

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING / PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011
CITY HALL
22710 E. COUNTRY VISTA DRIVE
7:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION

Given by Council Member Kaminskas

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Van Orman, City Council, and City Staff

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Mayor Van Orman announced the Partners Advancing Character Education (PACE) trait for October, which is "Responsibility".

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Council Members:

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

City Staff:

Ann Swenson, City Clerk
Sean Boutz, City Attorney
Doug Smith, Community Development Director
Brian Asmus, Liberty Lake Police Chief
RJ Stevenson, Finance Director

Council Member Owens moved to excuse Council Members Romney and Schuler.
Mayor Pro Tem Crump seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Kaminskas. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Van Orman introduced Mr. Ron Kusler, Commute Options Specialist/GTEC Administrator of the Spokane County Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Office. Mr. Kusler

spoke about the Intergovernmental Agreement before the council for action this evening. The state legislature has funded CTR again for this biennium, thus prompting the need to renew the Agreements with the county's jurisdictions. The Agreement provides for continued goods and services to the CTR employers of Liberty Lake and throughout the county. The Interlocal Agreement is a continuation of what has been done for a number of years with great success.

Mayor Van Orman then introduced Chief Mike Thompson from the Spokane Valley Fire District (SVFD). Chief Thompson spoke about SVFD's recent international accreditation. He outlined strategic recommendations such as formalizing public education programs and conducting a revised community analysis based on population density which identifies urban, suburban, and rural planning zones. Chief Thompson talked about the payoffs from the accreditation process, including improved delivery of emergency services, proactive public education, and cost effective and comprehensive direction for the future. In closing, he reported completion of the five-year accreditation process successfully added Spokane Valley Fire Department as one of the 144 internationally accredited agencies.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

Mayor Van Orman presented her proposed 2012 budget. The proposed total budget is \$7,175,654, with the General Fund representing \$5,139,924 of that total. This is a 10% increase from the 2011 amended budget, and is the result of the addition of a professional City Administrator, an FTE Project Planner that is partially covered with a grant, as well as planning for capital expenditures. Once again, Mayor Van Orman is proposing to not increase property taxes, keeping city City's property tax rate low. Other changes in the 2012 budget include a Media Specialist to accommodate for the IT services needed on a day-to-day basis within the library, one new police vehicle, an additional reserve officer, funding for the second phase of the arboretum, and a community park acquisition for River District.

After presenting her budget, Mayor Van Orman encouraged council members to review the proposal and bring back any questions or comments they may have.

MAYOR / CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Crump provided a Finance Committee report. The committee discussed Association of Washington Cities' salary surveys around the state, the city's salary schedules, and golf fee schedules. The committee also talked about facility usage within the City and a bid that has gone out for equipment.

Council Member Owens said the Public Safety Committee met briefly. She reported the LLPD has received its new patrol vehicle.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump thanked City Staff for completion of the crosswalk painting on Valleyway. He spoke about the state's forecasted billion-dollar deficit and the impact that has throughout the county, including the Spokane Regional Health District.

Council Member Owens announced she met with Washington's state treasurer. She said the State of Washington remains with a favorable rating, however, it is in dire need of some tax reform.

Mayor Van Orman reported the municipal consultant review subcommittee met. The job announcement has been posted and applications will be received until October 21st. Council Member Kaminskas added the committee has discussed the need for the consultant to be able to handle any one of the three scenarios currently facing Liberty Lake. She also reported three community members will aid the subcommittee in the review process.

Mayor Van Orman announced a ground-breaking ceremony will take place at the Smart Center at the waste-to-energy plant. The Smart Center will enhance streamline recycling. She also stated the city, in conjunction with the Liberty Lake Historical Society, will be including a marker for Stephen LaLiberte in the arboretum.

ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 10a and 10b, seconded by Council Member Beckett. Item 10a was approval of the City Council Minutes from October 4, 2011. Item 10b was approval of the vouchers for October 18, 2011 in the amount of \$368,354.42. Motion carried 4-0; Council Member Kaminskas was not present at the time of vote. Check sequences were: 14770 through 14777, totaling \$93,800.07 for September benefits and quarterlies, and 14778 through 14849, totaling \$265,508.41. EFTs were in the amount of \$9,045.94.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 10c, the Agreement for Services with Rocking K Ranch, seconded by Council Member Langford. After a brief discussion about traffic and safety concerns regarding the carriage ride route, motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 10d, the Intergovernmental Agreement between Spokane County and the City of Liberty Lake regarding commute trip reduction implementation, seconded by Council Member Langford. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READ ORDINANCE

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 127-A into the record, an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Amending Ordinance No. 127, Passed on July 6, 2004, Entitled "Establishing a Tourism Promotion Area, Imposing a Charge of the

Furnishing of Lodging by a Lodging Business Located in the Tourism Promotion Area, Providing for the Collection of the Charge, and Other Matters Related Thereto.

PUBLIC HEARING: Amending Tourism Promotion Area

At 8:07 p.m., Mayor Van Orman opened the public hearing regarding Ordinance No. 127-A and invited public comment.

Rita Santillanes, 12705 Deer Crest Lane, Spokane, WA: Spoke in favor of the increase of the \$2.00 assessment fee. She commented, "If we want to be treated the same as everyone else in the county, we need to be paying the same amount of money as everyone else in the county".

Mayor Van Orman pointed out that Ms. Santillanes was the owner of the Best Western Pepper Tree Inn in Liberty Lake. Ms. Santillanes also submitted a petition to the city for the proposed change to increase the Tourism Promotion Area rate from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per room per night at the lodging facilities in the City of Liberty Lake.

Cheryl Kilday, representing the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB): also spoke in favor of the proposed assessment rate increase. Ms. Kilday said if the council acted tonight to increase the rate, CVB representatives would like the opportunity to sit down and talk about what it expects from the increase in funding and how best to use it to promote Liberty Lake.

At 8:10 p.m., Mayor Van Orman closed the public hearing.

Council Member Owens moved to suspend Liberty Lake City Council Rule of Procedure 6.2, requiring two readings of an Ordinance, and consider the first read the second read, and vote on final passage of Ordinance No. 127-A. Council Member Kaminskas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Owens then moved to approve Ordinance No. 127-A, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Crump. Motion carried 4-1, Council Member Langford opposed.

UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Beckett requested an update at the next council meeting as to where the City is regarding discussions with Bella Lago in terms of Valleyway.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump spoke about future decisions regarding the community of Liberty Lake. He cited interesting data points of initial costs for iconic identifiers such as the Eiffel Tower, Space Needle, and Hoover Dam and what it would take to build them today. He offered that as the council makes decisions, they will impact Liberty Lake 20-40 years in the future. He stated, "people come to Liberty Lake because it has a sense of community, and I don't want to see that lost."

Council Member Kaminskas commented that during the budget process, she would like a 5-10 minute presentation from Library Foundation about its vision for the future.

Council Member Owens reminded everyone that ballots will come out at the end of the week and she encouraged everyone to "get out and vote".

CITIZEN COMMENTS

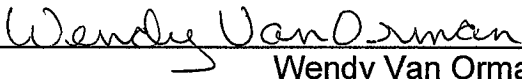
Pat Dockery, 22213 E Henry Road, Liberty Lake: commented on the group of business people who came tonight advocating to be taxed. He applauded their efforts, because they understand "we have to spend money to make money". He reminded everyone to keep the city's vision even if that means being willing to pay to see that the vision is met.

Steve Peterson, 117 N. Lancashire Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: thanked the Council for inviting the Library Foundation to conduct a presentation during the budget cycle. He said there are some wonderful things the Foundation is looking forward to doing in the next 4-5 years. He commented on his conversation with former Senator Brian Murray regarding Initiative 1183. He said the benefit to Liberty Lake would probably be an additional \$85,000-\$90,000 over and above \$200,000 received last year. Mr. Peterson also congratulated the council for passing Ordinance No. 127-A.


Cheryl Kilday, Spokane Regional CVB: said CVB staff has been working on a promotional brochure on behalf of Liberty Lake. She shared the mock up brochure with the mayor and council members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Wendy Van Orman, Mayor
City of Liberty Lake



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.