

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 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 7:11 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Ann Swenson, City Clerk
Doug Smith, Comm. Dev Director
Brian Asmus, Chief of Police
Sean Boutz, City Attorney
Jessica Platt, Admin Svcs Manager

Council Member Owens moved to excuse Council Member Schuler, seconded by Council Member Kaminskis. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilman Beckett asked to move Agenda Item 10, Recognition of Service, before Agenda Item 6, Citizen Comments. Council Member Owens moved to approve the agenda with the requested revisions, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Crump. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Mayor Van Orman presented Michael Curry a recognition award and thanked him for his service. Mr. Curry has served the city for eight years and is the first employee to officially retire from the City of Liberty Lake.

Liberty Lake Chief of Police, Brian Asmus, and Liberty Lake Police Sergeant, Clint Gibson, then presented the Liberty Lake Police Department's annual recognition awards. Recipients were as follows:

Letters of Appreciation: Chaplain John Thompson, Records Clerk, Bobbi Anderson, and Master Police Officer Taj Wilkerson

Letters of Commendation: Master Police Officer Erin Lance, Detective Ray Bourgeois, and Master Police Officer Darin Morgan
Life-Saving Award: Officer Brad Deines
2010 Sergeant's Award: Master Police Officer Mark Van Hying
2010 Chief's Award: Sergeant Gibson.
Officer of the Year Award: Master Police Officer Mike Thomas.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Scott Bernhard (no address given): thanked the mayor and council for their service. Mr. Bernhard was a former City Council member who stated he remembered the vision back from 2002 regarding the open space purchase of land for Trailhead. He said if somebody did not step in and buy it, that area would go to retail. He spoke about being able to build a lot of green space because of donations from the Schneidmillers for Pavillion and donations by Greenstone for Rocky Hill Park. He said all maintenance for the green space is basically paid for by the operations of the golf course. He asked the council to consider the revenue generated by Trailhead and consider the key employees and their dedication. He warned the council that if Ms. Thola and Mr. Knudsen were informed they would only be employed nine months out of a year, the city risks losing their talent. He also spoke about room for improvement in the pro shop.

Steve Peterson, 719 N. Lancashire Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: Thanked the mayor and council for their deliberations on the budget this year. He stated the issue is that the residents and the elected officials need to come together as a community. He then presented a special award to Master Police Officer Mark Van Hying from his dog, Pecos.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

Animal Control Contract 2011: Mayor Van Orman introduced Ms. Nancy Hill, Executive Director, SCRAPS, who provided information and answered questions regarding the 2011 animal control contract .

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL / COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee: Mayor Pro Tem Crump reported the Finance Committee met and discussed projections and trusting the numbers. He said the members had a philosophical discussion about not passing utility tax ordinance as "a feather in the cap" to attract business. The committee talked about an automatic six-month review of the utility tax.

Public Safety: Council Member Owens reported the Public Safety Committee met and discussed a letter issued by the Liberty Lake Elementary School's principal about stranger awareness. The police department has applied for a \$1,000 bubble grant through the sheriff's department to be used for a moving radar device. Vehicle prowling has been solved. A breathalyzer machine has been installed and has been getting a lot of use. The LLPD policy and procedure manual has been updated. Council Member Kaminskis added the SVFD reported the Greenacres Station came in \$270,000 under budget.

Mayor Van Orman reminded everyone about the PACE Program. She said December's trait of the month is caring . Mayor Van Orman announced she chaired her last Spokane Transit Authority meeting last week and will soon finish her chair assignment for the Steering Committee of Elected officials.

Council Member Owens requested a plan going forward for maintenance of streets. She acknowledged there has been no report from the Community Development Committee in quite some time, and she would appreciate a street maintenance update.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda: Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the consent agenda, which included City Council Meeting Minutes from December 7, 2010 and checks through December 21, 2010 in the amount of \$131,768.60. Council Member Owens seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Check sequences were 13440 through 13521. Note: 13469 was reissued.

Planning Commission Confirmation – Shelia Bell: Mayor Van Orman said this will be Ms. Bell's third term on the Planning Commission. Council Member Romney moved to confirm Sheila Bell as a Planning Commission Member, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Crump. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2011 BIAS Software Service Agreement: Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to allow the mayor to enter into and sign the BIAS 2011 Software Service Agreement, seconded by Council Member Kaminskis. Motion carried unanimously.

Spokane Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau Agreement: Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to allow the mayor enter into and sign the Agreement with the Spokane Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau as provided in the Council packets, seconded by Council Member Beckett. Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND READ ORDINANCE

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 181-B into the record, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 181 Passed by the City Council on December 1, 2009, Entitled "An Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Adopting a Budget for the Period of January 1, 2010, Through December 31, 2010, Appropriating Funds and Establishing Salary Schedules for Established Positions."

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve Ordinance No. 181-B, seconded by Council Member Langford. Mayor Van Orman called for any citizen comments; no comments were received. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to adopt Ordinance 190, seconded by Council Member Owens. After discussion and deliberation by the council, Mayor Van Orman then opened the floor to receive citizen comments.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Scott Bernhard: stated it did not make sense to him to reduce Trailhead FTEs from 3 positions to 1.75 positions. He said, "The truth is there is nothing wrong with the way Trailhead is running right now," and asked how the council could eliminate one person from the budget and expect to increase any level of service in any way.

Steve Peterson 719 N. Lancashire Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: seconded Mr. Bernhard comments. He said it is imperative that, "we don't look at people as cost-saving devices where you can just take them and cut them down to 32 hours and now we don't have to pay them benefits". He suggested if the city only operated 32 hours a week, everyone could be part time, and questioned "but what does that do for the commitment to the people?" He emphasized if there is an additional funding source available, then the city's leadership needs to focus on maintaining its core people for both the library and Trailhead.

Mollie Thola, 23914 E. Sprague, Liberty Lake, WA: spoke on the importance of qualification. She said she is a LPGA Class A professional who promotes professionalism in every way. She also spoke in regard to Ron Knudsen's professionalism. She said he is a professional superintendent who is a member of the Washington State Superintendent's Association and that to get to that status requires 10 years. She commented, "Professionalism is what you have with Ron and myself".

After no further citizen comments, Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Owens clarified Trailhead will reopen January 1, 2011.


CITIZEN COMMENTS

Charmaine Peterson, 719 N. Lancashire Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: commented, "The one thing we do know is that if the golf course would have been open over the last couple of months, revenue would have been coming in." She noted if stores are closed, there is no money coming in. She concluded "We have lost money."


ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

These minutes are approved on January 4, 2011.



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.