Construction, Inc., seconded by Council Member Crump. Council Member Jenkins made a friendly amendment to incorporate language "not to exceed the dollar figure proposed by the lowest bidder". Discussion was then held regarding placing a cap on the project funding and the need to entertain further discussions with City Council at a later time should something arise that could require exceeding the low bid dollar amount. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs then discussed project priorities for transportation needs in our region and collaboration in the area for them. He outlined the three capital road projects, which are the North Spokane Corridor, the US 195 Hatch Road to I-90 Cheney/Spokane Road Interchange, and Bridging the Valley at Barker Road Overpass. He also talked about the non-motorized/transit programs for Fish Lake Trail and vanpool expansion, as well as studies including the northwest connector study, the university district pedestrian/bike bridge and Division Street gateway project, and the Millwood-Spokane Valley trail. Essentially, by affirming the regional road priorities, the City Council is working in conjunction with all jurisdictions from the area, in addition to some private entities, and this collaborative effort would establish a stronger voice in Olympia during the legislative season.

Council Member Crump said that he agrees with the process, but stated that there is nothing in the priorities that address the interchange here and how it would impact and improve our area of the Valley, of Eastern Washington, and the City of Liberty Lake. Doug Smith addressed the Council and indicated that it is because of the uncertainty of our transportation needs that Liberty Lake was not represented in the regional projects and that most of the regional projects that are represented are already underway. Discussion then perused about creating a collaborative process to establish a unified voice for the region, and Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs moved to affirm the regional transportation projects for the 2009 legislative session as presented. Council Member Jenkins seconded the motion. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 08-123 – A resolution of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington regarding finalization of the Legacy Ridge Phase 3 PUD plat, located in the northeast ¼ of section 21, township 25N, range 45 E.W.M., Liberty Lake, WA, File PE-1748-94B.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs moved to approve Resolution No. 08-123, seconded by Council Member Olander. Amanda Tainio, Planning and Building Services Manager gave a brief overview of the Resolution, stating that all final plat requirements have been met and

infrastructure and permits have been constructed for this portion of Legacy Ridge, and that it is staff's recommendation to approve the Resolution. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

At 8:57 p.m., Mayor Van Orman called for a five-minute recess, and the meeting reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

WORKSHOP / DISCUSSION

Administrative Services Manager Jessica Platt introduced the draft Code of Ethics to the City Council and discussed its intent. Council Member Crump reported that the Finance Committee has been reviewing the draft and it is being presented as a guideline for brief discussion and familiarization by the Council. He said that it can either be adopted as Code or incorporated into the City's policies and procedures. Further discussions took place regarding how ethics applies to elected officials and staff, the "revolving door" clause, the language contained in the draft, and establishing high standards for the City.

Ms. Platt then conducted a presentation on introduction of the 2009 budget which outlined the basics of governmental accounting, the six-year financial forecast, and the budget process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Member Crump asked that the Council take a look at and monitor the calendaring of issues on legislative agendas coming out from different agencies, groups, and affiliates that the City is associated with and find out when a good time is to have the most information to use as to our benefit as a City for planning for next year.

Mayor Van Orman then called for a motion to extend the meeting to finish the agenda. Motion made by Council Member Jenkins, opposed by Councilwoman Owens. Motion Failed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

These minutes are approved on this 21st day of October, 2008

Wendy Van Orman

Wendy Van Orman, Mayor
City of Liberty Lake

Ann Swenson

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

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