

## **CITY OF SHORELINE**

### **SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL SUMMARY MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION**

Monday, June 1, 2009 - 6:30 p.m.  
Shoreline Conference Center  
Mt. Rainier Room

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ryu, Deputy Mayor Scott, Councilmember Eggen, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember McConnell, and Councilmember Way

**ABSENT:** None

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:31 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryu, who presided.

#### **2. FLAG SALUTE/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ryu led the flag salute. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, all Councilmembers were present with the exception of Councilmembers McConnell and McGlashan. Councilmember McConnell arrived shortly thereafter.

**Upon motion by Councilmember Hansen, seconded by Councilmember Eggen and carried 5-0, Councilmember McGlashan was excused.**

#### **3. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND FUTURE AGENDAS**

Julie Underwood, Assistant City Manager, provided reports and updates on various City meetings, projects, and events. She noted that the Clean Sweep Recycling Event held on May 30<sup>th</sup> was a success and reminded residents to turn in their nominations for the Shoreline Parade Grand Marshal which are due to City Hall by June 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4. COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Hansen commented that the "Wastemobile" was in Shoreline this week. He noted that Clean Sweep delivered light bulbs and there was recycled paint for people to take. He stated that Cleanscapes was there and it was a well-organized event, but there is a need for some improvements in traffic circulation. He said he also toured the Brightwater facility north of Woodinville, and it is on schedule with a budget of \$1.8 billion. He reported on his attendance at the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) meeting last Thursday, where they announced that the Aurora project was conditionally approved. He added that the project received a categorical exemption, which will save over \$1 million. Responding to Mayor Ryu, he stated that the west tunneling machine

was inoperable right now, but they've made better progress than expected and are changing out the cutters for the clay soils. Mayor Ryu commented that the City of Lake Forest Park is concerned about aquifers. Councilmember Hansen reported that the east tunneling machine aerated Horse Creek and at another point they ran into sandy soils which resulted in a sinkhole.

Councilmember Way reported on the South Woods trail dedication and said it is a path along the edge of the park at 150<sup>th</sup> Street from the edge of Fircrest to the hill. She said it is constructed of pervious and hard pavement along with a swale. She urged everyone to take a walk through the woods and announced upcoming park events to remove invasive species.

Councilmember Eggen said he received a briefing as a member of Regional Policy Center concerning the expansion of drug court for misdemeanor offenders that takes effect in 2010. They'll have the option of opting into treatment as opposed to jail. He felt this is good for cities and offenders because currently the system requires the mentally ill to be incarcerated for a long time instead of receiving treatment.

Mayor Ryu reported on the King County Regional Transit Committee and said there is a likelihood of Metro bus service reductions. She noted that there are three subareas in King County, but there are two policies at the King County level that will require cuts to service. Based on the way service is measured, Shoreline would bear 62% of the cuts. Councilmember Hansen noted that the Suburban Cities Association (SCA) has issued a draft statement on the policy and asked Mayor Ryu if she knew their position. She replied that they are staying silent.

Councilmember Eggen reported that at the Public Issues Committee they voted to restore the 20:40:40 ratio and he doesn't expect it to change because the vote was 23-2 in favor.

## 5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

a) Les Nelson, Shoreline, asked the City staff to clarify the Comprehensive Plan amendment process because he submitted one. He said he is confused and wrote it to clarify the definition of RB land use and RB zoning. He thinks it has been misinterpreted or put into another proposal. He said he is confused about the initial adoption of subarea plans.

b) Laethan Wene, Shoreline, commented that it is a good idea to have orange crossing flags at intersections and crosswalks.

## 6. STUDY ITEMS

(a) Ashworth Avenue N. and N. 152nd Street Neighborhood Traffic Safety Update

Mark Relph, Public Works Director, and Rich Meredith, Traffic Engineer, provided the staff report, which was a review of the traffic calming efforts on Ashworth Avenue North and on North 152nd Street between North 155th Street and Aurora Avenue North. These were evaluated as part of the City's Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP). They explained their efforts to work with local residents since November 2006 to address their traffic concerns. The work done, he stated, involves demonstrating various traffic calming devices on both Ashworth Avenue North and North 152nd Street and the most recent was a partial closure of North 152nd Street west of Ashworth Avenue North. The City must now confirm the relative success of the latest petition effort and determine whether there is the necessary community support to make the current partial closure permanent.

Mr. Meredith commented that Ashworth is an example of how the NTSP has been successful in some of its efforts. He said there are 35 "Phase 1" areas and 11 "Phase 2" areas. Phase 1 efforts include police enforcement and the positioning of a radar speed trailer. Phase 2 involves demonstration physical devices, speed humps, chicanes, and partial closures. He noted that each method has positive and negative effects and instead of trying to predict what would happen, judgment was used and devices were put in to test. However, speed humps weren't tested on 152nd and it lacked the 60% support to make it permanent. Responding to Mayor Ryu, Mr. Meredith stated that the City doesn't calculate the average number of vehicles per household; however, the number of households determines the trip count. He further explained that NTSP is unique because it is for neighborhood streets. Mr. Meredith then outlined the petition support rate for road closure and how the results were calculated. He noted that the program was modified in 2004 on a household basis, and they will attempt to make calculations clearer in the future regarding multi-family housing.

**At 7:20 p.m., Mayor Ryu left the meeting to provide comment at the Shoreline School District board meeting.**

Mr. Meredith continued and reviewed the response and support rate figures. Under the current calculation the City only has 28% support from residents and the primary issue is safety, with speed being the biggest factor. He noted that the devices reduced speeds to 22 miles per hour. Additionally, the direction of the volumes is a problem for some residents. Mr. Relph added that he could tell some people are using the area as a cut-through at certain times and can understand the concern of residents. Mr. Meredith stated that the goal of the NTSP is to achieve consensus, and that hasn't occurred yet. He noted that they intend to return to the Council at a later date with proposed changes to the program and recommend the partial closure be removed. Mr. Relph pointed out that this is a tough problem because multi-family is a heavy part of the neighborhood. He clarified that the NTSP wasn't set up to have a petition process; it was intended to find consensus.

Deputy Mayor Scott called for public comment.

a) Craig Wilson, Shoreline, said he has lived in Shoreline for 13 years and nobody on Ashworth has been concerned with speed, it's mostly volume. He said the

street is narrow with limited visibility and doesn't have any sidewalks. He felt that volume is an additional safety concern and there should be some separation between commercial and residential traffic. He thought the solution that the City has come up with to reduce volumes has been tremendous and urged the Council to retain the closure of N. 152nd Street.

b) Terry Blickrey, Shoreline, spoke for the renters and said she doesn't understand how homeowners buy homes on a through street and don't expect any traffic. She said she has lived in Autumn Ridge for 18 years and speed humps are good, but the partial closure is bad.

c) Roger Urbanek, Shoreline, commented that his triplex is being devastated by the partial closure. He said potential renters are turned off by it. He said tenants treat good access as a convenience and he would support just about any alternative other than closure.

d) Joseph Irons, Shoreline, commented that drivers should enter from Aurora which is the opposite of what the traffic department is recommending. This isn't meeting the current NTSP goals, he said. He also stated that he doesn't agree with the City staff interpretation of the 60% rule. He pointed out that a traffic light on Aurora spiked the volume count. He supported the closure of N. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street.

e) Charles Moore, Shoreline, stated that there aren't any sidewalks and there is no consideration for pedestrians. Now, he said there is a small group of selfish people on Ashworth who want N. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street closed. He noted that traffic has been reduced quite a bit since some businesses have closed and he doesn't believe the barrier has contributed to it. He is glad it is going to be removed, and the City shouldn't be bullied by a few residents. He said he enjoys driving down his street and having access.

f) Georgia Moore, Shoreline, said she lives on N. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street and wants to drive from Aurora to her house that she has been living in for 21 years. She said people have moved in three years ago and now want to close the street. She said if you stop the trucks, everything else is fine. She urged the City to open the street.

g) Bill Nieman, Shoreline, asked the Council to remove the street closure immediately. He said by the NTSP definition the speed limit on the street is 25 miles per hour and is required to have fewer than 4,000 cars on it a day. However, he said that prior to the partial closure, only 1,500 cars used the street and speed mitigation efforts were successful in getting speeds lower than the posted speed limit. He presented a petition stating that the barrier should be removed immediately. However, he noted that his units have access, but only 50% have it now. He said he likes the speed bumps. The closure is a huge burden for many and speed bumps and sidewalks should be installed.

h) Les Nelson, Shoreline, inquired if the opening of Stone Avenue at Autumn Ridge was considered. He also wanted to know why N. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street is classified as a collector arterial. He felt the residents and businesses on Stone Avenue should get a vote

and he supported the closure to keep traffic down in local neighborhoods. He also suggested that "Local Access Only" signs be posted.

i) Joe Kraus, Shoreline, said he has resided on N. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street for thirty years. He explained that it is a steep incline from Aurora Avenue down to Ashworth. He noted that when it snows, cars slide downhill. Additionally, he said trucks make u-turns there. He said he received a letter in the mail about this meeting and felt the polling was done unfairly because there were residents that were only soliciting the opinions of one side or the other. He favored keeping the road closed.

j) Bob McWold, Shoreline, said he lives on Ashworth Avenue and he saw this process a long time ago with the incorporation of the City. He said the process is about finding the best solution, and he feels closing the street is that solution. He added that child safety is a problem, and he has always seen the problem as traffic volume. The neighbors don't know what development will come and what the traffic volumes will be, but he doesn't want anyone inconvenienced. He concluded that closing the road benefits everyone in the neighborhood.

k) Delynda Leptich, Shoreline, lives on Ashworth and N. 153<sup>rd</sup> Street. She commented that she is in favor of the closure.

l) Monica Serensen, Shoreline, said she lives at the end of Ashworth. She said this is a tough decision and everyone needs to visit the area and walk the street. She said something to enhance the area is better than nothing.

m) Yared Tesema, Shoreline, said he bought his house knowing there was access to it. He added that there are 50 traffic violators in the area per day. He noted that they are endangering the neighborhood and they know how many cars are passing by. He isn't in favor of the closure. He felt that nobody thinks about signs because there is no enforcement. He is skeptical of finding a "win-win" solution for the neighborhood.

Mr. Relph noted that partial closure has had a significant impact on lowering traffic volumes and it is a struggle for those who live on N. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street. He agreed that the win-win solution has not been identified yet. There may be some alternatives based on results and the City staff recommends a look at other alternatives.

Deputy Mayor Scott noted that the formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) makes a lot of sense. He noted that a CAC might help us get more information. Mr. Relph said people recommended full closure if the City has the right-of-way, which isn't there currently. He suggested removing the structure and looking at other alternatives and bringing the new plan back to the NTSP advisory committee. The neighborhood has raised some questions about the clarity and fairness of the program and all of their votes count because there are different thresholds for different solutions. He noted that there are challenging legal issues regarding right-of-way and a CAC should study this.

Councilmember Eggen asked about the legality of the street because it is so narrow and it has a blind corner. Mr. Relph replied that the configuration of the street is not allowed under today's development standards. Councilmember Eggen said that there is the option of repositioning, and perhaps the CAC can investigate that and any other alternatives. Mr. Relph replied that he is not optimistic about moving the closure further east because it affects safety. Mayor Ryu suggested polling to determine who might be willing to allow a partial closure in front on their home.

Councilmember Hansen stated he has no idea why anyone would want to use this area as a cut-through even when the City's experiments show that they do. He asked what the arguments were concerning not using it as a right-of-way. He said he would like a full list of the disadvantages and legal issues associated with closing the street. Mr. Relph added that trash trucks need to have the ability to move through there and have adequate turnarounds. He said the City cannot legally force the trash trucks to utilize private property to turn around; it needs to respect the right-of-ways.

Councilmember Way said she has visited the area and thinks the reason the street is like this because there is another branch of Thorton Creek going through there. She hopes the CAC can consider the option of moving the closure to the other end of street. Mr. Relph explained that staff was suggesting to remove current structure, per policy, and then begin a parallel process with a technical committee considering the manual details. He said he has mixed feelings about doing experiments and has been criticized for making the decision for partial closure. Councilmember Way questioned if the CAC was for the neighborhood. Mr. Relph said there is already one for the neighborhood, but this is one to consider how the regulations apply throughout the City.

Councilmember McConnell felt the community wants something to happen rather than reverting back to the original configuration. She said the advisory committee would help educate the community. The closure of N. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street seems to be polarizing the community, and the City should educate first; then measure the response to find a compromise.

Councilmember Eggen said the street is narrow and asked if there were grade issues with N. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street and Ashworth. Mr. Relph replied that there is a public right-of-way issue because there is damage occurring to private property by trucks.

Councilmember Way said she would like to know about next steps. Ms. Underwood said the next step is to remove the partial closure, work with the neighbors, and try to come up with a solution. She noted that if another partial closure occurs in the future the item will return to the Council. Mr. Relph explained that there are two parallel processes: the first is the NTSP; the second is the new advisory committee. Mr. Meredith added that the City staff tried to summarize all of this in attachment C and the intent is to continue the progress. He noted that the CAC would include representatives from the neighborhood, police, fire, citizens, and technical experts. Councilmember Hansen said it will be interesting to see if this changes the habits of the people or if they will revert to prior behavior.

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**At 8:46 p.m., Mayor Ryu called for a five minute break. The Council meeting reconvened at 8:51 p.m.**

(b) Green Team Work Plan Update

Joe Tovar, Planning and Development Services Director, Miranda Redinger, and Juniper Nammi provided the staff report. They identified five projects for 2009 which have a City-wide scope which are not already being accomplished through other efforts. These include: 1) Developing a Sustainability Indicators System; 2) Integrating Sustainability into City Office Policies and Procedures; 3) Integrating Sustainability into City Decision-making Processes; 4) Establishing an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy; and 5) Coordinating Environmental Sustainability Outreach.

Mayor Ryu called for public comment. There was no one wishing to provide public comment on this item.

Councilmember Eggen noted that performance indicators are an important consideration in many cities. He assumed they are looking at what other communities have done so there are common measures. He inquired if the public can give input on this process. Ms. Nammi replied that the Team is still working on the details of its internal processes and hasn't yet looked at how to partner with neighborhood groups. However, the Team can come back with suggestions. Mr. Tovar added that in a few months the Team will be in a better position to discuss that as the budget process nears. Ms. Redinger added that the City has identified that there are a few opportunities for partnerships, but the goal is to establish a concrete plan first.

Councilmember Way discussed public/private partnerships and said there is American Resource and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding that could be used to cement these partnerships and many potential opportunities for increasing them. She urged the City staff to work on this soon. Mayor Ryu noted that it is a matter of investing early to reduce expenses, and if the City can do this then other public and private partners can join. She said Shoreline Community College is always looking for innovative ways to train their continuing education workforce.

Councilmember Eggen requested that the Council get a copy of the map showing the distance Shoreline residents live from a park. Councilmember Hansen noted that buses in Iceland are fueled by hydrogen.

Councilmember Way wondered if there is a timeline for when the indicators would be in place to address the energy and climate change issues. Ms. Nammi responded that she can check into it and report back to the Council.

(c) Home Occupation Regulations

Rachel Markle, Assistant Planning and Development Services Director, provided an overview of the City's Home Occupation Regulations. She noted that the purpose of the Home Occupation Regulations is to allow people to operate businesses from their residence when the operation of the business will have no adverse impact on surrounding residential neighbors. The City requires home businesses to obtain a Home Occupation permit. However, no permit is required for businesses that: 1) Operate entirely inside the home (or off site); 2) Have no employees in addition to the residents(s); 3) Have no deliveries associated with the occupation; 4) Have no onsite clients; 5) Do not create noise or odors; 6) Do not have a sign; and 7) Meet all the Code criteria for a Home Occupation. The criteria address noise, traffic, appearance, odors, dust, and fire hazards. The staff report reviewed the home occupation regulations from Kirkland, Seattle, Redmond, Tukwila and Woodinville.

Mayor Ryu called for public comment. There was no one wishing to provide comment on this item.

Deputy Mayor Scott said it seems like a wine importer and exporter would have impacts in a neighborhood. Ms. Markle responded that the business doesn't make any appointments and all sales are online. She noted that deliveries are allowed. Responding to Mayor Ryu, Ms. Markle said she doesn't know how many music teachers or tutors have home occupation permits in the City. Councilmember Way inquired about group homes and daycare facilities. She said it is useful to explain to the public this is about the use as opposed to a business permit. Ms. Markle explained that other uses such as adult family and community residential could trigger other permits. If there are eight or less occupants in the adult family home then there is no permit needed from the City. Responding to Councilmember Way, Ms. Markle noted that a daycare is not a home occupation. Mr. Tovar clarified that the primary use for a home occupation is as a home. Ms. Markle clarified for Mayor Ryu that a tenant could qualify and get a home occupation license if the business adheres to the Code. Mayor Ryu inquired how the City distinguishes between businesses that have no adverse impact on the neighborhoods. Ms. Markle replied that the City staff relies on the regulations and so far there haven't been many complaints. Mr. Tovar added that the City's regulations on this are fairly clear.

Councilmember Way said the City always wants to encourage innovation, but doesn't want to impede on people's ability to be creative. Mayor Ryu commented that the City doesn't have a business licensing program. She noted that if there are any questions pertaining to this or business licensing the Council should route them to Ms. Markle.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:32 p.m., Mayor Ryu declared the meeting adjourned.

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Scott Passey, City Clerk