

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 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 announced the Partners Advancing Character Education (PACE) trait for June, which is "Integrity".

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

City Council Members:

Mayor Pro Tem Crump  
Council Member Owens  
Council Member Langford  
Council Member Schuler  
Council Member Romney (absent)  
Council Member Beckett (via teleconference)  
Council Member Kaminskas (via teleconference)

City Staff:

Eleanor Folsom, Accounting Technician  
Doug Smith, Community Development Director  
Sean Boutz, City Attorney

Council Member Owens moved to excuse Council Member Romney, seconded by Council Member Langford. Motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mary Munger, 104 Lindeblad Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: wanted to clarify some misinformation given at the last City Council meeting about putting a choice of form of

government on the ballot. She said, according to the Elections office, the correct number of signatures to be collected for the initiative to go on the ballot is over 200. The cost for the initiative to go on ballot is \$400 and an added \$200 if signatures have to be verified. The petitions need to be turned into the elections office, preferably early July. She thanked the Mayor and Council Members for their hard work and dedication to the city. Also, she has found research that shows a manager/council form of government is the best form of government.

Ron Ragge, 116 N Lindeblad Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: Thanked the Mayor, Council Members and staff on the progress of the city's sidewalk. Mr. Ragge spoke in support of city manager/council form of government. Mr. Ragge also suggested the workshop item for the downtown corridor be revisited at the next council meeting, since it was Council Member Romney who brought up the subject at the last meeting and is currently absent.

Council Member Owens read an email from Kathy Ellis, 1202 N Winchester Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: Ms. Ellis referred to the May 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Splash newspaper regarding invocation. Ms. Ellis mentioned that council meetings from different cities start with a non denominational invocation. Ms. Ellis also referred to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision stating that all city council meeting invocations should be non- denominational. And it is her belief that starting meetings with non denominational invocations would address the City Council's concerns about the rights of the minority of religious groups and eliminate the risk of volunteers giving invocations that might be offensive to some.

## **PRESENTATION**

Ms. Ericka Taylor, Project Coordinator for Community Land Trust, proceeded to explain the basics of the Community Land Trust program as an alternative form of affordable housing and ownership. Homeowners would own the structure (house) and the land is held in a trust by a nonprofit organization. Mr. Chris Venne, Board Chair for Community Land Trust said the resale of a Community Land Trust house would remain at regular market rate, helping the house to remain affordable to the next homeowner.

Council Member Owens asked about the equity vested in the house. Mr. Venne said appraisals on the house are done before and after the sale/purchase and homeowners get 25% of the equity on the sale of the house. The remaining 75% of the equity stays in the program to propel affordable housing to the next buyer. He also mentioned that the foreclosure rate on Community Land Trust houses is 1/5 of the national average.

Council Member Langford asked who is responsible for paying property taxes. Mr. Venne stated that in the state of Washington the owner is responsible for the payment of property taxes. Council Member Langford asked if the structures are all multi housing units. Mr. Venne stated there are both multi-housing and single houses.

City Attorney Boutz asked how the Community Trust Land obtains the funds to purchase the land. Mr. Venne explained it is obtained through different methods such as affordable housing programs i.e. HUD, donations from private entities, and through grants.

Mayor Van Orman thanked Ms. Taylor and Mr. Venne for the presentation.

Council Member Owens mentioned there is a substantial reduction on the interlibrary loans on the library report and requested for the next city council meeting the cost breakdown for the interlibrary loans. Mayor Van Orman will ask Ms. Mogen to give a rendition at the next city council meeting.

## **WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS**

Mayor Van Orman introduced Mr. Doug Smith, Community & Development Director for the City of Liberty Lake.

Mr. Smith proceeded to address the Liberty Lake Central Business District (CBD). In September 2003, the city adopted the community comprehensive plan, along with the goals and policies for the community and delineating where the city would go socially, physically, and economically over the next 20 years. Currently, the Central Business District would like to establish high intensity uses in downtown Liberty Lake while maintaining a pedestrian-friendly-oriented environment. The goal established for the Central Business District, was to identify alternative transportation linkages that supports the city's identity.

Council Member Owens asked what are the funding options available for the Central Business Plan. Mr. Smith responded there are T.I.B (Transportation Improvement Board) funds, as well possible funds from the private sector.

Council Member Langford asked if there is a proposal to divert traffic to avoid the downtown area if the lanes are reduced to two lanes. Mr. Smith gave various examples of routes to reach different destinations.

Mayor Van Orman invited citizen's comments.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Rob Ragge said if Liberty Lake Road is reduced to two lanes, it will hurt that area with reducing the flow of traffic and potentially reducing business. Mr. Smith responded the reduction of lanes would not be implemented without additional interchanges.

Spokane Valley Fire Department personnel commented on the need for the Fire Department to be part of the Central Business District's comprehensive plan in order to plan for the ability to build fire stations and maintain the goals of the comprehensive code.

Mary Munger asked if Liberty Lake will eliminate the national business chains, if the CBD comprehensive plan went forth. Mr. Smith replied that the established businesses would most likely remain.

## **MAYOR / CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Crump said the Finance Committee had a question on a couple of vouchers and they were successfully answered. Other topics discussed were personnel, arboretum, open positions, grants, and improvement additions to City Halls' parking lot. The Spokane Regional Health District has a board meeting next Thursday.

Council Member Owens said there was a public safety meeting this evening and things are going well. Hiring process is going well and the LLPD should have new officers soon. There were no problems reported during the Liberty Lake yard sale. Currently, LLPD is working on 4<sup>th</sup> of July preparations as well as the Valleygirl triathlon. Council Member Owens reminded citizens to be aware of the golf cart Ordinance and that laws are being enforced. She reminded citizens golf carts should be on trails and not on the road unless they are licensed and the driver has a driver's license.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump thanked the police department for monitoring the city's and city parks parking lots. He appreciates citizens being diverted from no parking zones, especially when they are parked on grass areas.

Mayor Van Orman commented that Chief Asmus did a great job with the Too Good for Drugs award at Liberty Lake Elementary end of school year assembly. Also, during the assembly, Mayor Van Orman recognized retiring Principal Uphus and Head Secretary Ressa for their hard work and dedication.

Mayor Van Orman has first grader's letters that will be placed inside a time capsule on the celebration of the city's 10 year anniversary celebration. "If we can do half of what they want to do in 10 years, we're going to be looking good" (as a city), she commented. Last week, Mayor Van Orman attended Greater Spokane Incorporated/Liberty Lake advisory group business meeting. Washington D.O.T. options for the interchange were discussed at this meeting. There was a Lodging Tax meeting and several entities were in attendance to discuss increasing tourism in Liberty Lake. The Spokane Regional Transportation Committee has three top candidates for the new position of Executive Director and the final candidate should be selected by July 14, 2011.

Mayor Van Orman called for recess at 8:20 p.m. The meeting was brought back to order at 8:30 p.m.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve Agenda Items 10a and 10b, seconded by Council Member Langford. Item 10a was approval of the City Council Minutes from

May 23, 2011, June 1, 2011 and June 7, 2011. Item 10b was approval of the vouchers for June 21, 2011 in the amount of \$56,666.80. Check sequences were: check number 14181 in the amount of \$9,463.35; check series 14182 through 14236 totaling \$43,343.50 and EFT in the amount of \$3,859.95.

Action Item 10c Invocation / Amending Liberty Lake City Council Rules of Procedure, Section 4.1

Mayor Pro Tem Crump read his motion as follows: A motion that the practice of an invocation continue before each city council meeting. And that the city solicits on its webpage interested parties to sign up for an opportunity and a date to offer an invocation in a city council meeting. Council Member Schuler seconded the motion.

Mayor Van Orman opened the motion for discussion.

Council Member Schuler asked who would be responsible for reviewing the prayers and deciding what is correct or acceptable? Mayor Pro Tem Crump responded the motion did not call for invocations to be screened.

Council Member Langford asked why should there be a regulatory process on invocation when it has functioned thus far without. Mayor Pro Temp Crump responded, the purpose of the motion is not to regulate the invocation. It is to allow citizens, in addition to the mayor and council members, to offer an invocation.

Council Member Kaminskis joined the meeting through teleconference at 8:41 p.m.

Council Member Owens also, does not see the need to regulate invocation. Her preference would be a non-denominational invocation. Council Member Owens does not have objections if someone wants to ask to give the invocation, but does not agree with a sign up for the invocation.

Council Member Schuler mentioned there have been some changes made with regards to invocation. There have been moments of silence and council members who do not participate in offering an invocation. And it should continue to stay the same.

Council Member Langford expressed concern about regulating invocation and where that may lead. He cautioned that regulating invocation could open doors for objections to other controversial issues, such as banning the Pledge of Allegiance, and spoke against it. He strongly urged the council members to do the right thing and vote in opposition to the motion.

Mayor Van Orman reread the motion on the floor for voting: the practice of an invocation continue before each city council meeting and the city solicit on its webpage, interested parties to sign up for an opportunity and a date to offer an invocation at a city council meeting. This would be done on a quarterly basis, by members of the public contacting City Hall. The open period would be for two weeks before the start of each

quarter. At that time, the sign up time would be closed, for that quarter. The invocation would be directed to two minutes or less in length and not contain derogatory remarks. If any remaining dates exist, those would be filled by members of the city council or mayor. In the spirit of tolerance and acceptance, all who wish to sign up and comply with the above stated motion will be accepted.

She then called for the vote. Votes were as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Crump, Council Members Beckett and Kaminskis, yay. Council Members Owens, Schuler and Langford, nay. Mayor Van Orman, nay. The motion for Invocation / Amending Liberty Lake City Council Rules of Procedure, Section 4.1 did not pass.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump then moved to accept the bid for the Valleyway project by Bacon Concrete as also recommended by City Engineer Andrew Staples. Council Member Owens seconded. The vote was unanimous.

## **RESOLUTION**

Eleanor Folsom, Accounting Technician, read Resolution 11-149 - A resolution of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Providing for the submission to the voters of the city, at a general election to be held therein on November 8, 2011 of a proposition of whether the City should adopt the council/manager form of government and abandon the council/mayor form of government; and requesting the Spokane County Auditor to include the proposition measure on the general election ballot.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve Resolution 11-149. Council Member Langford seconded.

Vote for move of Resolution 11-149: Council Members Beckett, Kaminskis, Langford, voted yay. Mayor Pro Tem Crump, Council Members Owens and Schuler, nay. Mayor Van Orman voted nay. Resolution 11-149 did not pass.

Council Member Schuler requested the city put together forums that citizens can participate in, so that residents understand both forms of government.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump responded the council just voted down the resolution and the City can put on its' website information that has already been presented in council meetings.

## **UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS**

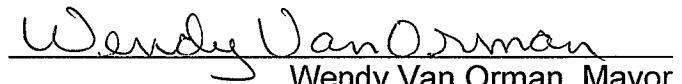
Council Member Schuler commented high school valedictorians have their speeches edited for any references to deity or spirituality. Schools and cities have outlawed the Pledge of Allegiance, and call it a progressive movement. Also, this country is based on freedom of speech and religious freedoms. She also thanked Mr. Smith for utilizing an alternative method of compliance within the development code for landscaping requirements at the Telect parking lot. There currently is a gap in our development

code that does not distinguish between giving less landscaping restrictions to parking lots that are obstructed to normal traffic flow and pedestrian patterns. By utilizing this flexibility voted in by the council in May, we were able to accommodate landscape designs that helped Telect bring in Center Partner's company, bringing in hundreds of jobs to our community.

Council Member Owens said a section to development code regarding interior parking lot codes should be considered. Also, it was reiterated at the safety committee meeting how much appreciated the fence is. A special thanks to Rudy and Council Member Schuler for making the fence affordable.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

  
Wendy Van Orman, Mayor  
City of Liberty Lake



*Notes and Transcription by Eleanor Folsom, Accounting Technician. This Council meeting was also audio taped. Anyone desiring to listen to the recording may contact the City Clerk.*