

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION  
MINUTES  
June 5, 2012 6:00 pm

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

***Neighborhood Program***

Community Planning and Development Director Keith Stahley introduced this item. Associate Planner Jennifer Kenny reviewed the program and turned the meeting over to Bob Jones and Phil Schulte, members of the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Schulte presented the history, purpose, and how the neighborhoods program may better meet the needs of residents. They proposed the City enter into a Memorandum of Understanding which includes official recognition of the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations and identifies ways in which the neighborhoods have input into some City decisions.

Other neighborhood representatives seated at the table introduced themselves and spoke to their support for the Memorandum and continued positive working relationships with the City.

Council agreed to bring back the Memorandum of Understanding on a future agenda under the Consent Calendar.

***Budget - Departmental Presentations***

Mayor Buxbaum welcomed everyone and introduced this item. He asked the 14 citizens invited by Councilmembers to introduce themselves and give a brief description of the perspective they bring to the table. He also introduced Ms. Kathy Baros Friedt who will act as facilitator this evening. The citizen invitees included Laura Ware, Joe Hyer, Phil Schulte, Irene Lewis, Jim Lazar, Sam Bradley, Jeff Jaksich, Tim Rogers, Diane Robertson, Mary Corso, Gerald Pumphrey, Lori Drummond, Bob Jacobs, and Jo Gallagher.

Ms. Baros Friedt shared the ground rules and noted that the Councilmembers' role is to listen and receive input on various aspects of the budget. She will facilitate discussion of the department directors and the citizen panel.

City Manager Steve Hall stated we are entering into our fifth year of budget cutting. He reviewed the timeline for future budget discussions and noted any ballot issue the Council agrees to must go to the County Auditor by August 7 at 5:00 pm. He provided background on sales tax revenues, the number of employees, discretionary spending, capital impacts, and impacts from actions by the State.

Administrative Services Director Jane Kirkemo reviewed the Voter Approved and Council Revenue Options.

Mr. Hall noted each department was asked to provide a 5% proposed cut and a 10% proposed cut and will share the list of past cuts, efficiencies, service pressures and gaps, and programs and/or services that are at risk of being cut.

Each department director provided this information to the Council and citizens panel.

### Citizen Panel Thoughts/Ideas

- Consider Freezes and/or Reduction to Employee Salaries and Benefits
- 5% and 10% Cuts Don't Work Anymore
- All Cuts Budget Untenable
- No Good Answers
- Explore Citizen Budget Advisory Committee
- Develop a Council Strategic Direction
- Sales Tax for Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Intriguing
- Check the Accuracy of 1/10% Voter Approved Sales Tax Numbers
- Consider Street Impact Fee Revenue
- Look into Parking Tax Revenue from State Garage Parking
- Structural Problems with Tax Rate
- Look at Tax Impacts on Citizens over the Long-term
- Consider Impacts on Employee Morale
- Comprehensive Plan Should Speak to Tourism
- Prioritize Basic Services
- Little Things Mean a Lot
  - o Bike Lanes Swept
  - o Sidewalks and Pathways Cleared
- Reinstate Dedicated Funding for Sidewalks and Bike Lanes
- Invest in a Safe Community/Safe Streets
- Streamline the Policies and Procedures for Building Projects
- Going to Public for Revenue Vote Creates Dialogue
- Explore Incentives for Public/Private Partnerships
  - o Federal Programs
  - o Financial Institutions
- Like That the Process is Starting Early and Involving the Public
- Budget for Vacancies
- Underfunding Maintenance Funds not a Good Idea/Costs More Later
- Honor Commitments
- Match Employee Salaries and Benefits to the Community
- Cut Management Position Salaries and Eliminate Bonuses
- Review State Collective Bargaining Laws
- Reduce the Work Week and Reduce Salaries to Match
- Consider Road Repair LID
- Review "Jim Lazar Key Points" Paper
- Consider Negative Impacts on Businesses by Raising B&O Tax
- Review Parking Revenue Against Costs for What it Takes to Collect
- Ensure City is Compensated for ROW Use
- Grow the Revenue Base
- Sell Old Land Fill Site
  - o Sort Plat to Get More Development
- Sell Smith Building

- Follow Through with Plan Developed When Building City Hall
  - o Sell Assets
  - o Get Rid of Mortgages
- Consider Closing Jail
- Neighborhood Conversations Around Budget
- Work with Economic Development Council to Explore New Ideas
- Remember that the City is Not the only Taxing Authority

Mayor Buxbaum thanked all who participated and reviewed the future meetings regarding the budget.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm

DRAFT