

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING / PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2010
CITY HALL
22710 E. COUNTRY VISTA DRIVE
7:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION

Given by Council Member Langford.

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 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Ann Swenson, City Clerk
Doug Smith, Comm. Dev Director
Brian Asmus, Chief of Police
Sean Boutz, City Attorney

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the Agenda. Council Member Langford suggested a friendly amendment to move Agenda Item #7, Workshop Discussion, prior to Agenda Item #13, Unfinished / New Business. Mayor Pro Tem Crump accepted the friendly amendment. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Brian Dolan, 24879 E. Ludlow Avenue, Liberty Lake, WA: expressed his concern about the work happening in Phase 2 of Rocky Hill Park. He said many people are looking from the summit down into his home. Mr. Dolan recently discovered the area is the Geocaching site in Spokane. He said he has chased several people out of the area. He asked that when the Council takes recommendations for final installation of equipment

at Rocky Hill Park that it be published in the paper so that public can attend and comment.

Mary Munger, 104 Lindeblad Lane, Liberty Lake, WA: commented on a voice mail she had received from Community Development Director, Doug Smith, stating no action was pending tonight regarding the Bella Lago Development Agreement because the developer was seeking funding and still reviewing the Agreement. She questioned the status of when the improvement would be made and whether it would be completed by the start of this academic year. Mayor Van Orman responded there are two choices; to go through with the Development Agreement or the situation reverts back to Condition 22. She said the City is continuing to work on the financing portion with the developer, but if financing falls through, it will revert back to Condition 22. City Attorney, Sean Boutz, confirmed that he has been in contact with the developer in an effort to move this forward, but has not received a definitive response yet regarding the terms of the Agreement and whether they're going to get the financing or not. Councilman Beckett requested that the City ask the developer for an equal sense of transparency as far as what expectations and timelines are. Mayor Pro Tem Crump suggested inviting the developer and their counsel to attend a council meeting to vet through the process.

Mayor Van Orman then pointed out she included three citizen comments in the Council packets. One was regarding funding for the Liberty Lake Municipal Library, the others were regarding the Black Locust trees on Sprague Avenue.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump addressed the citizen comments in the packets regarding the Black Locust trees on Sprague. Each citizen commented they do not want to see the trees cut down and they like the beauty of them. Mayor Pro Tem Crump stated this issue has a huge potential to be seriously emotional. Based on the report from the arborists, two trees are currently diseased and need to be taken down and many of the trees are rotting from the inside out, which creates both safety and aesthetic concerns. Mayor Van Orman stated the trees have existed since 1935-1940. She said in addition to removing the two fully diseased trees, the City will hazard prune about 21 trees within the City's limits. Council Member Owens commented the petitioners, the majority of whom live outside the City limits, should have also petitioned the County Commissioners.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump then addressed the citizen comment about the library and reconsideration of the budget concerning books other resource materials. Council Member Owens said the library's recent newsletter was misleading since no funding that was allocated for the library had been removed.

After a brief discussion about changing the practice of immediately purchasing books not readily available at the library, Mayor Van Orman directed the Council Members to review the information provided by the Spokane Valley Fire District regarding ambulance services. She said the District's quarterly report is slated for the next City Council meeting in July.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL / COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development Committee (CDC): Council Member Romney provided a Community Development update. The committee met with some of the community's business owners who had an interest in the City's signage ordinances. They also discussed needs and interests of the business owners. No action was taken during the meeting.

Finance Committee: Mayor Pro Tem Crump reported the committee met twice in the last two weeks. Discussions were held regarding the Black Locust trees and the budget for that, the format of this evening's financial discussion, and the 15% reserve fund. Vouchers were also reviewed.

Public Safety Committee: Council Member Kaminskas reported there has been no Public Safety Committee meeting since last report.

Mayor Van Orman provided an update about the new recyclable materials that will be accepted by solid waste management. She also reported that since Crime Check was reinstated in 2009, calls are already exceeding prior totals.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda: Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve checks through July 6, 2010 in the amount of \$275,257.63, seconded by Council Member Langford, Motion passed unanimously. Check sequences were 12874 through 12949, totaling \$45,167.47. Payroll check sequences were 6129 through 6155, totaling \$230,090.16.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2010, seconded by Council Member Owens. Motion carried unanimously.

Tourism Promotion Services Agreement – HUB Sports Center:

Mayor Van Orman said the Liberty Lake Lodging Tax Advisory board unanimously recommended \$29,500 from tourism promotion funding for the HUB Sports Center, with the stipulation that the Hub not receive more than \$6,000 per month. Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to approve the Agreement, seconded by Council Member Beckett. After discussions regarding the state statute regarding tourism promotion, the makeup of the Lodging Tax Advisory Board, the HUB's 501(c)(3) status, and how lodging tax funds are earmarked, Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion passed 5-2, with Mayor Pro Tem Crump, Council Members Beckett, Romney, Owens, and Kaminskas voting in favor; Council Members Schuler and Langford opposed.

Mayor Van Orman then introduced Ms. Robin Toth from Greater Spokane, Inc.

PRESENTATION

Robin Toth, Director of Economic Development, Greater Spokane, Inc. (GSI), conducted a presentation. She talked about workforce and economic development, marketing and communications, membership and events, and public policy. She said the City of Liberty Lake has invested \$57,086 in GSI between the years of 2002 and 2010 and in 2010 alone the Liberty Lake tax impact was \$2,301,753. She then introduced Mr. Mike Marzetta, President of Altek, who gave an overview of Altek and its partnership with Greater Spokane, Inc.

ORDINANCE SECOND READ / PUBLIC HEARING

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Ordinance No. 183 into the record, an Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Adopting the 2010 - 2016 Capital Facilities Plan. Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to adopt Ordinance No. 183, seconded by Council Member Langford.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Van Orman opened the floor for public hearing at 8:30 p.m. She introduced Community Development Director, Doug Smith, who provided history and updates regarding the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP). The Community Development Committee reviewed and accepted the majority of the Planning Commission's recommendations, making only minor modifications to the project area. The CFP was brought forth as a workshop discussion during the May 18, 2010 City Council meeting, and comes before the City Council this evening for public hearing and determination. The City has not received any comments regarding the CFP.

Citizen Comments:

Larry Rider, Spokane Valley Fire District Deputy Chief, 10319 E. Sprague, Spokane Valley, WA: questioned whether Station 3 was included in the City's Capital Facilities Plan. He said if it is not, then the Fire District needs to start initiating discussions and issues about changing the zoning of that property and/or possibly selling the property. He wants to ensure that the Fire District's & the City's plans complement one another, and he asked the City to keep the global view of each need.

After no other public comments were received, Mayor Van Orman opened the floor for council discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Crump clarified that although Station 3 was not specifically identified within the CFP, fire service is addressed within the Plan.

Mayor Van Orman closed the public hearing at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump asked what opportunities have been taken to get the notice out to the public regarding the CFP. Community Development Director, Doug Smith, responded that staff has followed the City's public participation process. The lion's share of the outreach was done through the Planning Commission process since that is

where the majority of recommendations and modifications are determined to present to the City Council.

After a brief discussion of prioritizing projects, Mayor Van Orman then called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

Ann Swenson, City Clerk, read Resolution No. 10-140 into the record, a Resolution Initiating a 12-Month Business A-Board Pilot Program.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump moved to adopt Resolution 10-140, seconded by Council Member Langford. Director Smith talked about previous attempts to address concerns from the business community regarding signage. This Resolution attempts to alleviate some of the business community's concerns for exposure and, in return, the City looks to validate what the outcomes will be by receiving quantifiable data from the businesses.

Council Member Owens spoke about the importance of wayfinding. She said she does not feel this partnership addresses that issue and expressed her disappointment that wayfinding is not being more properly addressed. Council Member Romney agreed with Council Member Owens. He said when signage was discussed at the Community Development Committee's meeting, there was a lot of frustration expressed because of the participation in the process that yielded no result.

The Council then discussed what type of data would be collected and how it would be measured, modifying the date for review of the data collected, the challenge of not becoming a billboard/footboard community, and tasking staff with providing an updated list to the Council of businesses that participate in the pilot program.

Mayor Pro Tem Crump suggested modifying Section 1. i. of the Resolution to read, "Damaged signs shall be repaired or removed immediately by the business." He also suggested monitoring the data incrementally, rather than just collecting it at the end of the test pilot program. After further discussion, it was determined to also modify Section 1.k. to read, "Registered businesses must submit the initial data at the time of application, midyear data for July, 2010 through January, 2011 by January 31, 2011, and end of year data by June 30, 2011. Additionally, Councilman Beckett requested that City staff let those businesses in code violations of A-frame signage be informed that they can participate in this pilot program.

After no further discussion, Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Council Member Owens made a friendly amendment to the original motion to include the changes as noted above to Section 1, subsections i. and k. Mayor Pro Tem Crump accepted the friendly amendment and motion carried unanimously.

At 9:18 p.m. Mayor Van Orman called for a brief recess. She reconvened the meeting at 9:22 p.m. She then introduced Mayor Pro Tem Crump to lead the city budget discussion.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

City Budget / Financial Forecast: Mayor Pro Tem Crump spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee. He said the City of Liberty Lake has enjoyed strong financial positions because both past and current administrations have cut or held costs to its citizens for the City's entire existence. He said due to the current global economic downturn, however, the City is confronted with immediate challenges. He reported the financial forecast indicates that, "we'll be upside down within a matter of months, not years." He urged council members who are not Finance Committee members to either meet with a Finance Committee member or City staff to become fully informed of the City's current economic situation so that the full council can engage in productive budget talks beginning with the next council meeting. Councilman Langford then spoke about deferred maintenance. He advised non-Finance Committee members to familiarize themselves with importance of understanding the true costs of what that means. Councilman Beckett also suggested that when the council starts looking at options and scenarios "initially, everything should be fair game" and in the process moving forward the members be open to any and every scenario. After further discussion, the council agreed to commit to continue addressing the budget situation beginning with its next City Council meeting. One hour will be dedicated for this topic during the July 20th meeting and the entire August 3rd meeting will be solely devoted to budget discussions, with the exception of other necessary business. Mayor Van Orman announced the regularly-scheduled annual National Night Out City Council meeting which is held at Pavillion Park will be cancelled this year.

At 10:01 p.m., Council Member Langford moved to extend the meeting for 15 minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Crump. Motion carried unanimously.

HUB Recommendation : Council Member Romney reported the council's ad hoc committee met on multiple occasions with members from the Hub Sports Center as well as the Spokane Regional Sports Commission to conduct a feasibility study. The committee determined the City of Liberty Lake is not in the position to solely finance the Hub, and it is not in the City's best interest to move alone and make ownership of the Hub a priority. He reported the committee decided not to take any action, but it has left the door open to the City of Spokane Valley to take the lead on moving forward with the purchase of the Hub, with the willingness to listen to anything the City of Spokane Valley may have to present. The City of Liberty Lake is no longer going to invest time/resources with moving that process forward. A request was made that the Liberty Lake City Council provide a resolution to the City of Spokane Valley that it is willing to allow that City to take the lead on this issue. Councilman Beckett added that although everyone would like to see the Hub succeed, at this point, there just isn't the data to support a partnership, nor does the City have the resources to help sustain it. Mayor Van Orman said the City of Spokane Valley was addressing this topic at its City Council meeting, but it is a hard sell because the fact is the Hub Sports Center is not within that

city's jurisdiction. She said depending on what the City of Spokane Valley determines at their meeting, a joint resolution may be requested to put this issue on the November ballot. Council Member Beckett spoke in opposition of supporting a ballot measure at this time.

Open Public Forum Meetings, July 13th & August 10th: Mayor Van Orman stated during the last City Council meeting, the July 13th and August 10th dates were discussed to possibly hold open forum meetings. She asked for confirmation of those dates. Council Members noted the dates on their calendars. A Special Meeting Notice will be published.

Due to time constrains, Mayor Pro Tem requested moving onto Citizen Comments. Mayor Van Orman concurred and opened the floor to receive Citizen Comments.

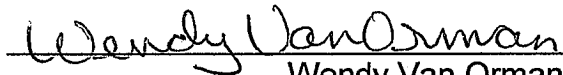
CITIZEN COMMENTS

Larry Rider, Spokane Valley Fire District (SVFD) Deputy Chief, 10319 E. Sprague, Spokane Valley, WA: spoke about the ambulance service contract. The contract establishes the rate structure and provides for contract administration. He said an ambulance ride to a downtown hospital will cost someone who's insured over \$1,000, but that's less than the City of Spokane's rates. The contract will be valid for three years and AMR will be the service provider. He said SVFD does have control over the ambulance company's operations to a certain degree and will audit their billing and time requirements for response time. Deputy Chief Rider informed the Mayor and Council that AMR's union has issued a strike notice for July 14th.


ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

These minutes are approved on July 20, 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.