

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

Monday, February 22, 2010
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room C-104 - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue N.

PRESENT: Mayor Keith McGlashan, Deputy Mayor Will Hall, and Councilmembers Chris Eggen, Doris McConnell, Chris Roberts, Terry Scott, and Shari Tracey

ABSENT: none

STAFF: Julie Underwood, Acting City Manager; Eric Bratton, Management Analyst; Scott Passey, City Clerk

GUEST: none

Mayor McGlashan called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Public Comment on Candidates and Ballot Measures

The Council discussed the options outlined in the staff memo for addressing the problems associated with certain kinds of public comments at Council meetings. Staff explained that because a City Council meeting is considered a limited public forum, the Council has the discretion to limit public comment to those items pertaining to City business. Currently, comments regarding candidates, campaigns, and ballot measures are allowed; however, it was agreed that Council's time is best used on items that relate to City business or issues over which the Council has jurisdiction.

The Council discussed the purpose of public comment and the various issues and problems that an open public forum can create; most notably, that public comment is not a forum to lobby for or against ballot measures in front of television cameras. There was discussion about whether to allow speech on candidates and ballot issues at the end of the public comment period. There was also discussion about whether to turn off the television cameras during public comment. The Council directed staff to find out the practice in other cities.

The Council then discussed whether the problem could simply be addressed by a change in the tone of the meetings or whether a formal amendment to the Council Rules was needed. There was consensus that the Council is not satisfied with the status quo and that some kind of change is needed. There was also a question of whether the Council Rules could be amended to allow comment on ballot issues but not candidates.

Discussion continued regarding the timing of this change and how it could be perceived by the public. It was suggested that changing the rules now rather than waiting right before an election cycle would be more acceptable to the Council and the public.

Mr. Bratten summarized the Council's discussion and said he would bring back options as well as information about how other cities address this issue.

Council Committees

The Council then discussed the various committees they serve on and the issues they address. Councilmember Tracey reported on the Suburban Cities Association Public Issues Committee (PIC) and the issues of transit, reclaimed water, and Transportation 2040.

There was discussion about the role of the Councilmembers representing the Council in the various regional and national committees. Councilmember Eggen noted that many representatives to the PICs bring with them the consensus of their city councils. There was also discussion about whether committee issues need to be brought to the full Council at study sessions or whether email reports were sufficient. There was expressed interest in getting reports of the committee work via email.

With no further business to address, Mayor McGlashan adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Scott Passey, City Clerk