



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Information: 360-753-8447

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Roll Call

- Present:** 6 - Mayor Stephen H. Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones, Councilmember Julie Hankins, Councilmember Jim Cooper, Councilmember Jeannine Roe and Councilmember Steve Langer
- Excused:** 1 - Councilmember Karen Rogers

1.A Announcements

1.B Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Langer moved, seconded by Councilmember Hankins to approve the agenda.

Councilmember Roe asked that the Canoe Journey be discussed at tonight's meeting. She said the General Government Committee discussed it this evening.

City Manager Steve Hall stated staff attended a meeting this morning regarding cultural etiquette and he then showed a short video on the Squaxin Island Canoe Journey event.

Cathie Butler stated the landing will take place on July 29 at the Port of Olympia.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Ms. Bonnie Jacobs, 720 Governor Stevens Ave., SE, spoke as a member of Friends of the Waterfront and stated in the past this group helped to keep property from development near the waterfront. She also spoke in favor of the City purchasing property on the isthmus to prevent development.

Ms. Sherri Goulet, 3516 Pifer Road SE, stated the shared vision for Olympia is an energized and revitalized downtown with a downtown park.

Mr. Monte Katzenberger spoke against the decision by the Federal Supreme Court granting corporations the right to vote.

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (Optional)

*Councilmember Langer stated he agrees the shared vision is important.
Councilmembers thanked those who addressed the Council.*

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Councilmember Hankins, seconded by Councilmember Cooper, to adopt the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4.A 12-0353 Approval of June 19, 2012 Special Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were adopted.

4.B 12-0354 Approval of June 28, 2012 Lee Creighton Justice Center Dedication Potential Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were adopted.

4.C 12-0314 Approval of July 10, 2012 Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were adopted.

SECOND READINGS

4.D 12-0213 Ordinance Amending the 2012 Operating Budget Ordinance

This ordinance was adopted on 2nd reading.

4.E 12-0317 Ordinance Amending the 2012 Capital Budget

This ordinance was adopted on 2nd reading.

4.F 12-0318 Ordinance Amending the 2012 Special Funds Budget Ordinance

This ordinance was adopted on 2nd reading.

FIRST READINGS**5. PUBLIC HEARING****6. OTHER BUSINESS**

6.A 12-0165 Parking Strategic Plan

Community Planning and Development Director Keith Stahley introduced this item. He reviewed the parking system.

Community Planning & Development Business Manager Karen Herald reviewed the Strategic Plan which was implemented in 2009, the accomplishments to date, parking financial information, pay station occupancy and performance, the pay station relocation project, and recommendations from the Parking and Business Improvement Area and the Olympia Downtown Association to provide a more friendly approach to downtown parking.

Mr. Stahley reviewed the next steps and future issues including a review of the residential program, improvements to parking lots, and program expansion of hours and geography.

Comments and questions include the following:

- The cost of moving each pay station is approximately \$5,000 vs. \$600 for a new parking meter. Consider replacing/phasing out the pay stations with meters.
- Replace the pay stations at the end of its business life.
- Most of the items under Next Steps were out of 2009 strategic plan.
- Ticket revenue has been basically the same since 2008.
- Consider cutting the price of the ticket in half if paid same day as it is received.
- Consider a sliding scale for those earning minimum wage.
- Rates on occupancy haven't changed since installation of the pay stations.
- Smart Cards can be used at both the meters and pay stations.
- Consider better signage for city own parking lots
- The City oversells its parking lots. They are usually 85%-90% full.
- Parking has a direction relationship with commerce.
- Keep parking revenue tied to downtown revitalization.
- Use parking attendants to gather information from the street.
- Important to have data driven decisions.
- Consider providing incentives to use pay stations by allowing 12 minutes free on meters and 18 minutes free on pay stations.
- The business plan should include phasing out the pay stations as they expire.

Mayor Buxbaum noted this item was originally scheduled as a Study Session briefing and no action was taken by Council.

6.B 12-0355

Consider Appointing Pro and Con Committees for the .01% Public Safety Ballot Issue

Mr. Morrill stated that information regarding the committees must be submitted to the County by August 7.

Mayor Buxbaum announced that up to three members are needed for both the Pro and Con committees. The City will advertise for this on the website and through press releases. Names will be accepted until 5:00 pm on July 23.

Each committee is responsible for writing the Pro or Con statement for the ballot.

Councilmember Cooper stated the County will proceed with the process once we provide them the names, and the City's website should provide a link to the County's website.

The Council agreed to place the resolution on the agenda for July 24, 2012.

6.C 12-0363

Discussion of Isthmus Properties

City Manager Steve Hall said this is an informational issue and staff is asking Council to provide direction regarding strategies or priorities for the acquisition of parcels on the isthmus. He provided background on this issue, including work with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to determine who the partners could be to purchase this property. To date, he stated funds earmarked for this include \$600,000 from the County, \$1 million from the City, and there is a \$1 million grant request in to the State. Issues surrounding properties on the isthmus include bankruptcy and code enforcement regarding the dilapidated state of the buildings. He noted the City has not been in direct discussion with Tri Way.

Mr. Hall reviewed the proposal provided by TPL and stated that for November action, the Council must make a decision by 5:00 pm on August 7.

Councilmembers discussed the pros and cons of putting this item on the ballot this November.

Points made include the following:

- Would like to get Larida property cleaned up.
- Concern about cost to purchase, demolish the building, and operating costs.
- Should look for partners.
- Need dedicated revenue stream.
- Would like to see focal point for downtown.
- Voters should decide.
- Should incorporate placemaking efforts in this area.
- Should do what we can within our means.

Following discussion, Council agreed to the following:

Larida Parcels (Tri Way)

- Prioritize acquisition.
- Negotiate with whomever can provide clear title.
- Continue to work with partners, including the State, County, Isthmus Park Association, TPL
- Commit funds earmarked to date for isthmus properties to the Larida parcels
- Move to get the building cleaned up as soon as possible
- Set a goal of acquisition and getting the buildings down within one year with help from the State

Capitol Center Building

- Seek and involve other partners
- Continue to gather information on value, environmental conditions and costs to demo, clean up, create public space and maintain it
- Move on the development of a Community Renewal Authority for the isthmus
- Pursue alternatives to demolition and create vision possible public uses on these parcels

No action was taken.

7. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

8. REPORTS AND REFERRALS

8.A Council Intergovernmental/Committee Reports and Referrals

Councilmember Hankins reported she attended the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting and recommendations will come to Council in November.

Councilmember Cooper provided highlights of the Thurston Regional Planning Council meeting, and the TCOMM 911 meeting. He suggested putting the City seal in Council Chambers.

Councilmember Langer reported on highlights of the LOTT Clean Water Alliance meeting.

Councilmember Roe reported the General Government Committee met earlier this evening and is recommending a facilitated mid-year Council retreat be held on Saturday, September 15, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Council agreed. The Council agreed to discuss the Council Guidelines at the retreat. Also, the Committee recommends scheduling the issue of reducing the Planning Commission membership from 11 to 9 on the August 21 agenda. She reported the Committee met with the Move to Amend group and will bring a resolution forward to Council. Council agreed to both recommendations. Councilmember Roe also reported she attended the Parking and Business Improvement Area, the Visitor and Convention Bureau, and the Joint Animal Services Committee meetings.

Mayor Buxbaum reported he attended the Transportation Policy Board meeting.

8.B City Manager's Report and Referrals

City Manager Steve Hall reported the inaugural meeting of the Urban Corridors Task Force will meet on July 31 at 7:00 am. He and Mayor Buxbaum will attend.

He announced the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the Capital Facilities Plan on Monday, August 6 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

He also shared a proposed mural on the retaining walls on the Harrison Avenue round-about which was funded by the City's Neighborhood matching grant program.

Mayor Buxbaum noted an upcoming Salmon restoration project at Priest Point Park will restrict access to the park.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm.