CITY OF SHORELINE

SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION

Tuesday, February 16, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Ave N.

PRESENT: Mayor McGlashan, Councilmember Eggen, Councilmember McConnell, Councilmember Roberts, Councilmember Scott, and Councilmember Tracey

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:30 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Mayor McGlashan, who presided.

2. FLAG SALUTE/ROLL CALL

Mayor McGlashan led the flag salute. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, all Councilmembers were present with the exception of Deputy Mayor Hall.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tracey, seconded by Councilmember Eggen and carried 6-0, Deputy Mayor Hall was excused.

3. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Bob Olander, City Manager, provided reports and updates on various City meetings, projects, and events.

4. COMMUNITY GROUP PRESENTATION

(a) ARC of King County

Sylvia Fuerstenberg, Executive Director of ARC of King County and Scott Livengood, Community Residential Services Association, provided an overview of the community-based residential services available to the developmentally disabled community, including supported living (SL) and group home (GH) services. They described the type of individuals served through community-based services and advocated for increasing the number of residents receiving community-based care. It was noted that the 1980's legislative act which derived funds from closing RHCs to continue to support developmentally disabled people was still in effect.

There was discussion about the wages of community-based services workers compared to state employees and the lack of cost-effectiveness if community-based wages are increased.

Responding to Council questions, Ms. Fuerstenberg replied that ARC advocates for a wide-variety of community-based options and increased state funding. There was discussion about whether there is a need for both community-based care and institution-based care. Ms. Fuerstenberg commented that people have a better quality of life in community-based settings, not institutional settings.

Councilmembers expressed thanks for the presentation as well as support for community-based care and Fircrest School.

There was brief discussion about the fatality statistics regarding residents who were moved from institutional care out into the community. It was noted that the information is included in the report provided in the Council materials.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

a) Evangeline Abadinas, Federal Way, spoke in favor of community-based care as a resident of a community-based facility for six years.

b) Jean Anderson, Seattle, spoke in favor of the ARC specifically and community-based care generally and said she is glad to be out in the community.

c) Stacey Gillette, spoke in favor of community-based care, even for her sister who needs intensive care but is now living successfully in a group home.

d) Amal Grabinski, Seattle, spoke in favor of community-based care but stated that Fircrest is still needed and people need a range of choices.

e) Chris Callum, Shoreline, agreed with previous speakers and said while he can function outside the institution, many people still need Fircrest.

f) Corrine Nelson, Shoreline, spoke in favor of community-based services for some but not all people with developmental disabilities.

g) Caralee Cook, Shoreline, as a developmentally disabled service provider, commented that people's lives greatly improve with the right support.

h) Tom Howt, Shoreline, Director of Supportive Living Program of the ARC of King County, commented that people have a right to choose various options.

i) John Thull, Shoreline, commented that decisions on Kruckeberg need to be ethically considered and those decisions don't need to cost millions of dollars.

j) Maria Walsh, Mountlake Terrace, expressed support for both community-based care and institutions such as Fircrest, noting that Fircrest supporters believe in choice too.

j) Laethan Wene, Shoreline, encouraged the Council to keep institutions open and to save Fircrest.

k) Patty Par-Norwood, Shoreline, commented on the failure of community-based services, including her own business, due to State mandates and taxes.

6. STUDY ITEMS

(a) City's Financial Challenges: Communications Plan

Julie Underwood, Assistant City Manager, Debbie Tarry, Finance Director and Carolyn Hope, Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) member, along with City Manager Olander, provided an update of the City's efforts to increase the community's awareness of City services, ongoing efficiencies, and future financial challenges. The report included the following points:

- Most people in Shoreline want to maintain the City's quality of life, enhance communications with the City, and to find efficiencies before cutting the budget
- 93% of its residents rate Shoreline an excellent or good place to live
- There are long-term structural financial challenges which have been projected for years.
- Potential solutions to the financial challenge offered by the Citizen Advisory Committee include: efficiencies, budget/service reductions, and revenue-enhancement strategies such as a property tax levy lid lift.

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

Councilmember Tracey discussed the importance of communicating the CAC recommendation and noted that King County is talking about a criminal justice sales tax increase, which will create some planning challenges for the City. Councilmember McConnell inquired about the levy lid lift and Mr. Olander explained that each jurisdiction can set their own rates and go out for levies. It was suggested that King County Councilmember Ferguson be invited to attend a Council dinner meeting in March. Ms. Tarry discussed the timing of this item and noted that it wouldn't have any impact on the City's budget until 2011. However, if it failed in August there wouldn't be enough time to put it back on the November ballot.

Mr. Olander clarified for Council that neither the staff nor Council has taken an official position on the King County sales tax proposal, but the consequences will be crucial for Shoreline if it passes. There was Council discussion about timing and the advantages and disadvantages of proposing a ballot measure in August versus November.

Councilmember Eggen expressed concern about the impact of a sales tax increase on struggling businesses and people on fixed incomes. He felt it isn't clear how far the $0.20 or $0.30 tax gets us into the future. He also questioned whether the cities Shoreline compares to in the comparables studies are accurate. Mr. Olander responded that the City staff breaks down all of the information into what it cost our residents for certain services and if they are satisfied with service delivery.

There was a brief discussion about the reserve fund and the revenue stabilization plan.

RECESS

At 8:53 p.m., Mayor McGlashan called for a five-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:58 p.m.

(b) Purchasing Services Division

Debbie Tarry, Finance Director, presented information regarding the City's Purchasing Division, including its functions and responsibilities.

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:16 p.m. Mayor McGlashan declared the meeting adjourned.

_____

Scott Passey, City Clerk