

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

Monday, September 27, 2010
5:45 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: Debbie Tarry, Acting City Manager; Mark Relph, Public Works Director; Scott Passey, City Clerk

GUESTS: Ronald Wastewater District: Michael Derrick, General Manager; Brian Carroll, Commissioner; Arthur Wadekamper, Commissioner; Arnold Lind, Commissioner.

At 5:55 p.m., Mayor McGlashan welcomed the guests and called the meeting to order. There were introductions around the table.

The meeting began with an introduction by Michael Derrick, Ronald Wastewater District General Manager, who provided some background and history on the Ronald Wastewater District (RWD). He noted that RWD incorporated in 1951 and serves the majority of the City of Shoreline with the exception of The Highlands.

Mr. Derrick outlined the program of converting septic owners to the RWD system, noting that homeowners are required to convert to RWD if their septic systems ever fail. It was pointed out that the lifespan of a septic system depends on many factors, but the average life is approximately 50 years.

The discussion then turned briefly to the topic of new development and sewer needs. It was noted that a project was permitted in an area where there is no sewer system. There was a brief discussion about how to avoid this problem in the future.

There was a brief discussion about the success of past projects, including the Echo Lake project and the Highland Terrace project. Councilmember Eggen questioned if septic systems present any significant groundwater problems, to which Mr. Derrick responded that they do not present any real hazards. He commented that there have been no reports of failing systems.

A brief discussion followed regarding the success of the side sewer replacements and the 90% sign-up rate. RWD representatives commented that they hope to share their success stories in reducing inflow and infiltration (I&I) at their national conference this year.

There was discussion about the benefits of preventing and reducing I&I and the benefits of system integration.

RWD Issues

Mr. Derrick elaborated on issues that make it difficult for RWD to design and complete infrastructure projects in the City of Shoreline. He outlined the various planning, lighting, and acoustical requirements to build a simple garage, and commented that the Planning Director's subjective discretion can overrule a third party consultant. He pointed out that stop work orders frustrate the flow of projects, and the City's "by-the-book" approach is detrimental to development in Shoreline.

He then commented on a project involving a sound attenuation barrier (tree) and the difficulty in getting it approved by City staff. He felt as if City staff are only looking at the projects "on paper" and not visiting the job sites. He speculated whether the problem might be arising from a lack of inspection experience on the part of City staff.

Mr. Relph responded, noting that he cannot speak for the Planning and Development Services (PADS) staff or to the outcome of this particular project. Councilmember Scott expressed interest in hearing the outcome of this project at a later date.

Councilmember Eggen suggested that the City adopt a method for developers to officially register their stories/complaints.

Mr. Relph suggested that he meet with the City Manager and PADS Director to debrief this issue and learn from it. He emphasized the importance of maintaining strong relationships with the special districts, including RWD.

Mr. Wadekamper suggested that if a stop work order is issued, it should only stop the problem aspect of the project, not the entire project.

Councilmember Roberts summarized the discussion and noted that he is hearing two conflicting issues: 1) RWD wants clarity on code/policy but doesn't want the Director to have subjective discretion; and 2) the problem is a training/application issue. There was agreement that the problem was both a training/application issue and a code/policy issue.

Mr. Relph noted that a key factor in solving the problem is practical application and training in the field. He suggested a meeting between the City and RWD. He noted that the City is working to get their inspection team properly trained.

Councilmember Scott emphasized the fact that Shoreline cannot afford to be known as a place that's difficult to build in or develop.

Mr. Carroll commented that RWD also needs an update from the City on the growth planning studies so they know how to plan and build in the future. Mr. Relph responded that these studies will be part of the City's scheduled Comprehensive Plan Update. Mr. Relph reemphasized the need for communication in order to coordinate on planning and projects, including standards for the Aurora Corridor.

There was a brief discussion about the project on Carlyle Hall Road. Mr. Relph explained that there are ways to repair roads without closing them, but it is rare. He noted that the City meets quarterly with the utility districts to coordinate right-of-way work. He then handed out a map of the overlay projects throughout the City and explained the strategies to use other treatments to repair roads. He noted that the new strategies will require even more coordination with the utility districts.

Mr. Relph then shared the schedule for the remainder of the Aurora Corridor Project, noting that the City is still working to acquire the remainder of the funding for the third mile. It was noted that 10% of the funds for the Project are City funds.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Scott Passey, City Clerk

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