



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING / PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010  
CITY HALL  
22710 E. COUNTRY VISTA DRIVE  
7:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION**

Given by Mayor Pro Tem Crump

**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.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pro Tem Crump	Ann Swenson, City Clerk
Council Member Kaminskas	Doug Smith, Community Development Director
Council Member Owens	Brian Asmus, Chief of Police
Council Member Romney	Sean Boutz, City Attorney
Council Member Schuler (absent)	Jessica Platt, Admin. Svcs. Manager
Council Member Beckett	Andrew Staples, City Engineer
Council Member Langford	

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

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the Agenda with the modification of removal of Action Item 9c, Approval of Spokane Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau Agreement. Council Member Langford seconded the motion on the condition that this item be placed as a workshop discussion at a later date. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Joe Hagler 23005 E. Mocha Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: referenced an October 9, 2010 email he had sent to the Mayor and City Council expressing his concerns about the decisions made affecting Trailhead golf course. He said the city risks losing two very

important people and that will be very damaging to the course. Mr. Hagler said he has been playing the course at Trailhead since 2004. He has seen the improvements and growth since that time, noting it is now necessary to have to reserve a tee time because of the increased demand to play the course. He offered three suggestions to restore public confidences: not fertilizing the course, rehiring Mollie Thola and Ron Knudsen; and placing the onus on the people getting the most benefit out of the golf course – the golfers. He suggested implementing an immediate 6% increase to all fees charged in the pro shop.

## **WORKSHOP DISCUSSION**

Mayor Wendy Van Orman then introduced her proposed 2011 budget.

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

Community Development Committee (CDC): There was no Community Development report.

Finance Committee: Mayor Pro Tem Crump reported the Finance Committee met and reviewed the upcoming budget proposal and process. The committee discussed vouchers, proposed cuts in the library, golf, police, as well as city staff and city operations. The Agenda was also reviewed.

Public Safety Committee: There was no public safety report.

Mayor Van Orman reminded council members of the regional meeting to discuss animal control. She spoke about the transportation visioning project game that is online. It is open to the public and she encouraged public participation. Mayor Van Orman will be attending an upcoming Association of Washington Cities' meeting to discuss legislative priorities.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump provided a Spokane Regional Health District report. He said the Board of Directors met and wrapped up management evaluations and staff surveys. The Board also addressed future goal setting and flu vaccination awareness.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Approval of Change Order for Rocky Hill Park

City Engineer, Andrew Staples, reported this Change Order accounts for various additional items accumulated throughout the project and are covered within the parameters of the grant. Acceptance of the Change Order by the Council will begin the process to close out the project. Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to accept the Change Order as presented, seconded by Council Member Kaminskas. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of the City Council Minutes, as modified, from October 19, 2010 and checks through November 2, 2010 in the amount of \$253,626.45, seconded by Council Member Langford, Motion passed unanimously. Check sequences were 13320 through 13356. Payroll sequences were 6225 through 6235.

#### Approval of Teamsters Local Union Agreement

Liberty Lake Police Chief, Brian Asmus, said several negotiations have been conducted between the city and teamsters. No changes have been made since the last discussion, and the local ratified agreement by the union is before the council this evening. Chief Asmus recommended approval of the agreement. Council Member Owens moved to approve the agreement between the City of Liberty Lake and Teamsters Union Local 690 for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2013, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Crump. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Crump thanked both sides of the union negotiations, stating he appreciates their understanding of the city's budget situation. He also asked Chief Asmus to thank the officers for their service.

#### Approval of Avista Net Metering Agreement

City Engineer, Andrew Staples, explained this Agreement sets up the working relationship between the City and Avista pertinent to selling back power from the Liberty Lake Police Department. Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to allow the City to enter into the Agreement, authorized by the Mayor, with Avista. Council Member Owens seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### Approval of Amendment to Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan

Mr. Staples reported the amendment to the city's six-year transportation improvement plan (TIP) is attributed to the addition of the Valleyway pedestrian improvements from Timberfield to Lindeblad Lane. Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the amendment to the 6-year TIP, seconded by Council Member Langford. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Approval of Quote for Grant-Funded Lighting Upgrades

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to accept the proposed project lighting upgrade, seconded by Council Member Owens. City Engineer, Andrew Staples, explained some funding was left over from the grant the City received for the solar installation project at the Liberty Lake Police Department (LLPD). The leftover funds can be used to upgrade some of the lighting at the LLPD and City Hall to save energy costs which, in turn, will allow the City to sell back more energy to Avista. Motion carried unanimously.

## **RESOLUTION**

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Resolution No. 10-144 into the record, a Resolution of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington Providing for the Appointment to the Spokane Transit Authority Board Pursuant to City of Liberty Lake Resolution No. 02-40.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to adopt Resolution 10-144, seconded by Council Member Langford. Motion carried unanimously.

## **ORDINANCE FIRST READ / PUBLIC HEARING**

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 189 into the record, an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington Levying the Regular Property Taxes for the City of Liberty Lake, Washington in Spokane County for the Year Commencing January 1, 2011 to Provide Revenue for the Provision of City Services as set forth in the City Budget.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – Regularly Property Tax Levy**

At 8:24 p.m., Mayor Van Orman opened the public hearing for Revenue Sources and Regular Property Tax Levy for the 2011 Proposed Budget.

Steve Peterson, 1719 No. Lancashire Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: suggested if the City Council is going to go through revenue restructuring, it is time to look at where the money for property taxes comes from and where it goes. He asked whether the collection of the utility tax revenue will help offset the difference between what could be collected in 2010 property tax. He suggested if the City Council were to go through a levy LID lift proposition, taxing abilities would be restored to \$2.10 [per \$1,000 assessed value] instead of \$1.65. He asked that the city consider a levy LID lift in 2011 and reconsider the utility tax. He pleaded that the council be honest with the public and let them know where the money is spent. He asked whether anyone has looked at the revenue generated by Trailhead from November through February in 2008, 2009, and 2010. He said the research has to be not just in the expense-cutting side, but also in what is going to happen when council action is taken. He implored the City Council to look at the budget and the revenue, stating, "What you do on one thing is going to affect another".

Robert Moore, 23021 E. Colt Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: was here a couple of meetings ago and expressed his approval of the utility tax. He said he hasn't really changed his opinion, but did have a brief opportunity to look at the 2011 proposed budget. He said he really thinks the Council should look at salaries being proposed for the mayor and council members. He said, under the circumstances, the 60% projected increase for the mayor seems exorbitant to him. Mr. Moore spoke about the fiduciary responsibility of the mayor and council to the community and the citizens to spend and budget their money.

No further comments were received and Mayor Van Orman closed the public hearing at 8:35 p.m. She then introduced Jessica Platt, Administrative Services Manager, who conducted a presentation on the Revenue Sources for Proposed 2011 Budget.

After a brief discussion on Revenue Sources, the effect liquor Initiatives would have on the budget, and the election process required for a levy LID lift, Ann Swenson, City

Clerk, read Ordinance No.190 into the record; an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington Adopting a Budget for the Period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, Appropriating Funds and Establishing Salary Schedules for Established Positions.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed 2011 City Budget**

At 8:48 p.m., Mayor Van Orman opened the public hearing for the City of Liberty Lake's 2011 Proposed Budget

Steve Peterson, 1719 No. Lancashire Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: thanked Chief Asmus and the LLPD officers for keeping the community safe, and said their protection is appreciated and worth every penny. He also commended the administration for having done an incredible job. Mr. Peterson then expressed, "There are a couple glaring things that need to be addressed". He referenced City Ordinance 119 and spoke about the Library Board of Trustees' duties, power, and roles. He said the Library Board originally had submitted a proposed library budget of \$411,000 for 2011, which has subsequently been reduced to \$320,000. Mr. John Loucks, President of the Liberty Lake Library Board, testified, in addition to the proposed budget, he submitted a letter to the Mayor and City Council expressing the library should maintain a 46-hour, 6-day per week service operation. Mr. Peterson continued with his testimony. He pointed out the city invested almost \$1.2 million in the library's new building, only to cut hours from 46 to 32. He went on to say that, from his perspective, the commitment to the library and the money for what it takes to run the library is vested in the Library Trustees. Councilman Beckett asked for clarification from Mr. Peterson as to what the role of the City Council is vs. the role of the Library Board. Mr. Peterson responded the City Council annually appropriates funds for the Liberty Lake public library. Mr. Loucks interjected, stating it seems to him there is a profound difference between management and micromanagement and that the Library Board felt the City Council was micromanaging, which did not sit well with the Board. Mr. Loucks suggested better dialogue between the Council and the Board is needed, and invited the Council members to attend the library's next Board meeting. Mr. Peterson asked the Council to look at what is being done, noting when one thing is done, it affects something else. He closed by saying, "You built a good city, don't allow the economy to distract you."

No additional comments were received. At 9:10 p.m., Mayor Van Orman closed the public hearing. She then opened the floor for discussion by the City Council.

Council Member Romney asked Mr. Peterson, if the decisions were up to him, where he would make budget cuts. Mr. Peterson responded the budget is too global and proposed the Council look at line items. He also said he would be more than happy to sit down with council members to review the budget and make suggestions.

## **SECOND READ ORDINANCE**

City Clerk, Ann Swenson, read Ordinance No. 187 into the record, an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington Granting the Right of Franchise to Electric Lightwave,

LLC a Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Integra Telecom Holdings, Inc., for the Operation of a Telecommunications System in the City of Liberty Lake.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve Ordinance No. 187, seconded by Council Member Langford. Mayor Van Orman then opened the floor to the public to receive comments. No comments were received and there was no discussion amongst the Council. Motion carried unanimously.

## **UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Van Orman asked council members to review her proposed 2011 budget and submit questions to either herself or City staff during the interim between this and the next City Council meeting. She said a more in-depth budget discussion will take place during the next meeting.

Council Member Langford requested City staff investigate the suggested option of a levy LID lift. He then posed the question whether the Council has done as much brainstorming as possible about the budget situation. Council Member Romney also requested that staff provide the Council with an updated five-year revenue projection spreadsheet.

Council Member Owens questioned what contingencies are in place for the golf course. Staff responded, even with the layoffs, there is ongoing in-house expertise in turf management, and the fertilization regimen is typically performed by Wilbur-Ellis.

Mayor Van Orman then opened the floor to receive final citizen comments.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Bob Moore, 23021 E. Colt Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: commended the Mayor and City Council for their great work and said they shouldn't second guess themselves. He said, "You have followed a logical, rational approach to the problem." He said nobody likes taxes, but he supported the utility tax implementation to help with the cash flow for 2011.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump closed by stating it is a privilege to sit on the City Council. He commented the levy LID lift discussion should take place, but doesn't think it provides a long-term solution. He said he does value the budget process and asked that the public understand this is the first step in that process.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

These minutes are approved on November 16, 2010.

Wendy VanOrman

Wendy Van Orman, Mayor  
City of Liberty Lake

Ann Swenson

*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.*