



Meeting Minutes

City Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Special Study Session

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Stephen H. Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones, Councilmember Jim Cooper, Councilmember Julie Hankins, Councilmember Steve Langer, Councilmember Jeannine Roe and Councilmember Cheryl Selby

2. DISCUSSION TOPICS

2.A [15-0185](#) Briefing on Action Plan

Community Planning & Development (CP&D) Senior Planner Stacey Ray gave a brief introduction of the Action Plan; an overview of the process in developing the plan to this point; and a proposal for public involvement, communication strategy, and collaborating with partners to help implement the plan.

Councilmember Langer, as Land Use and Environment Committee Chair, emphasized the importance of the public helping the City identify, prioritize and measure success in implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

Council Discussion:

- Potential partner agencies versus community groups and non-governmental organizations.
- Consider including a Labor Council representative in the potential partner agencies.
- Provide assistance to Councilmembers and staff, such as talking points, for communicating the City's vision and what we are trying to accomplish in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Consider including front line employees as part of the Action Plan Partner Work Group.

The work session was completed.

2.B [15-0168](#) Economic Development Focus for 2015 - 2016

CP&D Director Keith Stahley gave a brief PowerPoint presentation about adopting a sustainable budget. He said economic development is one of the ways to close the gap between expenses and revenues and asked for Council input for the economic development coordinator position to help move toward the sustainable budget goal. He highlighted key objectives that resulted from recent conversations with regional

partners.

Council Discussion:

- Quality of life is important in order to attract people who want to live and do business here.
- We're not just looking for more; we need to attract businesses that have an average or better than average wage offering.
- The developed urban core should be the prime locations for businesses, understanding for the right business in the right place.
- We need indicators to move the City forward. This position will need to work according to what's important, focus on relationship building and be a great collaborator.
- Recognize some things in the PowerPoint list can be done by partners rather than the economic development coordinator.
- The position will need to understand what industries need, what attributes Olympia has to assist, and come up with a good fit.
- Pay attention to opportunity sites and bring people together proactively to market those sites collaboratively with all interested stakeholders.
- The position will need to be able to build relationships and understand the public and private sectors.
- There should be a retail strategy for all of Olympia, not just Downtown.

The work session was completed.

3. CHECK IN

Upcoming Agendas Discussion and Clarification:

- The March 3 Special Study Session is only the Council, not a joint meeting with the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations.
- Staff is working with the County on potential dates for the Study Session regarding Thurston Thrives.
- Due to staff and boardmember changes, the Finance Committee may schedule the Farmers Market item in November.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.