

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING / PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JULY 20, 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 7:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Ann Swenson, City Clerk
Doug Smith, Comm. Dev Director
Brian Asmus, Chief of Police
Jessica Platt, Admin Svcs Mngr
Troy Mullenix, Rec. Coordinator
Pamela Mogen, Library Director
Amanda Tainio, Planning & Building
Svcs Manager
Sean Boutz, City Atty, (absent)

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to excuse Council Members Shuler and Beckett, and City Attorney, Sean Boutz, 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.

After no citizen comments were received, Mayor Van Orman introduced Troy Mullenix, Recreation Coordinator, to introduce the city's Parks Plan.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

Parks Plan Update: Troy Mullenix, Recreation Coordinator, reviewed the 2009 update to the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Plan for the City of Liberty Lake. He talked about the purpose of the update, public involvement, how the Plan is used, and what the update contained. He then introduced Amanda Tainio, Planning & Building Services Manager, who outlined updated City statistics and current level of services vs. the projected levels of service. The Parks Plan can be found under the Planning section of the City's website.

Budget Amendment: Jessica Platt, Administrative Services Manager, gave an oral presentation regarding the need to amend the budget. She explained a budget amendment will be brought before the City Council on Tuesday, August 3, 2010. The budget amendment is being recommended to account for adjusting the beginning fund balance to reflect actual beginning fund balances as well as account for two grants that were awarded to the City.

Continuation of City Budget / Financial Forecast: Mayor Van Orman stated the Finance Committee has been working very hard on the City's financial forecast and budget scenarios. She then gave the floor to Mayor Pro Tem Crump to continue discussions about the City's budget and financial forecast.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump reported about the Council's recent special meeting/ice cream social. The preponderance of that meeting was based around finance, however, Valleyway/Lakeside improvements were also discussed. One of the questions from the public meeting was, "How do we get the information out?" Education for residents regarding the City's budget is key, but the challenge is how. Staff then reported about what the City has done over the last few years to help with the budget and implement cost savings, such as deferring the purchase of equipment and vehicles.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump commented that, between community input and Council discussions, the options to address the budget shortfall for the City came down to three ideas:

1. Continue to reduce expenses.
2. Have special events to generate more revenue.
3. Explore additional revenue sources such as implementation of a utility tax.

The council then talked about city revenue streams that are mandated by state law, asked questions about the banked amount for property taxes, and what implementation of a utility tax would net the city. Subsequently, the conversation switched to how to educate the citizens and how to get them to provide input regarding the City's estimated \$700,000 shortfall in 2011.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL / COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development Committee: Council Member Romney reported the Community Development Committee met last Tuesday. The committee talked about the Parks Plan as well as itemized topics of discussion for the next couple of months.

Finance Committee: Council Member Langford reported the Finance Committee has been meeting more often than the required bimonthly meetings in order to discuss the budget. The committee reviewed vouchers. Mayor Pro Tem added the committee discussed trust in the city and the citizenry. He talked about the historical involvement of early residents with the city, the doubling of population, and the need for council to invite the additional residents to get involved in their local government.

Public Safety Committee: Council Member Kaminskis reported the Public Safety Committee met. The ambulance service contract is now in place. Station 10 won't operate during construction of the new building, which is anticipated to be completed at the end of October. Liberty Lake fire calls are down approximately 2% from this time last year. She also announced the Liberty Lake Police Chief reported two sparkler bombs were found at Trailhead golf course, removed, and detonated. Solar panels are currently being installed at the LLPD. The committee also discussed bringing an updated golf cart Ordinance to the City Council for review, implementing a park zone/playground speed area near Rocky Hill Park, and seeking grant opportunities for safety equipment.

STAFF / AGENCY REPORT

City: Community Development Director, Doug Smith, talked about the implementation of the A-Board pilot program. There have been a number of interested businesses willing to participate in the program. The Community Development Committee (CDC) discussed putting together a steering committee to look at existing sign standards to determine whether or not there is a pressing need to reopen the code. The CDC also reviewed the work program for the year, and is already 90% of the way through it. Director Smith said the budget has been a constant conversation at City Hall. He commended the Finance Committee and staff for their efforts in these challenging financial times. Seasonal work is underway and is being completed. A follow-up meeting is scheduled next month to discuss the Black Locust trees on Sprague. City staff anticipates taking care of the immediate safety needs of that area. Good progress is being made on Phase II of Rocky Hill Park. Street striping has begun. Coordination conversations are ongoing between the City of Liberty Lake and Spokane County on weight restrictions and load limits for city streets. The six-year transportation improvement plan went out for public comment and will be coming before the council soon. Stormwater facilities are being inventoried. Solar installation at the Liberty Lake Police Department is underway. Annual amendments are making their way through the Planning Commission. The CHILL day camp summer youth program has surpassed last year's revenue as well as projected figures for the program. Liberty Lake Days will be take place July 30th and 31st. The city has been asked to work with the Home Builders Association on their built-green initiative. The city has also been working with Spokane County to identify opportunities for community outreach for domestic violence, as well as animal control services. Lastly, a meeting has been scheduled with the Association of Washington Cities to discuss reduction of employee healthcare premiums through a wellness program.

Library: Liberty Lake Municipal Library Director, Pamela Mogen, expressed her concern about a severe reduction in services due to budget constraints. She also reported the library is seeing the end of monthly double-digit increases in visits and new cards. There were approximately 27,411 checkouts this quarter, which is almost the whole collection count. Over 600 kids have signed up for the summer reading program. Council Member Owens requested that Ms. Mogen conduct a budget analysis in cutting library hours by an hour or two per week and what type of an impact that might have on patrons and the budget, and Council Member Langford asked her to provide the council with a list of cardholders that outlines which ones are city residents and which ones are not.

Public Safety: Liberty Lake Chief of Police, Brian Asmus, pointed out a correction to the Crime in Washington snapshot report; the number of civilian employees should be 3 not 13 for College Place. He stated out of approximately 20 comparable cities, Liberty Lake ranks near the end for full-time law enforcement per capita. He announced the Liberty Lake Police Department is now a National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) certified agency, which means the LLPD is reporting to the new standard that is going to be required of all agencies by 2013. Chief Asmus commended Roberta Anderson for all of her hard work in getting the LLPD NIBRS certified.

S.C.O.P.E.: Tom Lundstrom, S.C.O.P.E. President, talked about S.C.O.P.E.'s role in community service vs. actual policing. He said if it weren't for S.C.O.P.E. volunteers helping conduct patrols during events, recent bridge closures, and known problem areas, LLPD officers would have to be conducting those patrols which, in turn, would affect their budget. On a personal note, Mr. Lundstrom announced, after seven years of volunteering, he will be retiring at the end of the year.

Fire District: Spokane Valley Fire Deputy Chief, Larry Rider, did not add anything to the prior report given by Council Member Kaminskas.

Sewer & Water District: Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District Commissioner, Frank Boyle, announced the Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District will be receiving an outstanding performance award from the Department of Ecology for its treatment facility. He said building permits are way down. The District is in the process of conducting a rate study and welcomes citizen input. Increased rates are anticipated due to TMDL upgrades.

At 9:09 p.m., Mayor Van Orman called for a brief recess. She called the meeting back to order at 9:13 p.m. and introduced the City's Administrative Services Manager.

PRESENTATION

Jessica Platt, Administrative Services Manager, then conducted a 2010 second-quarter and mid-year financial presentation. General Fund revenues for mid-year 2010 totaled \$2.1 million, which is 44% of projections. Total General Fund revenues decreased by 3% from second quarter, 2009. Although 2010 retail sales tax declined by 8% compared to 2009, there has been an increase in building activity compared to last year. Second quarter expenditures totaled \$1.9 million, or 39% of the General Fund budget. Ms. Platt also provided an economic update.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda: Council Member Langford moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes from July 6, 2010, and checks through July 20, 2010 in the amount of \$230,028.74. Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. There was a manual check, number 12950, in the amount of \$541.89, and the remainder of check sequences were 12951 through 13011, totaling \$229,486.85.

ORDINANCE FIRST READ

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 184 into the record, an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington Providing for the Vacation of Colonial Road; A Public Right-of-Way and Providing for Other Matters Properly Relating Thereto.

Mayor Van Orman informed council members that because this was a public hearing, they had two choices: to suspend the Rules of Procedure and move the Ordinance to a second read, or leave it as is and move the Ordinance to a second read in August.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED VACATION OF COLONIAL ROAD IN RIVER CROSSING 3RD ADDITION

Mayor Van Orman opened the public hearing at 9:27 p.m. She invited public testimony. No public comments were received. Mayor Van Orman closed the public hearing at 9:28 p.m.

Council Member Owens moved to suspend the rule, move the first reading to second reading, and consider the Ordinance. Council Member Kaminkas seconded the motion.

The council discussed what the public interest was and that there will be no future need for a pathway to adjoining property at this location. Mayor Van Orman then opened the floor to receive citizen comments. After no comments were received, she called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Van Orman announced the August 20th State of the City address. This has been coordinated in conjunction with the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce. A charge of \$25.00 will be for breakfast. The State of the City address will be held at 6:30 a.m. at the new MeadowWood Technology facility.


CITIZEN COMMENTS

Council Member Kaminskas brought attention to the citizen comment within the City Council packet. Mayor Van Orman thanked Bob Asbury for the letter he submitted expressing concern about park usage, hours of usage, and equipment that is used at the park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

These minutes are approved on August 3, 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.