

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

Monday, November 23, 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; Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Relations Program Manager; Scott Passey, City Clerk

GUEST: none

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Relations Program Manager, introduced the topic of tonight's meeting: the state's \$2.6 billion budget deficit. He mentioned possible proposals for addressing the deficit, including cutting discretionary services, reordering budget priorities, and a sales tax on food. He notes that the budget deficit is dramatic and no matter what is decided, it will affect all cities, including Shoreline.

Mr. Olander asked if there were any legislative discussions that propose to appropriate city revenues for state purposes. Mr. MacColl responded affirmatively, noting that the Association of Washington Cities is concerned because cities want to retain maximum flexibility regarding their revenues. He briefly outlined the AWC Subcommittee Recommendations to the 2009-2010 Legislative Committee, which include several major priorities: city flexibility; municipal stormwater funding; and street utility authority, to name a few.

Mr. Olander commented that there is likely to be general opposition to the street utility authority, which would enable cities to create a street utility based on a trip charge system. Mr. MacColl clarified that it would be assessed on vehicles, not homes.

Councilmember Hansen arrived at 6:23 p.m.

Mr. MacColl noted that AWC plays defense and tries to help cities keep what they have. He said things will happen quickly because it is a short legislative session, and there are many "what if" scenarios floating around regarding the governor's budget.

Deputy Mayor Scott commented that cities want flexibility on things like impact fees, etc.

Councilmember Eggen commented that the issue of using the City's General Fund for fire hydrants could be serious for Shoreline. Mr. Olander replied that staff is exploring various options, including increasing the tax on the water utility via the franchise or contract payment.

There was brief discussion about possibly adding to the City's list of 2010 Legislative Priorities, which is divided between General and Specific priorities.

Councilmember Eggen commented on the tolling issue and the right-of-way (ROW) priority. Mr. Olander noted that cable franchises don't really like local ROW control.

Councilmember Eggen said the rumor is that there will be proposals to control high density around transit oriented development (TOD) sites.

Mr. MacColl said that Joe Tovar, Planning & Development Services Director, and the American Planning Association have tried to make recommendations for development near TODs. He said this issue will definitely come up in the session.

Mayor Ryu wondered if it would be worthwhile to differentiate between urban trees/forests, and the trees/forests that are not considered urban.

Councilmember Way said she spoke to Speaker Frank Chopp about the urban forestry theme, and there are lots of considerations going into it. She noted that green jobs, which is an issue the trade unions have latched onto, is an area she is interested in pursuing. She suggested maybe something could be included in the priorities.

Mayor Ryu noted that value-added resources are a key component. She wondered if the City should include "workforce training" and "green jobs" through Shoreline Community College as a priority.

Deputy Mayor Scott noted that the City of Seattle used federal block grant funds to accomplish similar things. He noted that aspirational, "pie in the sky" priorities won't work in this short legislative session.

Mr. Olander pointed out that including "workforce training" and "green jobs" would likely require the involvement of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED). He said that keeping the goals general allows Mr. MacColl the flexibility to respond to changing legislation during the session. He said staff can put something in the draft and the new Council can decide in January if they want to include it.

Councilmember Way suggested adding a sub-bullet regarding the Lake Ballinger Forum. Mr. MacColl felt that this could be covered under the broad priority "Support funding to

meet stormwater requirements.” Councilmember Eggen noted that Lake Ballinger doesn’t need much, but it would be nice to have it somewhere in the priorities. Mr. MacColl inquired about the priority of Lake Ballinger relative to other watersheds in Shoreline. Councilmember Eggen commented that Shoreline contributes to the downstream stormwater problem in the Lake Ballinger watershed, but other watersheds are important too.

Mayor Ryu noted that the state expects cities to request funding for our own problems, and they like it when we partner with others like the Lake Ballinger Forum. Councilmember McGlashan pointed out that federal funding is directed to cities that work regionally. Mr. Olander noted that the oil barrel bill helps watersheds generally by helping the stormwater system, assisting in getting grants, etc.

Mr. MacColl clarified that we don’t need to say what we’ll do with it; we talk about the problems generally. He felt asking for funding to address stormwater management is the most effective course of action.

Continuing, Mr. MacColl noted that it will be very rough on health and human services funding, since 80% of discretionary spending goes to “medicate, incarcerate, and educate.”

The discussion then turned to the Specific Priorities, and it was noted that the water/sewer district assumption issue needs to be explored in more detail. Mr. Olander noted that the assumption process can proceed without it going to a public vote, but water/sewer districts want it to go to the people. He suggested that the State Supreme Court could get involved in such “hostile takeovers.” Mr. MacColl said there are very mixed opinions among lobbyists regarding assumption of special districts. Mr. Olander pointed out that the State of Washington has a high percentage of special districts compared to other states. He said AWC supports the cities’ legal rights to assume districts. Mr. MacColl noted that the legal outcomes of hostile takeovers are about 50-50.

There was brief discussion about the possible assumptions of Ronald Wastewater District (RWD) and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). Mr. Olander stated that the City has the legal authority to assume such districts. He added that if the City can negotiate an assumption with SPU, the City will control 75% of its water, which would be a good start. Mr. MacColl stated that the assumption issue essentially involves the principle of taxation without representation.

The Council then briefly discussed the Fircrest Master Plan process. Mr. Olander commented that the State wants to reduce 200 beds statewide, but still keep Fircrest open. It was noted that there is still nothing tangible on the land use side regarding Fircrest.

It was noted that the fire hydrant/General Fund issue is on the list of AWC priorities.

Mayor Ryu wondered about the possibility of adding a heading about regional or statewide priorities. Mr. MacColl felt that expanding it to the regional level could dilute the Shoreline message.

Councilmember McGlashan noted that the priorities don't seem to include anything about Point Wells or cross-county annexation. Mr. Olander said the City is not going to push the issue if there is no agreement. He said the City can agree on issues of density, units, and building heights, but not on the annexation itself.

Councilmember McGlashan pointed out that three jurisdictions -- Shoreline, Edmonds, and Woodway -- responded to the house fire on 8th Ave NW. It was noted that these cities assist each other due to established mutual aid agreements.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Scott Passey, City Clerk