

CITY OF SHORELINE

**SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION**

Monday, May 2, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue North

PRESENT: Mayor McGlashan, Deputy Mayor Hall, Councilmember Eggen, Councilmember McConnell, Councilmember Roberts, Councilmember Scott, and Councilmember Winstead

ABSENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 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.

(a) Proclamation of Building Safety Month 2011

Mayor McGlashan read the proclamation declaring the month of May as "Building Safety Month" in the City of Shoreline. Ray Allshouse, Building Official, and Mark Bunje, Shoreline Fire Chief, accepted the proclamation and commented on the importance of building codes in relation to public safety.

3. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND FUTURE AGENDAS

Julie Underwood, City Manager, provided reports and updates on various City meetings, projects, and events.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Eggen stated he attended the Regional Transit Committee meeting and there was discussion concerning potential amendments to the King County Metro Strategic Plan. He also reported on the Growth Management Planning Council meeting and said it is seeking input on the draft countywide planning policies.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

a) Craig Degginger, Shoreline, commented on his 22-year quest to improve surface water and drainage in the Meridian Park wetland area between 165th Avenue N and Wallingford, adding that he hopes the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes a permanent solution to flooding in his neighborhood.

b) Gretchen Atkinson, Shoreline, encouraged the Council to keep the Surface Water Master Plan a priority, noting that the flooding affects several homes in the Meridian Park (MP) wetlands down through 167th Avenue N, 165th Avenue N area into Wallingford.

6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Councilmember Scott, seconded by Councilmember Eggen and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved.

7. STUDY ITEMS

(a) Surface Water Master Plan Update

Mark Relph, Public Works Director, Jesus Sanchez, Public Works Operations Manager, and Brian Landau, Surface Water and Environmental Services Manager, provided the staff report. They discussed the key policy issues associated with the Surface Water Utility and explained that the outcome of tonight's discussion will provide direction to the City staff for completing the 2011 Surface Water Master Plan (SWMP) update.

Mr. Sanchez discussed the background and communicated that water quality and flooding are Shoreline's top two priorities according to the results of the community forum that was held. He continued and reviewed accomplishments from the 2005 SWMP.

Mr. Landau identified some of the surface water issues. He noted that repair and replacement versus new capital facilities is the first issue. He explained the recommendation for higher priority on maintenance over new capacity improvements as being a more proactive approach.

Deputy Mayor Hall agreed, noting that public infrastructure was built before there were adequate stormwater regulations, and maintenance and operations will help the City grasp the new capital investment costs.

Councilmember Roberts also agreed with the priority. He stated that the last mile of Aurora will be in the area where a lot of surface water will occur and he verified with Mr. Landau that there will be a lot of water quality and capacity improvements in the final mile. Mr. Landau also noted that under the new storm water regulations, developers would be required to use low impact development surface water techniques.

Responding to Councilmember Eggen, Mr. Relph explained that maintenance over capital projects means that there has been a heavy emphasis on addressing major problems and not so much on maintenance. This plan will focus on putting some level of investment back into the maintenance before there is a catastrophic problem. He explained that there is a large amount of

work to be done on the system. Asset management, said Mr. Relph, involves knowing where the pipes are, their condition, and how they perform under a certain storm event the City can determine if the system is running at capacity or not. This approach, he said, establishes the criteria for prevention.

Councilmember Eggen questioned what else would be considered besides preventative maintenance and determining where failures could occur, absent any catastrophic problems. Mr. Sanchez responded. Mr. Relph added that the City staff could bring back more detailed information that will outline the type, age, and cost to replace the system to help them better understand the asset. Councilmember Eggen concurred with moving ahead with the asset management plan.

Councilmember McConnell clarified that the City has been repairing the system and now the maintenance portion can begin. She highlighted that the report stated that the system has reached the end of its useful life. She encouraged the City staff to address the neighborhoods that have flooding issues first.

Mayor McGlashan discussed the two alternatives and Mr. Relph responded on the differences between the two alternatives.

Mr. Landau discussed staff-recommended Issue #2 -- rate credits for low impact development (LID) improvements. Councilmember Roberts concurred with the City staff recommendation to approve incentives through grant programs or one-time rebate programs and questioned rain barrels. Mr. Landau responded that the City could grant LID incentives and provide discounted rain barrels to residents.

Councilmember Eggen spoke in favor of an incentive program or a variable rate system, similar to staff's Alternative #1, noting that people who have tree cover and impervious surfaces on their property should be afforded some type of credit. He felt a revenue-neutral incentive program could help address the surface water problem. There was further discussion about the need to established thresholds if an incentive/credit system were established. Staff noted that incentives might not work if people have to pay a lot of money to upgrade their properties, adding that the average surface water bill is only \$140 per month. However, staff felt the City has some flexibility on how to implement incentives. Deputy Mayor Hall agreed with having a more flexible approach rather than having rate credits. He felt there would be credit compliance issues and that the cost of record keeping, tracking, and appeals would add costs to operate the system. Councilmember Eggen restated his preference for Alternative #1 because it is the only way to motivate homeowners to plant trees and/or decrease impervious surfaces.

There was Council consensus in favor of Alternative #2.

Discussion began on Issue #3 on whether or not utilities should establish a more defined policy regarding the use of public funds to obtain easements to improve and/or maintain drainage systems that cross private property. He explained staff-recommended Alternative #1 that would develop a policy to address surface water issues on private property. Mr. Landau displayed a decision flow chart for water management activity on private property.

After further discussion, there was Council consensus in favor of Alternative #1.

Staff then outlined Issue #4 regarding no-cost permits for non-commercial fundraising car washes. Staff recommended that non-commercial car washing events be a permitted activity administered by the Surface Water Utility and the Planning and Development Services department. Councilmember Winstead agreed with the approach, adding that there is an environmental car wash kit available from the City. Councilmember Roberts said the City should do something to reduce the number of car washes happening and encourage the professional car wash facilities to work with fundraising entities to address runoff properly. Following further Council discussion, there was consensus in favor of Issue #4.

Mr. Relph outlined the next steps, which include another public hearing and a round of public issues. He noted that the rate levels, maintenance costs, and debt service would be brought back in the future. Councilmember Eggen noted that the public rated water quality as the highest concern, and Mr. Sanchez clarified that they are concerned on how the City can “polish” the water entering into the Puget Sound. Deputy Mayor Hall commented that it would be helpful to see the “before and after” results in water runoff projects like City Hall, Shoreline High School, and the Aurora Corridor Project.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation: RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

At 8:45 p.m., Mayor McGlashan announced that the Council would recess into an Executive Session for a period of 30 minutes to discuss litigation, per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). At 9:15 p.m., Mayor McGlashan emerged and announced that the Executive Session would be extended until 9:35 p.m. At 9:35 p.m., the Executive Session concluded and the Study Session reconvened.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 p.m., Mayor McGlashan declared the meeting adjourned.

Scott Passey, City Clerk