

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
22710 E COUNTRY VISTA DRIVE
7:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION

Given by Council Member Jenkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Van Orman, City Council, and Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Jenkins
Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs (absent)
Council Members Owens
Council Member Crump
Council Member Schuler (absent)
Council Member Olander
Council Member Langford

Doug Smith, Dir. of Community Dev.
Ann Swenson, Deputy City Clerk
Brian Asmus, Chief of Police
Sean Boutz, City Attorney (absent)
Andrew Staples, City Engineer

Council Member Crump moved to excuse Council Member Susan Schuler, as she is traveling out of the country for business. Council Member Langford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Council Member Jenkins moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Council Member Crump. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Member Crump moved to approve the City Council Minutes from March 3, 2009, seconded by Council Member Owens. Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Deputy Chief Larry Rider from the Spokane Valley Fire Department (SVFD) introduced the Department's new Deputy Chief, Andy Hale. Deputy Chief Rider said the post has been vacant for 18 months. Prior to joining the SVFD March 1st, Deputy Chief Hale

served in Redmond for 30 years. Deputy Chief Hale said it is a pleasure to be a part of the community. Mayor Van Orman and the City Council Members then took turns welcoming the new Deputy Chief.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Crump gave a Finance Committee report. Discussion included the need to review fees, usage, and reservations in conjunction with the City's growth. He said the Finance Committee will be bringing forth recommendations to the City Council for discussion and action. Council Member Owens added that a cost adjustment for Trailhead Golf Course is expected.

Council Member Jenkins gave a Community Development report. The Committee is currently reviewing the LIFT and TIF progress. He said more will be reported at the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Van Orman said regional transportation issues are still ongoing and most of the output from those discussions will be formalized in June, 2009. She reminded everyone that STCU will be at City Hall at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 19th, to provide a financial seminar. Mayor Van Orman said she attended a town hall meeting on March 14th, at CenterPlace in Spokane Valley. State Senator Bob McCaslin, Representative Larry Crouse, and Representative Matt Shea, were there to address the residents' concerns. She said Representative Crouse will be in Liberty Lake on March 21st at 10:30 a.m.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Van Orman read the Proclamation of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, declaring the month of March, 2009 as "National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month". Alzheimer's Association President of the Board, Pat Johnson, then approached the Mayor and City Council and gave a brief overview of the Alzheimer's Association, people affected by Alzheimer's, and upcoming fundraisers to help families facing this debilitating disease. Ms. Johnson thanked the Mayor and City Council Members for their support.

ACTION ITEMS

Council Member Crump moved to accept the Consent Agenda, which included vouchers totaling \$178,530.02, seconded by Council Member Jenkins. Motion passed unanimously. Check number sequences were 10838 through 10896.

Council Member Crump moved to accept Change Order No. 022, seconded by Council Member Owens. The Change Order represents a less than 1% overage in the final construction dollar amount for the Public Safety Building Remodel. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crump made a motion to consider the Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Liberty Lake and HiTechnique, LLC, seconded by Council Member Jenkins.

Community Development Director, Doug Smith, then gave some background regarding the requests received for IT services. After interviewing four out of seven interested parties who submitted a Request for Qualification, it is staff's recommendation to award the Agreement to HiTechnique. Mr. Smith said the Agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney.

Council Member Crump then moved to accept the RFQ submitted by HiTechnique, LLC and to enable Mayor Van Orman to enter into the Agreement for Professional Services with them. Council Member Olander seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE

Ann Swenson, Deputy City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 175 into the record, approving and adopting bylaws for the City of Liberty Lake Planning Commission.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

Street Cut Policy:

City Engineer, Andrew Staples, informed the Mayor and City Council that the City received a copy of the regional pavement cut policy from Spokane County and Avista, as they wish to establish a regional pavement cut policy. The policy would manage expectations for entities proposing to perform work on pavement or utilities under the pavement. A brief discussion was held regarding City vs. County standards, engaging the Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District for its input, and inspection of work being performed in a public right of way.

UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Olander asked for clarification regarding the proposed bylaws for the Planning Commission. Director Smith said the proposed amended bylaws do not supersede the original Ordinance and that the intent is to complement it by better clarifying the function and roles of the Planning Commission. Council Member Olander suggested adding a severability section to the proposed amended bylaws which would grant precedence to Ordinance 75 in the case of any conflict(s).

In other unfinished business, Council Member Langford said, during the Public Safety Committee meeting, a discussion was held about a federal grant that is coming down the pike, and he asked Chief Asmus to provide an update. Police Chief Brian Asmus reported through the federal stimulus package, the US Department of Justice is offering grant monies to provide funding directly to law enforcement agencies to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. He said the grant would provide 100% funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for three years for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions, with the caveat that the City fully fund the fourth year for an officer's salary and benefits. Chief Asmus said the application deadline for the grant is April 14th and asked the Council for approval to apply for two new officer positions.

Discussion was then undertaken regarding the benefits to the City of hiring two additional officers, strategic planning, the hiring of lateral police officers, as well as City budget constraints and the cost-savings opportunity provided by the federal grant.

Council Member Owens cautioned that should the City gain additional officers through the federal grant and then be required to pay for their salaries and benefits in four years, the current fleet of patrol cars would have to suffice; no new patrol cars would be purchased, thus bringing the total number of shared vehicles to four.

Council Members Crump, Langford, and Olander spoke in favor of the LLPD applying for federal grant funding. Council Member Langford requested additional budget information for costs of service for two additional officers, and Council Member Olander requested Chief Asmus to provide subsequent data outlining population-to-police ratios.

On a different subject, Police Chief Asmus reported the Liberty Lake Police Department has fully moved into its new building and is 100% operational. He said an opening ceremony with ribbon cutting is scheduled in conjunction with Law Enforcement Memorial Day, May 15th, at 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Van Orman said the Liberty Lake Municipal Library will also conduct its grand opening April 4th at 10:30 a.m.

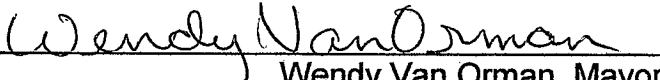
CITIZEN COMMENTS

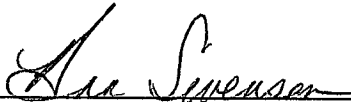
Nancy Holmes, representing Avista Utilities, said to better improve efficiencies regarding pavement cut policies, Spokane County, City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, and entities such as QWEST and Comcast meet annually at the end of construction season to evaluate the policies. She said since this is working so well, Avista would like to extend opportunity to other jurisdictions, including the City of Liberty Lake.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at p.m. 7:55 p.m.

These minutes are approved on April 7, 2009


Wendy Van Orman, Mayor
City of Liberty Lake



Notes and Transcription by Ann Swenson, Deputy City Clerk. This Council meeting was also audio taped. Anyone desiring to listen to the recording may contact the City Clerk