

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION

Monday, July 20, 2009 - 6:30 p.m.
Shoreline Conference Center
Mt. Rainier Room

PRESENT: Mayor Ryu, Deputy Mayor Scott, Councilmember Eggen, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember McConnell, Councilmember McGlashan, 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 exceptions of Councilmembers Hansen and McConnell, who arrived shortly thereafter.

3. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND FUTURE AGENDAS

Bob Olander, City Manager, provided reports and updates on various City meetings, projects, and events. Mr. Olander noted that the City of Shoreline received a "Certificate of Distinction" from the International City Management Association (ICMA) Center for Performance Management. He highlighted that only 18 cities received this award this year.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Eggen reported on a WRIA-8 meeting, where the main topic was the King Conservation District (KCD) proposal to change the distribution formula to the cities and WRIAs. The group agreed to write a letter proposing that the current formula be extended for three years. He noted that he also attended the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) meeting, where they discussed the topic of increasing growth management targets. He pointed out that the City's target of an additional 4,500 housing units by 2013 could be increased. Councilmember Way inquired who was negotiating this issue, to which Councilmember Eggen replied that City's staff is discussing and tracking it with the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) staff.

Mayor Ryu reported on a King County budget meeting that the Suburban Cities Association (SCA) put together as a subcommittee. She said King County's Acting Executive Kirk Triplett spoke about next year's budget and his recommendation, but stated it could change between now and adoption. She said he expressed his concern about the challenging times and the need to consider a ballot measure, a sales tax, and property taxes to fund public safety and health. Second, she noted that SCA discussed service cuts, which aren't good for Shoreline.

Councilmember Way congratulated Shoreline Solar on the Solarfest.

Councilmember Hansen stated that Solarfest was quite successful and noted that one of the vendors, Silicon Energy, just received their UL certification and is installing their solar panels at the new City Hall. Councilmember Eggen added that many solar vendors were there and that the Silicon Energy panels are beautiful. Councilmember Hansen stated that subsidy programs give a substantial advantage to Washington manufactured equipment, and he encouraged citizens to take advantage of some programs available through the state. Mayor Ryu thanked the City of Shoreline and the people who supported the event.

Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Programs Manager, handed out a memorandum regarding the SeaShore Transportation Forum (SeaShore). He discussed the three alternatives for the Council and noted that the City of Seattle has declined to sign onto the agreement. Currently, he stated the cities have reached an impasse with the City of Seattle, and King County notified the member cities that they will no longer support the forum with staff if Seattle does not participate. Councilmember Eggen said he is looking for the Council's policy direction to take back to the forum. Mayor Ryu provided more background on the issue and felt it was addressed with the format of the voting when KC put the working committee put together, but the meetings have been going without a contract for three years. Councilmember Eggen noted that the Council has three clear alternatives and there isn't a good voice for northend cities except at Seashore. He suggested Option 3.

Mr. Olander said this is important for Shoreline because in the beginning the eastside cities had leverage with PSRC and the KC Council for transportation funding and policies. This, he noted, led KC to set up all three forums, and the problem in the past is that there are non-member cities participating. He then provided some background on this issue. He felt that Councilmember Eggen's recommendation is focused on trying to meet the needs of everyone. Councilmember Eggen responded to Councilmember Hansen and stated that through SeaShore the non-official cities would have a voice, but they wouldn't be able to vote and there are other forums with non-official cities which currently operate like this. Councilmember Way wanted to know what changes Seattle suggested. Mr. MacColl explained that the forum can continue without staff support from KC and then the funding process would change. Councilmember Eggen added that the staff support and funding would be determined at a later date.

Mayor Ryu noted that the reason the City of Shoreline fought to keep non-core members in the group was because it is important that they show up and provide input. She added that coordinating eight transit systems is complicated and this allows them to voice their opinions on the policy side. Mr. MacColl explained that Councilmember Eggen was really trying to say that only Options 1 and 2 exist, but Option 3 tries to maintain communication with our neighbors to the north and keep them coming to the meetings.

Councilmember McGlashan discussed Option 3 and confirmed with Mr. Olander that the resources would still come from SeaShore and that they would still be the official body for policies. He noted that the informal group would meet after the official group.

Councilmember McConnell commented that Option 3 is really Option 1 with Councilmember Eggen's recommendation added to it. She felt with a separate group of people, they may have some different ideas. Councilmember Eggen responded that the meetings would be "official" and would have to adhere to open meeting rules, which would require staff for minutes and other administrative duties. This, he said, would have to be worked out. He stated that the Co-Chair, Don Feine of Lake Forest Park is interested in maintaining the input of the other non-core members Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace, Bothell, Kenmore, and Woodinville. He said Seattle wants to restrict the voting to core members only.

Councilmember Hansen said he couldn't support Option 2 because moving to the eastside forum would be useless for everyone involved. He said he could consider Option 1 and 3, but it is a meaningless forum without Seattle's participation.

Mr. Olander summarized the conversation and noted that the discussion needs to continue with Seattle and the neighboring cities.

Mayor Ryu confirmed that the Council is open to working on establishing a northend transportation group.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

(a) Dwight Gibb, Shoreline, representing the 20th Avenue Neighbors, reiterated comments made by John Wolfe at the previous Council meeting concerning limiting the size of "mega homes."

6. STUDY ITEMS

(a) Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan Update

Mark Relph, Public Works Director, introduced Diane Yates, King County Solid Waste Division (KCSWD) Intergovernmental Liaison and Thea Severn, King County Planning and Communications Manager. He noted that the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) relates the service of solid waste to the City's Comprehensive Plan (CP). Ms. Yates discussed the content and the process. She noted that they have been working on the CP since 2005 and

that the process is very inclusive because King County wants to work with all of the stakeholders involved. Additionally, she said every city is required to update their CP every five years. She noted that the CP provides direction for the solid waste system. She added that there will be several upgrades to current facilities, and two more facilities will be built. Additionally, Councilmember Eggen and Public Works Director Mark Relph represent the City on the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC).

Councilmember Way expressed interest in the recycling goal and plastics. She inquired if construction waste was a part of the plan. Ms. Yates replied that most construction and demolition (C&D) debris does not go to Cedar Hills and it usually is a huge amount which gets recycled by private recyclers. Mayor Ryu questioned if there were any other recycling ordinances adopted by King County that will mandate recycling. Ms. Yates replied that there are some cities that have adopted their own recycling ordinances because not everyone collects it in the same way and this makes education confusing. She noted that mandating recycling county-wide would be hard to do, but minimum collection standards seem to be accepted. Councilmember Way questioned what would happen to large items, such as stoves, that would need to be recycled. Ms. Yates commented that KCSWD doesn't recycle large appliances and those types of things would have to be sent to a private company for recycling. Councilmember Way asked if there were any materials getting shipped overseas, to which Ms. Yates responded in the affirmative. Councilmember Hansen noted that most electronics are being shipped overseas for recycling. Ms. Yates replied that there are policies in the agreements with KC that ensure recyclable materials are disposed of properly.

Mayor Ryu commented that unless significant changes are made, the City's recycling rates will go up dramatically between 2021 and 2031. Ms. Yates replied that she is aware of that, but the County is working on ways to reduce these costs by working with manufacturers. For instance, she discussed having an opt-out system for telephone books.

Deputy Mayor Scott inquired how the new transfer station in Shoreline compares in cost to older ones throughout the county. Ms. Yates replied that right now it is expensive because construction costs are still going on and right now it is the most expensive transfer station in the County to operate. Deputy Mayor Scott asked if the operating efficiencies make it cost-effective in the long run. Ms. Yates replied that the large compactors in the facility work well, so it will be more cost effective than the other facilities in the County.

Mayor Ryu asked if there was a way to match the hauling costs against what the City charges for garbage service. Ms. Yates replied that this is a complicated question and noted that when waste comes in they reduce the volume, but cannot control the weight. Mr. Relph replied that the City measures tonnage and cubic yards constantly; landfills are concerned with cubic yards, but haulers look at tonnage. He added that this is one of the challenges that solid waste presents. Mr. Relph commented that he appreciates the opportunity to participate in MSWAC, and the management of Cedar Hills is fascinating. He noted that the ILA between the cities needs to be reviewed by all participants.

Councilmember Way noted that she attended a presentation by KC Councilmember Lambert concerning European methods of solid waste management and recycling and said it is amazing. She wondered what could be learned from these methods. Ms. Yates replied that there is an explosion in technology going on, and garbage has become a hot commodity because it can be turned from waste to energy. KC does track the new technology, however, she noted that KC proceeds cautiously to ensure the technology is tested and proven.

Councilmember McGlashan asked what KC does with closed sites and what the contaminated soil levels are of those sites after they have been shut down. Ms. Yates replied that the sites are still usable and some still have public uses.

Mayor Ryu called for public comment.

(a) Richard Johnson, Shoreline, questioned when the City would become more efficient. He stated that Mountlake Terrace Station is far superior to Shoreline and staffing is the difference. He noted that a transfer station can't be operated with just four staff. He added that he is getting tired of the free section in the Shoreline transfer station and asked when it will be cleaned up. He suggested that Cleanscapes take it over.

Ms. Severn replied that they were getting lots of televisions at the free section of the transfer station until the product stewardship law went into effect. Mr. Olander announced that Deseret Industries and Goodwill now accept recycled electronics under the state program.

Councilmember Eggen said he toured Cedar Hills and explained the operation of the facility. He noted that waste is handled very responsibly there. Ms. Severn noted that there is a private facility there turning landfill gas into natural gas. He noted that the review body for the ILA will be the MSWMAC.

Councilmember Way asked if there is a way to address Mr. Johnson's concerns.

Councilmember Hansen stated that he uses the transfer station quite a bit and has never noticed an odor there. He stated that there have been lots of programs proposed for waste-to-energy, including a plant in Spokane. Additionally, businesses in Germany get revenue from the recovery of metals and by having modern landfills. He suggested the City look at waste as an opportunity, not as a problem.

Responding to Mayor Ryu about the comments regarding the Mountlake Terrace facility, Ms. Yates confirmed that KC can copy anything that's working well and institute it at the Shoreline facility. Ms. Yates stated that the Shoreline facility has a much lower level of staffing to control costs, and noted that the fees are lower there too.

Julie Underwood, Assistant City Manager, noted that plastic bags have become an issue nationwide and the City's Comprehensive Plan recommends public education, reusable

bags, and working with retailers to have take-back programs. The City isn't going to mandate banning them. Mayor Ryu felt that a ban would financially hurt local businesses. Mr. Olander noted that there is a referendum to repeal the plastic bag ban. Mayor Ryu questioned if pharmaceuticals are being addressed at the transfer station. Ms. Yates replied that the KCSWD is doing what it can to ensure the pharmaceutical take-back program gets adopted this year because it didn't pass the State Legislature last year.

Councilmember Eggen commented that there is a "sharps" waste disposal at the Shoreline Transfer Station.

RECESS

At 8:36 p.m., Mayor Ryu called for a five minute break. The Council meeting reconvened at 8:41 p.m.

(b) Cleanscapes Solid Waste Contract Performance Update

Jesus Sanchez, Public Works Operations Manager, announced that the Cleanscapes contract was executed in 2007, and this presentation tonight provide a status update. He introduced Chris Martin, the president and founder of Cleanscapes.

Mr. Martin said bulk waste is a collection option for customers in Shoreline. Toasters, small appliances, and electronic waste are collected, and construction debris is taken to CDL Recycle, a sister company in Seattle. He introduced Cleanscapes employees, including Jim Williams, Route Manager for Shoreline, Sally Holsman, John Taylor, Sidney, Duane, and Bill.

Mr. Williams stated that Cleanscapes has tested and improved inclement weather protocol and learned some lessons from this past winter. He noted that there have only been an average of one missed pickup per 1,000 customers and invited the Council and public to attend Cleanscapes meetings.

Mr. Sanchez discussed the service during the inclement weather period last winter. Mr. Olander noted that there were public and driver safety issues, but the 2008 winter storm was extremely unusual.

Councilmember McGlashan asked if collection times will change. Mr. Williams replied that the time of day may change because they are learning how to use the software and the location of each garbage can. He said they should be able to reduce the amount of time trucks are on road.

Councilmember Way stated that deploying plows would be fantastic in the event they are needed. She inquired if Cleanscapes' employees have the ability to help people get their cans to the street. Mr. Williams noted that there were a few calls from "backyard exempt" customers and the route managers took care of them because they met the exemption criteria.

Responding to Councilmember Eggen, Mr. Williams explained what a “miss” meant under normal weather conditions. He said it is when a truck doesn’t pick up a customer’s garbage or recycling. He noted that their trucks maintain photographic evidence of their pickups.

Ms. Holsman discussed the improved customer service systems, introduced their new call center phone system, and stated that service has improved. She also said that Cleanscapes has an average customer call time of 3 minutes and they have systems established to manage email requests. She added that the call center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Responding to Councilmember Eggen, Mr. Martin confirmed that Cleanscapes has upgraded their website and that more Shoreline-specific information and FAQs are on it.

Ms. Holsman responded to Councilmember Way that between 5-10% of Shoreline residents are participating in online billing. Mayor Ryu confirmed with Ms. Holsman that people could print copies of their bills for tax purposes. Ms. Holsman noted that online customers get a 20-cent discount on their bill. She added that customer data suggests that customers are gravitating towards smaller containers or less service. She then discussed signage, tonnage numbers, expanded programs, and multi-family recycling program outreach efforts.

Councilmember Eggen stated that multi-family recycling is difficult. He inquired if there was any way Cleanscapes could provide an economic benefit to multi-family customers. Ms. Holsman stated that Cleanscapes has talked with apartment managers about it, but there is no interest because the savings are insignificant. Every multi-family unit in Shoreline was contacted, which number about 115, she said. She reiterated that Cleanscapes’ service includes the curbside collection of fluorescent tubes, bulbs, mercury, and motor oil, and Shoreline expanded the agreement to include food scraps and yard debris.

Councilmember McGlashan noted that he has yard service at his condominium and the residents take care of their own yards. He noted that there is compost on-site. He asked if residents can get containers for food scraps and Ms. Holsman said they could through Cleanscapes.

Councilmember Way inquired where the school districts fit into this. Ms. Holsman replied that they have been in touch with Crista, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Shoreline Community College. Crista has done a great job, she said, as there was a large amount of tonnage converted to food waste. She noted that Cleanscapes also monitors business accounts to ensure they are utilizing all of Cleanscapes’ services.

Mr. Sanchez noted that Rika Cecil has done a superb job maintaining relationships and solving problems. He acknowledged her for the work she's doing.

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

Councilmember McGlashan thanked the Cleanscapes drivers for doing a great job and said there is a great group of people driving the trucks.

Mayor Ryu commented that Cedar Hills is filling up and wanted to know if there was any way to solicit more self-haulers. Ms. Holsman replied that they haven't done any outreach to target self-haulers, but suspected there are more. She added that there hasn't been a decline in the customer base since inception.

Councilmember McGlashan commented that he has heard that there are some stray Waste Management bins still floating around the neighborhoods. Mr. Williams replied that they are probably unregulated commercial recycling.

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:42 p.m., Mayor Ryu declared the meeting adjourned.

Scott Passey, City Clerk