



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Information: 360.753.8447

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

5:30 PM

Room 207

Special Study Session

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Stephen H. Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones, Councilmember Jim Cooper, Councilmember Julie Hankins, Councilmember Jeannine Roe and Councilmember Cheryl Selby

Excused: 1 - Councilmember Steve Langer

2. BUSINESS ITEM

Mayor Buxbaum called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He welcomed and introduced Major General Terry Ferrell and Colonel Tim Kehoe of Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM).

Major General Ferrell introduced other members of the JBLM staff.

2.A 14-0309 ORAL REPORT - Joint Base Lewis McChord Command Update on Connector Units, the 17th Field Artillery Brigade and the 7th Infantry Division

Major General Ferrell briefed the Council on an overview of JBLM including the following.

1. He is new to the base but is very impressed with the talent and dedication of the men and women at JBLM.
2. Olympia's Connector Unit - formerly the 17th Fire Brigade - is now the 17th Field Artillery Brigade.
3. The Army is shrinking and consolidating. Some minor reductions are planned at JBLM now but more will come.
4. JBLM is strategic in its location. Different units at the base deploy all over the world.
5. The Army wants to improve its connection with cities and citizens who are its neighbors. Currently, 70% of its soldiers live off base and are active citizens in surrounding communities.

Mr. Bob Jones, the City's liaison to the base, advised the Major General that Olympia is a proud member of the South Sound Military & Communities Partnership and the Association of the US Army (AUSA). Mr. Jones thanked the Council for appointing him to his liaison role.

The Major General and members of the City Council discussed a wide variety of topics including the Army's enhanced focus on sexual assault, economic and traffic impacts of the base, service projects involving JBLM such as downtown clean-up, Lakefair parade participation, and opportunities presented to employers from JBLM soldiers transitioning into civilian employment.

Councilmembers and Major General Ferrell thanked Bob Jones for his critical role of facilitating communication and interaction between the City and JBLM.

Major General Ferrell addressed the possibility of JBLM staff participating in building demolition on the isthmus properties. He indicated that decision making for this training activity had been placed within his authority and he intended to review very carefully if this is an appropriate activity.

Mayor Buxbaum thanked Major General Ferrell, Colonel Kehoe and others from JBLM for their service and thanked them for their attendance at tonight's meeting.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.