

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF WORKSHOP DINNER MEETING

Monday, June 22, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Shoreline Conference Center
Highlander Room

PRESENT: Mayor Cindy Ryu, Deputy Mayor Terry Scott, and Councilmembers Keith McGlashan, Chris Eggen, Janet Way, Doris McConnell, and Ron Hansen

ABSENT: none

STAFF: Bob Olander, City Manager; Julie Underwood, Assistant City Manager; Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Program Manager

GUEST: King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson

Mayor Ryu called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

The Mayor welcomed King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson thanked the Council for inviting him to meet with them.

Mr. Ferguson provided an overview of the County's budget shortfall. Sales tax, which is the primary driver for Metro's budget, is down by approximately \$100 million. There is a proposal from the County Executive to raise property taxes for Metro. The County has the authority to raise it to 7.5 cents without going to the voters; this would raise approximately \$20 million/year. Mr. Ferguson said that it is unlikely that the Council will support raising taxes without going to the voters first.

Mr. Ferguson stated that it's likely that Metro will have to make cuts across the board at about 10% and then restore services with the East subarea by 40%, the South subarea by 40% and Seattle/North King County subarea by 20%.

Bob Olander noted that this policy is unfair. Mr. Ferguson stated that there isn't support on the County Council to change the policy, which is why he suggested that Shoreline consider moving into a different subarea.

Mr. Ferguson stated that he believed Seattle would be supportive of Shoreline going to the East subarea. The decision-making order is, first, the Regional Transit Committee, and second, the Council.

Mayor Ryu expressed concern if Shoreline did not work with Seattle. Councilmember Eggen said that moving into the East subarea would possibly get Shoreline involved in other issues and fighting against the eastside.

Deputy Mayor Scott said that this rule makes no sense and is purely political. Mr. Ferguson said that Metro would be more than willing to discuss this with Council at a future dinner meeting. Deputy Mayor Scott asked if Mr. Ferguson had more details about the routes being cut. Mr. Ferguson said that the Executive would propose the service level reductions. In summary Mr. Ferguson said it looks like the budget would include fare increases, administrative cuts, across-the-board service cuts, delaying equipment replacement, and using reserves. This would mean making routes less frequent; therefore, buses would become more crowded. In addition, buses and bus shelters will likely be less clean. The Mayor stated that the restoration policy is not equitable.

Mr. Olander said that the City is looking at cutting a couple million out of the 2010 Budget. He noted that the biggest expense is the police contract, which includes a 5% increase despite the flat Consumer Price Index (CPI). The City is seeing a \$500,000 increase in the contract. Cities are asking the Executive to re-open the contract. Mr. Olander hoped the Council would support this renegotiation of the labor contract.

Mr. Ferguson said that is unlikely to change; the Executive is responsible for the labor agreement and the Council votes on it.

Mr. Ferguson said that the Executive sent the Council legislation related to the "life boat." The Council restored a number of those cuts; some programs were cut and some received funding for half a year.

The Mayor asked if there is any likelihood of a structural change in human services, such as a more comprehensive, efficient model. Mr. Ferguson replied that every option is being considered. Mr. Ferguson said that Council will look at the things that the County is not required to do, such as health clinics. He said that it's possible to see significant reductions.

Councilmember McGlashan asked why Mr. Ferguson was not in the County Executive race. Mr. Ferguson admits that part of him wanted to run, but with his young family, the timing didn't seem right. It's not the job that he's concerned about; it's the campaigning that takes up so much time.

In closing, Mayor Ryu thanked Mr. Ferguson for taking the time to meet with the Council. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Scott Passey, City Clerk