

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
May 15, 2012 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Stephen Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones, Councilmembers Julie Hankins, Jeannine Roe, Steve Langer, Karen Rogers, and Jim Cooper.

OPENING

Announcements

Mayor Buxbaum noted the General Government Committee met earlier in the evening.

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Roe moved, seconded by Councilmember Langer, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Recognition of National Police Week and Recognition of Amy Stull for Receiving the Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year Award for 2011

Police Chief Ronnie Roberts recognized Amy Stull for her great work for receiving the Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year Award. He also noted this week is National Police Week and provided statistics on police assaults and the numerous risks police face every day.

Proclamation for Building Safety Month

City Manager Steve Hall read the proclamation and Building Official Tom Hill accepted on behalf of the City.

Proclamation for Bicycle Commuter Month

Councilmember Langer read the proclamation. Mr. Duncan Green of Intercity Transit accepted the proclamation and shared the history and efforts of the Bicycle Commuter contest. Mr. Lyle Tribbett, founder of this contest, thanked the Council for supporting this over the past 25 years.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Mr. Mark Kelly, 825 Dundee, stated he had previously asked some Councilmembers not to vote on the firefighters contract due to a conflict since they had accepted campaign funds. However, he noted they did vote on it. He also spoke of the Section 108 loan in the amount of \$1.8 million and said no projects were identified. He asked how this money will be spent.

Mr. Mike and Ms. Marylea Coday, 78 NE Washington, said the Police Department have engaged in a pattern of first amendment violations regarding the sit/lie ordinance and busking. He asked the Council to repeal these ordinances.

Mr. Frank Fatseas spoke of siting the Boys and Girls Club in Woodruff Park and thereby removing two tennis courts. He said these courts should be relocated elsewhere on the west side.

Mr. Jim Reeves, 522 Franklin, spoke of an increased risk of Mt. Rainier erupting.

Mr. Larry Leveen, 1417 Brawne Ave. NW, spoke of the need for safe streets for bicyclists and handed out the new Thurston County Bike Map to Councilmembers.

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Contract for Firefighters - City Attorney Tom Morrill stated that contributions to political candidates are legal as long as they are properly reported.

Section 108 Loan Program and the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) - Mayor Buxbaum said there is no connection between the Section 108 loan program application and the Smith Building. He explained the difference between the annual CDBG Program and the Section 108 loan application.

Impervious surface calculation at Woodruff Park - City Manager Steve Hall said we are not at a point in the planning to determine what this calculation is. He noted that the School District will improve the stormwater system in this area.

Busking - Community Services Manager Steve Friddle said the brochures are being worked on and Mr. Hall said a draft can be presented to Land Use & Environment Committee next week.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of May 7, 2012 City Council Meeting
- B. Approval of Community Development Block Grant Section 108 Loan Pool Application Submittal and Resolution (*Steve Friddle, CP&D*)
- C. Approval of an Interlocal Agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation for Bridge Inspection Services (*Fran Eide, Public Works*)
- D. Approval of Interlocal Contract with Houston-Galveston Area Council for Cooperative Purchasing of Heavy Equipment (*Paul Hanna, Public Works*)
- E. Boys and Girls Club Memorandum of Understanding (*Steve Hall, Exec.*)

Councilmember Langer moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones, to adopt the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Rogers pulled item 4B for discussion. Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar, minus item 4B, passed unanimously.

4B - Community Development Block Grant Section 108 Loan Pool Application Submittal and Resolution. Councilmember Rogers voiced concern about the process taken and said the program discussions should be very transparent. She asked to postpone the vote to allow time to identify any projects that are being considered.

Mayor Buxbaum said each project will have its public process; establishing the program is the first step.

Councilmember Cooper moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones, to approve the resolution authorizing staff to submit the application to the Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development to establish a Community Development Block Grant Section 108 Guarantee Loan Pool. Councilmember Rogers noted the schedule of payments begin next year. Motion passed with 6 yes votes. Councilmember Rogers recused herself from the vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Preview of New City Council Packet Process

Communications Manager Cathie Butler, and IT Services Supervisor Melynda Schmitt provided information on the new online packet process which will eventually include all Council and committee meetings, as well as a history of items. Ms. Butler also reviewed the new Agenda Item Summary which replaces the current staff report. Ms. Schmitt reviewed the online system.

Ms. Schmitt noted the new system is from this point forward and the history will build. Ms. Schmitt also shared how the RSS feed and the alert buttons work, and she said "How to" videos will be on the web for citizens.

2013 Budget Preview and Options

Mayor Buxbaum stated the Finance Committee reviewed this last week. He reviewed objectives and noted revenues are below projections.

City Manager Steve Hall reviewed the 2012 budget including personnel and service cuts. He said for the 2013 budget, the Council will need to consider revenue options and/or service cuts.

Administrative Services Director Jane Kirkemo noted there was \$1.8 million surplus last year and she is confident we will end 2012 in the black. She said she is concerned that we won't make budget in sales tax. She reviewed aspects of this year's budget, including the following:

- We are currently 5% below in development fees
- We will lose \$81,000 from liquor excise tax
- We will lose \$130,000 next year from liquor excise tax
- Cost of benefits will increase
- We will see a 5% increase in liability and property insurance costs

She reviewed the Council and voter approved revenue options.

Mayor Buxbaum reviewed the items that need to be covered at the June 5 Study Session meeting, including the following:

- B&O tax categories
- Private utility tax comparables
- A list of possible cuts
- Long term effects beyond 2013
- Effects of health care legislation
- Debt obligations
- Cost of School Resource Officer
- Other possible revenue enhancements in operations and recreation programs

Comments and discussion points included the following:

- Consider convening a citizen advisory committee to help with the budget.
- Ask voters to shift the 2% bond money for Parks to cover only operations and maintenance.
- Go out to the citizens for feedback on the budget.
- Look out more than one year
- Consider an exemption for new businesses for B & O tax
- Talk to neighborhoods: what does the City do, what would a \$2.4 million cut would look like, what are the projections, ask them what do you want/pay for?
- Important to visit low income areas to get their input.

Members of the Finance Committee agreed to meet on June 7 instead of June 12 and also agreed to meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month, instead of the second Tuesday of the month.

REPORTS AND REFERRALS

Council Intergovernmental/Committee Reports and Referrals

Councilmember Hankins reported she attended the Parking and Business Improvement Area (PBIA) meeting, and the Steering Committee of the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones reported he attended the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and the Arbor Day event on Saturday, May 12.

Councilmember Roe reported the General Government Committee met with the Chairs of Advisory Committees. She noted that during her recent visit to Spokane, she looked into their Ambassador program.

Councilmember Langer reported he attended the LOTT Board meeting.

Councilmember Rogers reported she attended the Utility Advisory Committee meeting and will take part in the firefighter training later this week.

Councilmember Cooper reported he attended the LEOFF Board meeting, the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency meeting, AWC training that included after school programs, and the Health and Human Services Planning Committee meeting. He also asked staff to clarify criteria for Public Communication and asked the Mayor to invite people who testify under Public Communications to stay for Council comments. He asked for a referral to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee to look at the use of bicycle helmets and then report back to General Government Committee. Council agreed to the referral.

Mayor Buxbaum reported he attended the Transportation Policy Board meeting, where it was agreed to reconvene the Urban Corridors Task Force. He also reported he attended the HOME Consortium meeting.

City Manager's Report and Referrals

City Manager Steve Hall reported the City has heard from the Growth Hearings Board regarding zoning of Camp Quixote.

He also stated he is happy to report that \$439,000 was received from the Port of Olympia for reimbursement of mitigation costs at West Bay Park. This money will be put back into the 2% fund for Parks.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.