

CITY OF SHORELINE

**SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING**

Monday, February 4, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue North

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

ABSENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:03 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 Black History Month

Mayor McGlashan read the proclamation declaring the month of February, 2013 as "Black History Month" in the City of Shoreline. He also recognized Girl Scout Troop 41236 in the audience.

3. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

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

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Eggen reported on a SeaShore Transportation Forum report regarding alternate means of funding roads.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

a) Craig Keller, Seattle, on behalf of Save Our Choice, expressed opposition to a plastic bag ban and asked the Council to support consumer and merchant choice.

b) Don LaCourse, Shoreline, expressed support for a plastic bag ban for environmental and sustainability reasons.

c) Dennis Heller, Shoreline, shared a personal experience illustrating the need for a plastic bag ban and urged the Council to support it.

d) Lois Harrison, Shoreline, expressed support for a ban on plastic bags and discussed the negative impacts of plastic in the environment.

e) Emma Jornlin, Seattle, on behalf of Environment Washington, shared testimonials and statistics supporting a position against plastic carry out bags.

f) Alan Charnley, Shoreline, expressed support for a plastic bag ban, noting there is support for it on Shoreline Community College campus.

g) Janet Way, Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline Preservation Society, urged the Council to ban plastic non-reusable bags.

h) Tom Jamieson, Shoreline, expressed opposition to a plastic bag ban due to the increased cost to citizens and higher priorities in the City.

6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Councilmember Winstead, seconded by Councilmember McConnell and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Roberts and unanimously carried, the following Consent Calendar item was approved:

(a) Minutes of Business Meeting of January 14, 2013

8. STUDY ITEMS

(a) Discussion of Plastic Carryout Bag Regulation Alternatives

John Norris, Management Analyst, provided the staff report regarding regulation of plastic bags

in the City of Shoreline. He discussed survey results, stakeholder input, regulatory alternatives approved in other jurisdictions, state legislation, and other regulatory considerations involved in a proposed plastic bag ban.

The Council asked questions of staff and discussed their views on plastic bag use. There was discussion about bag thickness, possible loopholes in a bag ban law, laws in neighboring jurisdictions, reusable shopping bags, biodegradation, Styrofoam, environmental degradation, and citizen survey results. Councilmembers also commented on the incidence of plastic bags jamming recycling equipment and asked staff for data on shopping habits or tax revenue information in other jurisdictions. Mr. Norris and Dan Eernisse, Economic Development Manager, responded to Council comments and questions. Mr. Eernisse discussed factors that could impact customer attitudes and shopping habits, concluding that plastic bag bans have not had significant economic impacts in other cities.

Councilmembers discussed the need to look at this issue within the broader context of the City's Sustainability Strategy. Some discussed a plastic bag ban as a largely symbolic gesture but a good step in addressing sustainability. Others discussed it as an act with definite consequences that will change behavior and have a positive impact on the environment. The Council discussed possible legislation on the state level, the possible invention of degradable plastics in the future, level of support among commercial businesses for a bag ban, issues of consistency and fairness, and the goal of increasing reusable bag use.

Ms. Underwood summarized the Council's direction to prepare legislation similar to the City of Seattle ordinance and to provide further recommendations based on tonight's discussion.

RECESS

At 8:50 p.m., Mayor McGlashan called for a five-minute break. At 9:00 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

(b) Discussion of Proposed Low Impact Development (LID) Rebate Program

Jesus Sanchez, Public Works Operations Manager, and Brian Landau, Surface Water Manager, provided the staff report regarding a proposed rebate program which would provide incentives to citizens for low-impact development (LID). They identified raingardens, conservation landscaping, and splash blocks as the key elements of the program. Mr. Landau discussed the background and history of incentive programs and the program goals of improving water quality and reducing peak stream flows. He outlined the public outreach effort, coordination with stewardship partners, and requested Council direction on the proposal.

The Council responded to the proposal with questions, comments, and suggestions for making the program successful. They discussed various issues including public benefit, hydrological effect on streams, and environmental stewardship. Staff clarified the primary purpose of the program is to promote conservation management and environmental awareness. It was suggested

that the City also promote the use of cisterns and other rainwater capture/storage solutions. Councilmembers suggested that the City provide more resources and examples so people will have clear ideas on how to design and construct raingardens.

Councilmembers asked for more details about the effectiveness of raingardens before moving forward. There were some questions and concerns expressed about the rebate amount as well as the limited staff resources and outreach efforts. Staff clarified that cisterns require a higher level of engineering and design review, which wouldn't fit this type of program. Staff also explained the rationale behind the rebate. Council discussed conservation landscaping, the use of native plants, and the 5-10 year program term, adding that the rebate amount could be on a sliding scale based on a differential term. Staff clarified that the program would provide a public benefit if it reduces surface water runoff on private properties.

Despite some mixed feelings, there was general Council support and direction for staff to move forward with an LID rebate program.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:47 p.m., Mayor McGlashan declared the meeting adjourned.

Scott Passey, City Clerk