

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011  
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.

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Mayor Van Orman encouraged everyone to participate in the Partners Advancing Character Education (PACE) trait for March, which is "Diligence".

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pro Tem Crump	Ann Swenson, City Clerk
Council Member Kaminskis	Doug Smith, Community Development Director
Council Member Owens (absent)	Brian Asmus, Chief of Police
Council Member Romney	Sean Boutz, City Attorney
Council Member Schuler (absent)	Jessica Platt, Admin. Services Manager
Council Member Beckett	Eleanor Folsom, Accounting Technician
Council Member Langford	

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

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Council Member Langford moved to amend the agenda by removing Item 13, Resolution 11-148, a regarding adoption of Spokane County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Council Member Romney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Steve Peterson, 719 N. Lancashire, Liberty Lake, WA: commented about Ronda Jo Emerson, who was the co-owner of the Otis Grill. Sadly, Ms. Emerson died this past weekend in a snowmobile accident. Mr. Peterson suggested that if the restaurant stays open, the public should continue to support it and help out Ms. Emerson's family.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEWEST CITY EMPLOYEE:** Administrative Services Manager, Jessica Platt, introduced the newest member of the City's team, Eleanor Folsom. Ms. Folsom is the new Accounting Technician. Ms. Folsom has over 10 years' of accounting experience. Council members extended their welcome to Ms. Folsom.

**PRESENTATION:** Ms. Lisa Jameson, Emergency Management Program Administrator, conducted a presentation on the regional Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Ms. Jameson reported she has worked with local responders for over a year creating the Plan. She then reviewed the basic plan, reviewed agency involvement, talked about identification of hazards, and touched briefly on the Continuity of Operations Plan.

**WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:** A workshop discussion was then held regarding mowers. Information was provided in the City Council packets in an effort to continue dialogue, which stemmed from recent budget discussions. City staff recommended making the investment in a mower this year to be able to continue the maintenance needs in all of the city's parks and open space. The age of existing equipment as well as the additional acreage are major reasons for the need for the mower. Staff recommended the purchase of a Toro Groundmaster 4000-D because of its known longevity and versatility. No action was taken.

## **MAYOR / CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Community Development Committee (CDC): Council Member Langford reported the CDC met and discussed signage issues within the city. Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for consideration. The committee will also ask the Planning Commission to consider making recommendations regarding "man" signs (individuals on the streets twirling signs). Additionally, the committee discussed placement of political signs throughout the city.

Finance Committee: Mayor Pro Tem Crump reported the Finance Committee met and reviewed vouchers. The committee reviewed fourth quarter and year-end financial reports. Between 2008 and 2010, sales tax revenue has declined 22%. The committee discussed the uses for real estate excise tax (REET) funds vs. capital funds and general funds. Councilman Beckett addressed the concern about the council's recent decision to move forward with beginning construction for the arboretum during a time when the city is facing financial challenges, thus resulting in an imposed utility tax. He clarified that designated, restricted funds will be used to build the arboretum and emphasized that neither general fund dollars nor incoming revenues from the utility tax will be used

to pay for the arboretum. Councilman Beckett asserted the council remains extremely mindful of the impact the utility tax has on the community, and affirmed the council will revisit this issue in the future. Council Member Romney commented the economy remains sluggish and cautioned fiscal responsibility and conservatism are still warranted. On a positive note, Jessica Platt, Administrative Services Manager, reported the city saw its first quarterly increase in sales tax revenue in over two years at 6%, but said the city continues to remain conservative in budget estimates and projections.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump reported, he, Director Doug Smith, Councilmen Beckett and Romney, and Mayor Van Orman attended a region-wide meeting regarding health care coordination. He said the state will be implementing a new health care plan in 2014, and this meeting was held to see whether there would be multi-county interest in providing its proposal for a plan to the State of Washington. He stated this was a good first step, but many more discussions are needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump then shifted the conversation toward the Salary Commission and the Spokane Regional Health District. He said last year's Salary Commission recommendations to raise elected officials' salaries were not accepted due to procedural error. He reminded everyone, however, the Salary Commission remains in existence and will continue to meet annually. He asked council members to think about whether they have any input to give to the Salary Commission.

He reported several new members comprise the board for the Spokane Regional Health District and many are regionally elected officials. Mayor Pro Tem Crump reported several jurisdictions have drafted a resolution to address how e-cigarettes are sold to minors and the effect the electronic cigarettes have on juveniles. He said City of Liberty Lake representatives are also looking into supporting a similar resolution, which will be coming forward to the council soon.

Mayor Van Orman reported about her attendance at the Council of Governments meeting. Discussions regarding upcoming ballot topics were addressed, such as animal control and a new jail facility. She thanked Mr. Peterson for mentioning the loss of Ms. Emerson. She also reported about the passing of another community member, Mr. Gene LaLiberte, and said both will be missed very much. Mayor Van Orman talked about the Youth Commission's meeting, where planning is underway for the All Fools Hunt. She said planning is also underway for the community Easter egg hunt. Mayor Van Orman reported interviews for Planning Commissioners will be held this and next week. Eight applications have been received for the four vacant seats. A request to confirm members will be brought before the City Council at their next meeting. Additionally, Mayor Van Orman reported she met with the Lodging Tax Advisory Board today and their recommendations will also come before the council during the next meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Council Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve Agenda Action Items A and B. Action Item A was the Consent Agenda, which included approval of the City Council Minutes from February 15, 2011 and approval of checks through March 1, 2011 in the amount of \$38,841.45. Action Item B was for approval an Agreement for Services with Dance Class. Council Member Kaminskas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Total check sequences were 13731 through 13770, totaling \$38,841.45.

## **FIRST READ ORDINANCE**

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 191 into the record, an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Amending the City Development Code and the River District Specific Area Plan Overlay (RDSAP) SAP-08-0001 for 2010.

## **UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS**

In an effort to continue enhancing dialogue with local business leaders, Mayor Van Orman proposed that council members hold a standing meeting to gather with local business leaders, possibly the 4<sup>th</sup> week of every month. Councilman Beckett suggested a two-month trial basis to get a sense of participation levels. After brief discussion, Mayor Van Orman established the fourth Friday of each month to meet. She committed to setting a meeting space and time, as well as informing the council and the public of both.

## **CITIZEN COMMENT**

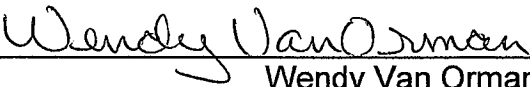
Steve Peterson, 719 N. Lancashire Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: spoke against the Salary Commission and suggested any deliberations around salaries should be centered around elected officials duties. Mr. Peterson spoke about e-cigarettes. He said he has spent the last 20 years working around pulmonologists and commented, "nothing good comes from cigarettes" no matter in what form, vapor, cigar, etc. He asked the City Council to immediately reach out to the other cities that have resolved against e-cigarettes. He said it shows leadership. Finally, he talked about the city's attempt to be more business friendly. He spoke about the importance of local government leaders reaching out to business leaders to address laws that may have an effect on them, such as the utility tax and signage Ordinances. He suggested council members also be certain they understand local business issues so they are informed when making such decisions affecting the business community.

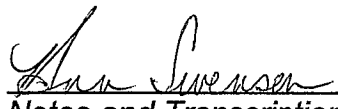
Steve Skipworth, spoke on behalf of the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District: He reported the District will be impacted this year by about \$17,000 because of the 6% utility tax. He said he believes the District can absorb the cost this year, but probably only this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned 8:37 p.m.

These minutes are approved on March 15, 2011.

  
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Wendy Van Orman, Mayor  
City of Liberty Lake

  
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*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.*