

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

INVOCATION

Given by Council Member Romney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Boy Scout Troop 407 member, Trevor Burgess. At the conclusion of the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Van Orman welcomed Boy Scout Troop 407. Each member from Troop 407 subsequently introduced themselves.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Doug Smith, Director of Community Dev.
Ann Swenson, City Clerk
Brian Asmus, Chief of Police
Sean Boutz, City Attorney
Pamela Mogen, Library Director
Amanda Tainio, Planning & Bldng Svcs Manager
Andrew Staples, City Engineer

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to accept the Agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Langford. Motion carried unanimously.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, conducted the Oath of Office for City Council Member Position 7, Cristella Kaminskas.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Crump provided a Finance Committee report. The committee discussed and reviewed checks and vouchers. The fourth quarter and year-end financial report was reviewed and will be coming before the Council at their next meeting. The

committee also talked about where the City is on meeting its mandate for its restricted reserve fund. Property tax was also discussed.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump then provided a Spokane Regional Health District update. He reported new board selections have been made for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Due to a combination of the public's participation in good hand washing and increased vaccinations, as well as the mild winter, the H1N1 virus and seasonal flu have been mild. Council Member Schuler commented she does want the public to still understand that if they experience flu-like symptoms and respiratory problems to be diligent in seeking medical advice.

Mayor Van Orman then briefly reported about her meetings at the Steering Committee of Elected Officials and Spokane Transit Authority.

STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS

Liberty Lake Municipal Library: Library Director, Pamela Mogen, reported about January and February events at the library. She said book clubs have begun and 13 members have joined so far. The newly-formed Library Foundation Board plans to meet the first Wednesday of each month. Ms. Mogen said the Jobs & Career Center is beginning to take shape. Computers are in place and staff is continuing to gather together various components for the program. She also reminded the City Council about the reception next Tuesday evening.

City Staff: Community Development Director, Doug Smith, provided a staff report. City staff continues to follow the legislative cycle and are keeping informed of budget constraints. Regionally, Liberty Lake is well represented on many of the land use and transportation committees, and jurisdictional collaboration continues. Mr. Smith reported the City of Liberty Lake met 100% of its targeted goals for commute reduction and will be recognized at an upcoming awards ceremony. Regional discussions also continue on central public facilities. He reported Liberty Lake ranks 7 out of 10, so if the public is interested in giving their input to the Spokane Co. Commissioners, a public meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 9th, with an anticipated March 23rd decision. City staff is also currently working with Central Valley School District (CVSD) on their Capital Facilities Plan. Director Smith and Mayor Van Orman plan to attend CVSD's upcoming strategic planning session. Internally, staff continues work on Rocky Hill Park, open space maintenance, and street cleaning projects. BIAS software has been implemented, and recreation activities are beginning to be scheduled. Summer camp is filling up quickly. Director Smith provided a 2010 tax assessment update. Liberty Lake has the second lowest taxing rate in Spokane County.

Planning Commission: Community Development Director, Doug Smith, reported the Planning Commission has just wrapped up a couple of projects. At their next meeting, elections will be held for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Director Smith will reach out to the newly-elected Chair and will invite either he or she to provide a Planning Commission report to the City Council.

Public Safety: Liberty Lake Chief of Police, Brian Asmus, reported LLPD is currently researching the feasibility of starting a drug-detection K-9 program. A formal proposal

will be brought before the Public Safety Committee for review and then forwarded to the City Council for deliberation. The Public Safety Committee will be touring the Communications Center and the Emergency Coordination Center tomorrow. The tour will be conducted by Chief Asmus and Deputy Chief Larry Rider of the SVFD. Chief Asmus gave an update on officer training, CPR training for City staff, and the LLPD's participation in a successful car seat clinic. He announced the Boy Scouts of America is celebrating its 100th birthday, and he will be attending their upcoming fundraising breakfast. He also talked about his attendance at a firearms crime enforcement (FACE) meeting, officer response time, and a recent local incident involving the Spokane County Sheriff's helicopter. Chief Asmus gave an update about incidents at the skate park, as well as discussions regarding S.C.O.P.E. cars' similarities to LLPD cruisers and the danger that poses to their volunteers.

S.C.O.P.E.: For the benefit of the new Council Members, President Tom Lundstrom introduced himself and provided some background on the S.C.O.P.E. program and its volunteers. He talked about S.C.O.P.E.'s meeting with Officer Wilkerson and their conversation about similarities between S.C.O.P.E. and LLPD vehicles and what safety measures should be taken. Mr. Lundstrom invited Council Members to attend S.C.O.P.E.'s upcoming general meeting, and reported that Liberty Lake volunteer Deb Hall recently received S.C.O.P.E.'s annual Volunteer of the Year award. Mayor Pro Tem Crump and Council Member Owens expressed their thanks to Mr. Lundstrom and the S.C.O.P.E. volunteers for all that they do for the City of Liberty Lake.

Fire Department: Spokane Valley Fire Department (SVFD) Deputy Chief, Larry Rider, distributed information containing 2009 incidents. He talked about the firefighters efforts to meet with law enforcement officers so that they gain familiarity with one another for easy recognition in an emergency situation. Deputy Chief Rider reported there were no working fires in Liberty Lake for the month of January and most calls were for advanced life support (ALS). The Department has requested bids on Station 10. Bids will be opened March 8th.

Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District: Commissioner Tom Agnew provided a water and sewer update. The Washington DOT is seeking water for its new border station at Stateline. The successful bid was 80% less than the estimate. He said accounts receivable remains slow. He also invited the Mayor and Council Members to join them at the upcoming Lakes conference. Commissioner Agnew reported there has been a request to annex Woodward Property into the Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District and that is currently in the works. He also met with Green Ridge residents who may be eligible to receive help from a state revolving drinking water fund.

Mayor Van Orman then introduced Spokane County Sheriff, Ozzy Knezovich, and Lisa Jameson.

PRESENTATIONS

Emergency Management Overview: Spokane County Sheriff, Ozzy Knezovich, and Program Specialist, Lisa Jameson, conducted an Emergency Management overview. They addressed what the Department of Emergency Management is, what its function is, and the status of Liberty Lake's emergency management. Sheriff Knezovich said

public works is one of the most important key pieces for emergency management. Snow removal, GIS and mapping systems help the program manage events. He said their goal is to give bi-yearly progress reports to all city councils within the region about the progress that is being made and what is being worked on. Ms. Lisa Jameson, Program Specialist, then provided a comprehensive review of the program. Ms. Jameson reported there is now a recovery specialist on board. She talked about lessons learned in the last couple years, including pre-planning, communication, and the need for local authorities' involvement and participation. She reviewed action items that have been implemented such as planning, training, crisis communication, and public outreach.

After concluding their presentation, Sheriff Knezovich asked for Mayor and Council support of mental health services. He said if a certain portion of those services are reduced, all the work they have done at the Spokane County Jail "to stop that revolving door with mental health issues" will go away. He requested they write letters to state legislators and representatives asking them not to cut back any more funding for mental health services.

Mayor Van Orman then introduced Kate Kennedy from Spokane County.

Homelessness Prevention: Spokane Community Development Specialist, Kate Kennedy, distributed handouts and spoke about the county's homelessness prevention program. She talked about how to link our community to federal stimulus funding. This program is designed to help prevent people from becoming homeless by helping retaining existing housing for those having trouble meeting their bills. She explained the qualifying criteria for the programs and said people can access the program by either calling 2-1-1 or by going online.

Mayor Van Orman called a brief recess at 8:59 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda: Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2010 and vouchers through February 2, 2010 in the amount of \$152,457.59, seconded by Council Member Owens. Motion carried unanimously. Check sequences were: 12331 through 12371 and manual check number 12100, totaling \$40,008.17. Payroll check sequences were: 6000 through 6046, totaling \$112,449.42.

Agreements for Service: Council Member Owens moved to approve the Agreements for Service for British Soccer Camps, Dance Class, Skyhawks Sports Academy, and the Liberty Lake Community Theatre, seconded by Council Member Langford. Motion passed unanimously.

Confirmation of Lodging Tax Advisory Board's Recommendations: Mayor Van Orman reported the Lodging Tax Committee met twice in January to review funding applications. Applicants have requested a total of \$62,000, which is \$2,000 over the amount budgeted for 2010. The Council discussed the requested amount exceeding the recently-adopted budget for this line item and then entered into motions.

Council Member Owens moved to approve the proposal as presented in the amount of \$62,000, seconded by Council Member Beckett. After discussing what the requested funds would be used for by each applicant, Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion failed 3-4 with Council Members Kaminskis, Owens, and Beckett voting in favor, Mayor Pro Tem Crump and Council Members, Schuler, Langford, and Romney opposed.

Council Member Romney then moved to fund up to \$60,000 until reimbursement requests are submitted, and a budget amendment can be made. In order to meet the \$2,000 reduction from the original motion, Council Member Langford suggested decreasing each applicant's request by \$500. Council Member Romney accepted the friendly amendment, and Council Member Schuler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

Valleyway/Lakeside Improvements Community Update: Mayor Van Orman proposed an informal workshop discussion to include the residents that are affected by this area. She recognized Shannon Hale, Larry Laux (absent), Mary Munger, and Ronald Ragge, who have organized neighborhood concerns and have spoken with individual Council Members regarding them. She then turned the floor over to Director Smith.

Director Smith said the purpose of this workshop issue was to identify the core of the issues in a forum where everyone could hear the same information.

Ron Ragge, 116 N. Lindeblad, Liberty Lake: read a letter, thanking the Mayor and City Council for meeting with neighborhood members to discuss their concerns. He talked about trying to move a project of potential walkways and road widening around a dangerous corner. He shared his observations up to this point, and pleaded for the City Council to take control of all situations and direct City staff how to proceed.

Council Member Schuler cautioned that this has been an emotionally-charged issue, and said in order to make sufficient progress emotions need to be put aside. She reported she and Council Member Langford met with some of the property owners. She said the take away was the challenge of opening dialogue between the developer and neighborhood group. Therefore, she facilitated a meeting between the parties involved, along with City staff, and ongoing discussions will continue.

Some issues of concern were then outlined which included: Condition #22; Letter of Credit status; timing issues; pedestrian connectivity; procedural errors; verbiage; quasi-judicial proceedings, and incorrect information conveyed to the City Council.

Council Member Schuler inquired whether the true question was when the road is going to get fixed.

Shanna Hale, 121 N. Lindeblad, Liberty Lake: replied the question wasn't about when the road would get fixed, but rather if the most dangerous corner in that phase could get fixed with the current funds.

City Engineer, Andrew Staples, said in order to get that specific corner taken care of, engineering could be either divided into pieces or done together. He explained that because of the horizontal and vertical constraints in that corridor, there is a very high risk of having to "rip out those improvements" in that specific area once the road has been improved in its entirety. He cautioned it would be at great cost to the taxpayer.

At 9:59 p.m., Council Member Schuler moved to extend the meeting until 10:30 p.m., seconded by Council Member Romney. Motion passed unanimously. Discussions continued and at 10:31 p.m., Council Member Beckett moved to extend the meeting for an additional five minutes, seconded by Council Member Schuler. Motion passed unanimously.

After continued deliberation and discussions, it was determined that the City would explore engineering costs for improving the roadway, along with the feasibility of phasing it in. Additionally, an ad hoc committee was formed to continue to meet in efforts to move forward.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

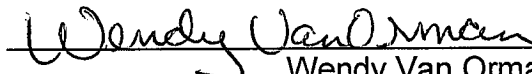
Josh Johnson, Peridot Printing: reported their staff is currently working on creating a visitor's guide. They have been teaming up with staff from different lodging facilities to find ways to increase distribution of it. Mr. Johnson said if there was anyone else who may have ideas in getting their guide out there, he would welcome any additional suggestions.

Mayor Pro Tem David Crump: speaking as a citizen, shared that his son is a boy scout and was selected to represent this side of the state. A group of scouts are representing Washington State and will meet with the legislature and the State's Assistant Attorney General. He said it is really a good experience to promote a good cause and is reflective of another aspect of our community.

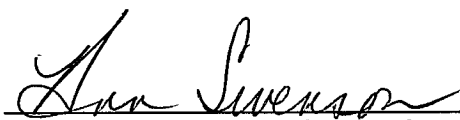
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

These minutes are approved on February 16, 2010.



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.