

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2010  
CITY HALL  
22710 E. COUNTRY VISTA DRIVE  
7:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION**

Given by Mayor Van Orman.

**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 Kaminskis (absent) | Doug Smith, Comm. Dev Director        |
| Council Member Owens (absent)     | Brian Asmus, Chief of Police          |
| Council Member Romney             | Sean Boutz, City Attorney             |
| Council Member Schuler            | Andrew Staples, City Engineer         |
| Council Member Beckett            | Troy Mullenix, Recreation Coordinator |
| Council Member Langford           |                                       |

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

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Council Member Beckett. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Shanna Hale 121 N. Lindeblad Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: questioned why the workshop discussion regarding Lakeside /Valleyway improvement had been removed from the agenda. Mayor Van Orman replied that discussions had been suspended because the developer was waiting for the return of his attorney, so there is no further information

available at this time. Another ad hoc committee meeting will be held June 4<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

Scott Tate, 1739 N. Winrock Street, Liberty Lake, WA: again spoke about the safety in the area of Rocky Hill Park on Winrock Street. Mr. Tate had spoken before the council a few months ago regarding the same topic and presented this evening to follow up. He thanked City representatives for erecting speed limit signs in the area. He commented that the signs, however, aren't visible soon enough and requested they be moved for better visibility. He also inquired about the status of painting the street crossing. Mayor Van Orman said it's a matter of waiting on the rain to subside and crews are waiting for good weather. Mr. Tate stated he is trying to generate information about getting patrols out in the area and has been in touch with both the Liberty Lake Police Department and S.C.O.P.E. He also suggested installation of speed humps would "pretty much solve the problem". Mayor Van Orman said his suggestion will be referred to staff and, if needed, referred to the Public Safety Committee.

At 7:11 p.m., Councilman Romney arrived to the meeting.

## **WORKSHOP DISCUSSION**

HUB Sports Center: Mayor Van Orman introduced Mr. Phil Champlin, Executive Director, Hub Sports Center. Mr. Champlin talked about the current state of affairs for the Hub. He said the Hub has gained quite a bit of momentum in the seven months he has been there. He talked about the facility's capability to house multiple events, and discussed the budget. He said they can cover their operating expenses with their revenues, but cannot pay off the building. He said the City's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee awarded a \$30,000 grant for the Hub and asked whether the funding can be used for operations. He acknowledged the Hub received its 503c status in May and grant funding might be an option to help cover debt services. Regarding the sports center, he stated, "It is an asset to the community and it needs to stay here as a sports facility, not go dark and not become a warehouse."

Mr. Champlin then entertained questions from council members. He said the asking price for the building and surrounding acreage is \$4 million, but they would like \$5 million in order to set up an operating capital reserve. He talked about the challenge of scheduling commitments with major user groups because of the uncertainty of the building's future. In closing, he said "The bottom line is, by the end of this month we will be out of funds unless there are some significant events that book in June."

Mayor Van Orman then introduced Mr. Eric Sawyer, President & CEO, Spokane Regional Sports Commission. Mr. Sawyer said tonight's ask is for a commitment from the City Council to begin a process of investigating what the viability is for the purchase of the Hub and whether or not it should be a publicly-owned facility. He spoke about a study that was conducted by the Sports Commission to find out what type of gym space was available in Spokane County. The study revealed a deficit of 31 courts within the county and concluded the answer to the gym-space need was for a series of networked

hubs throughout the region. He spoke about the annual economic impact of between \$700,000 to \$1.5 million that the Hub can generate as well as the deterrent to juvenile crimes it can provide. He posed questions regarding short and long term challenges, "In the short-term crisis, can the City help solve solutions to keep the facility moving? Is there a long-term answer for how it can be financed for generations to come?"

Mr. Sawyer then answer questions from the council. Mayor Van Orman advised that, should the decision be made to purchase the facility, the deadline to submit this issue for the November ballot is the first part of August.

Mayor Van Orman invited Mr. Dave Pier, also from the Sports Commission, to comment. Mr. Pier agreed with Mr. Sawyer and said at the least, a conversation for guidance is necessary to determine whether there should be an ask of the voters, whether the City of Liberty Lake wants to partner with another community, and/or whether this is even something viable.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump said he appreciates and supports the ask. He said, "Financially, times are difficult, but part of the Council's mandate is to look forward for years and times to come." Council Member Schuler expressed concern that the City of Liberty Lake would solely bear the burden. She questioned how the City can make the Hub profitable when multiple attempts have already been made to do so and have failed. Council Member Langford also expressed concern that the bottom line is for the City to spend money on the issue. He commented that knowing what the City's financial forecasts are he was "a little amazed" that the City would consider taking on a multimillion dollar project, or even a million, just for the City's share.

After further discussions, Mayor Pro Tem Crump and Council Members Beckett and Romney each volunteered to serve as representatives of Liberty Lake to form a committee to conduct the feasibility study regarding the Hub.

Community Development Director, Doug Smith, provided a presentation to the Mayor and Council which he had originally given to the stakeholders during prior discussions about the Hub. The presentation took into account revenue scenarios for just the City of Liberty Lake as well as the City of Liberty Lake in conjunction with the City of Spokane Valley.

Mayor Van Orman also talked about her inclusion of information in the Council packets regarding a municipal parks district as a possible option. She said the proposal would be in the range of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which is the same percentage currently being collected for the Liberty Lake library. Approximately \$550,000 could be raised to alleviate some of the burden from the City's general fund.

Mr. Sawyer thanked the Mayor and members of the council for moving forward with the Hub discussions.

Update on Six-Year Street Plan: City Engineer, Andrew Staples, provided the Mayor and Council Members an update on the City's six-year transportation improvement plan. Staff is proposing to keep the same projects that the Council passed last year for next year's update, which would be from 2011 through 2016. He stated there is no anticipated change in cost estimates for the projects. The plan will be put out for public notice in the next few weeks. The Comprehensive Transportation Program meets the City's annual obligation to participate in the regional process and the project list sets the stage for outside funding.

Update on Recreation Services: Recreation Coordinator, Troy Mullenix, provided an update to the Mayor and Council Members about the City's recreation programs and events. He reviewed new programs, partnerships, and current programming. He also provided an annual comparison to last year. Program registration has nearly doubled since 2009.

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

Community Development Committee (CDC): Council Member Romney provided a Community Development update. The committee met May 25<sup>th</sup> and discussed the recent sale of the Agilent property, TIF/LIFT strategies and need for further development, and an urban growth update. The committee initiated discussions regarding the Parks and Open Space Plan. They will be reviewing the Plan and in the future will provide the full Council with their recommendations. TierPoint, Legacy Ridge, the Cronk Sewer Project, and Rocky Hill Park were also discussed. Council Member Schuler requested that the CDC keep the signage issue a priority. She said she continues to hear from local business owners that the wayfinding signage program is still a concern to them, and they are asking if there is a way for them to purchase variances for additional signage on their buildings.

Finance Committee: Mayor Pro Tem Crump reported the committee discussed vouchers, City services, costs, prices, potential revenue sources, the long-range outlook for the City, reliance on sales and property taxes, the downturn in the national economy, and the need for more time for budget preparation. He said at some point in the future City revenue will be surpassed by City expenditure and the committee is looking at short-term and long-term outlooks. City staff provided the committee with the requested budget timeline information. Council Member Langford clarified the committee's discussion on revenue streams. He commented this council and the prior council have concentrated on two revenue streams, which are property taxes and sales taxes. Both of those revenue streams are going down, however, the expectations for City services remain the same. He said the committee is looking at other revenue streams that are in some form of taxes and that the City needs input from its people. Council Member Beckett added that "just because things were approved for at a prior time in the budget, doesn't necessarily mean it is a green light to spend." Mayor Pro Tem Crump commented the committee is really doing its due diligence with the budget cycle for this and next year. Mayor Van Orman also claimed within the next 18 months the City may have to dip into its reserve funds.

Mayor Van Orman reported she recently learned that the Washington State Department of Transportation will undertake the Interstate Justification Report, which should be completed within 12-18 months. It is currently anticipated that no monetary contribution is necessary from the City for the study. She reported Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) has put together a visioning team to review all modes of transportation and their finished product is anticipated in the fall. Mayor Van Orman also talked about a Father-of-the-Year letter writing campaign for the Father's Day centennial celebration and the upcoming green home show in River District.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump spoke as the small cities representative of the Spokane Regional Health District. District discussions have included helmet safety awareness and the high risk to children who don't wear a helmets for any wheeled sport as well as the issue of obesity and its huge financial cost.

Council Member Schuler followed up on a commitment by Council Members to monitor the skate park. She said she stops by the skate park periodically to remind the skaters of the park rules. She said participants have been respectful in their responses.

Council Member Beckett reported about his, Mayor Van Orman's, and Director Smith's tour of the Geiger Correctional Facility. He said they received quite a bit of candid feedback from officers about whether or not the facility should open or close. Geiger is currently under utilized. There is a 900-person capacity for both the jail and Geiger, and currently only 126 beds are occupied.

Public Safety Committee: There was no report from this committee.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Consent Agenda: Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2010, seconded by Council Member Romney. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve checks through June 1, 2010 in the amount of \$553,849.42, seconded by Council Member Schuler. Discussion was then held regarding Check 12776 in the amount of \$6,000 payable to Greater Spokane Inc. (GSI). The Council would like GSI to present a better case for what benefit and/or impact Liberty Lake is receiving for the money. Council Member Beckett moved to remove check 12776 in the amount of \$6,000 payable to GSI from approval of checks through June 1, 2010. Council Member Romney seconded the motion. Discussion about the City's partnership with GSI and the question of how the annual amount of \$12,000 to support GSI benefits Liberty Lake continued. Mayor Van Orman then called for the vote on the latter motion. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Schuler made a friendly amendment to Mayor Pro Tem Crump's original motion to reflect the correct dollar amount for total checks from \$553,849.42 to \$547,849.42. Mayor Pro Tem Crump accepted the friendly amendment and Mayor Van Orman called for vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Manual checks were 12761, totaling \$500, and 12762, totaling \$134,802, and check sequences were 12763 through 12775, totaling \$150,739.49, and 12777 through 12813, totaling \$49,572.31. Payroll check sequences were: 6109 through 6128, totaling \$212,235.62.

Mayor Van Orman said she will get in touch with GSI to invite a representative to conduct another presentation to the Council that is specific solely to Liberty Lake.

**Acceptance of Bid for Liberty Lake Police Department Solar Installation Project:**

City Engineer, Andrew Staples, explained why only one bid was received for the project. He said several installers did not have the qualifications and/or experience for this type of extensive system installation because it is fairly new to this region. He assured the Council the specifications were not written to exclude any potential bidders. He recommended that the Council approve the base bid without Alternate A for the fence and gate because grant funds only cover the solar installation. Council Member Langford moved to accept the base bid, excluding Alternate A, of \$123,763 for installation of solar panels and battery backup at the Liberty Lake Police Department, seconded by Council Member Romney. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agreement for Services – Rick Turner dba Extreme Science:** Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into the Agreement for Services with Rick Turner dba Extreme Science, seconded by Council Member Schuler. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE FIRST READ**

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 77A into the record, an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington Amending Ordinance No. 77 and Adopting by Reference Spokane County Ordinance No. 99 0690 Entitled, "Spokane County Commute Trip Reduction Ordinance and Providing for Other Matters Properly Relating Thereto".

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 182 into the record, an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Amending the City of Liberty Lake, Municipal Code Title 9 Relating to Building Regulations; Adopting the 2009 State Building Code; Repealing Ordinances in Conflict; Establishing Penalties for Non-Compliance; Establishing an Appeal Body; and Providing for Severability and Effective Date.

Mayor Van Orman read Ordinance No. 183 into the record, an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Adopting the 2010 - 2016 Capital Facilities Plan.

**UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Schuler asked Council Member Beckett to briefly address an email he had sent about holding another open forum meeting. Councilman Beckett said he has not set a date yet to hold his next forum, but had committed to the residents at his last

forum that he would hold another one this summer. He said he did not want to create anxiety amongst the Council and cause the frustration that was experienced earlier in the year; that he simply wants to follow through with the prior commitment he had made. He expressed willingness to pursue open forums with the full council and said he hoped this would encourage the Council to do so. After a brief discussion, it was determined that establishing dates to hold additional open forums would be placed as a workshop discussion on the next City Council agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump inquired whether anything was learned because of the recent heavy downpour of rain in the City considering it was a record-setting event. Director Smith affirmed that continued preventative maintenance is the key. Keeping the drains clean, drywells clear, and other routine maintenance helps in severe weather conditions. He did state Country Vista is a challenge, but commended the street crew for doing a great job in getting out there with their warning devices.


Council Member Schuler asked staff to give kudos to the crew who is working on the open space and maintenance. She noticed the greener lawns because of the fertilizing and proactive maintenance of sprinklers.


Finally, Council Member Beckett requested a status update on business activity at Trailhead.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

These minutes are approved on June 15, 2010.

  
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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.*