

CITY OF SHORELINE

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

Monday, April 29, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue North

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Winstead

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 with the exception of Councilmember Winstead.

Upon motion by Councilmember McConnell, seconded by Councilmember Solomon and carried 6-0, Councilmember Winstead was excused.

3. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

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

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

a) Tom Jamieson, Shoreline, expressed opposition to the proposed ordinance banning plastic bags based on a lack of urgency and negative impacts on businesses.

b) Emma Jornlin, Seattle, Environment Washington, outlined her outreach efforts at Shoreline Community College regarding support for the plastic bag ban.

c) Amy Tower, Seattle, expressed support for the plastic bag ban, adding that Seattle is being more mindful of using resources.

d) Katie Moore, Everett, spoke in favor of recycling and opposed the ordinance banning plastic bags due to the harmful unintended consequences on small businesses.

e) Lois Harrison, Shoreline, expressed support for a bag ban due to environmental concerns, adding that Styrofoam containers are also a problem.

f) Kathi Peterson, Shoreline, stated she and most of her neighbors oppose a plastic bag ban due to business impacts, adding that it should be voted on by residents.

g) Craig Keller, Seattle, Save Our Choice, opposed the plastic bag ban due to the economic impacts on consumers, retailers, and Shoreline generally. He would like to see a better job of polling the community and mentioned a referendum if the ban passed.

h) Dennis Heller, Shoreline, expressed support for the plastic bag ban because it is an important environmental issue everyone's been waiting for.

i) Charlotte Haines, Shoreline, opposed the plastic bag ban, adding that if the Council is going to do it, it must consider all plastic disposable products.

6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember McConnell and carried 6-0, the agenda was approved.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Roberts and carried 6-0, the following Consent Calendar items were approved:

(a) Minutes of Business Meeting of April 15, 2013

8. ACTION ITEMS

(a) Adoption of Ordinance No. 660 Amending the Categorical Exemptions for Minor New Construction Under the Environmental Policy Act; and Amending Section 20.30.560 of the Shoreline Municipal Code

Jeff Forry, Permit Services Manager, provided the staff report on proposed Ordinance No. 660 related to the City's environmental review procedures. He advised that the proposed amendments would raise the thresholds for minor new construction and eliminate the automatic environmental review for activities in critical areas and their buffers. He explained that the amendments are intended to implement the Department of Ecology's thresholds that were developed as a result of Senate Bill 6406 and the purpose of this meeting was to discuss any remaining issues prior to adoption.

Mr. Forry responded to Council questions by providing information on how the State Environmental Policy Act rules apply to counties and cities not planning under the Growth Management Act, the rule making process, and expiration provisions in bill. He then recommended that the Council adopt Ordinance No. 660 as proposed and concluded by outlining the action alternatives available to Council.

Councilmember Hall moved adoption of Ordinance No. 660. Councilmember Salomon seconded the motion. Councilmember Hall indicated his support for the amendments based on environmental regulations being put in place over the years resulting in a reduction of environmental impacts for development. Furthermore, the thresholds were debated at length both in the State Legislature and during the rule making process.

Councilmember Salomon agreed that the environmental regulations in place, outside of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), are sufficiently protecting the environment. He emphasized that reducing the thresholds will also be friendly for redevelopment within the City which is critical for economic wellbeing.

Councilmember Roberts expressed that there is value in giving the public a venue to comment on the impacts a development will have. He reminded the Council of the steps the City has taken to make the SEPA process easier for developers through Planned Actions for commercial areas like Town Center and he hopes the same can be done for the Light Rail Station Areas and the Aurora Square Community Renewal Area. Councilmember Roberts expressed his belief that SEPA is not a burdensome obstacle for staff or developers and stressed that there does not seem to be any rush to make these amendments. He indicated he would support the thresholds recommended for non-GMA planning cities.

Mayor McGlashan spoke in favor of the motion as he believes it will be a step towards achieving the Council's goal of strengthening Shoreline's economic base.

A vote was taken on the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 660, which carried 5-1, with Councilmember Roberts dissenting.

(b) Approval of Ordinance No. 653 Banning the Use of Plastic Carryout Bags

John Norris, Management Analyst, provided the staff report on proposed Ordinance No. 653 related to the ban of plastic carryout bags. He highlighted the provisions of the Ordinance, including carryout bag regulations, effective date, definitions, exemptions from the charge, and penalties. He discussed the Ordinance implementation plan, including the citizen/consumer communication strategy, business communication strategy, enforcement strategy, and issues with increased rates of shoplifting. He concluded by outlining the action alternatives available to Council.

Councilmember Roberts moved adoption of Ordinance No. 653. Councilmember Salomon seconded the motion.

Councilmember Roberts questioned if the implementation strategy allowing retailers to use existing plastic bag stock after the ban is in effect would conflict with the Ordinance language. Mr. Norris clarified the intent of the enforcement provisions and Mr. Sievers indicated the City has prosecutorial discretion, adding that it would also be a hard case to make if the City has eight months to educate businesses about the regulations. Councilmember Roberts asked if staff had a recommendation on pushing the effective date back. Mr. Norris responded that February 1 would be acceptable.

Deputy Mayor Eggen moved to amend the implementation date to February 1, 2014. Councilmember Salomon seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

Mayor McGlashan, Deputy Mayor Eggen, and Councilmembers Hall, Roberts, and Salomon each declared their support for the Ordinance. The general consensus was that even though a ban would not make a major impact in protecting the environment, and measuring benefits versus harm would be difficult, plastic is not good for the environment. Given that sustainability is the centerpiece of the City's strategy, the ban would be a step in the right direction. The Council asked questions about particular exemptions and the paper bag charge and its applicable tax. There was agreement that the City should also consider Styrofoam and take a comprehensive look at what it can do to be more environmentally sustainable.

A vote was taken on the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 653 as amended, which carried 5-1, with Councilmember McConnell dissenting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m., Mayor McGlashan declared the meeting adjourned.

Scott Passey, City Clerk