

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, April 21, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue North

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

ABSENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Mayor Winstead.

2. FLAG SALUTE/ROLL CALL

Mayor Winstead led the flag salute. Upon roll call by the Deputy City Clerk, all Councilmembers were present.

3. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Debbie Tarry, City Manager, provided reports and updates on various City meetings, projects and events.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Winstead reported attending the King County Seattle Board of Health meeting and discussing secure medicine return fees and hazardous waste fee restructuring.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Pottinger, Bellevue resident, District Manager North City Water District and professional engineer, commented on the Utility Unification and Efficiency Study. She stated that the financial projections contained in the report are incorrect, and that correct data will be provided to the City in June. She commented on the overhead costs and the use of rate making practices to use capital contributions to balance the budget, cautioned against rate increases, contested the cost savings projection, and recommended that staff and Council review the assumptions presented in the report.

Tom Jamieson, Shoreline, commented on the inefficiencies that will take place from assuming Ronald Wastewater and recommended reviewing concurrency with other agencies.

6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Eggen, seconded by Councilmember McConnell and unanimously carried, the following Consent Calendar items were approved:

- a) Minutes of Business Meeting of March 31, 2014

8. STUDY ITEMS

- a) Discussion of the Utility Unification and Efficiency Study

Ms. Tarry introduced Mark Relph, Public Works Director and Gail Tabone of ESS Consulting to provide the report for the Utility Unification and Efficiency Study. Mr. Relph stated the two main objectives of the study is to quantify efficiency opportunities for the utilities and the City's general operations when the utilities are added to the City, and to evaluate other water and sewer charges to identify future utility policy issues. He stated the Ronald Wastewater District, Seattle Public Utilities, North City Water District, and identified City's operations were used to complete the study. Ms. Tabone provided an overview of the utilities, reviewed rate comparisons, and explained the quantification of savings. She reviewed direct saving options 1-4, and explained the benefits to city departments in general operations savings. Mr. Relph commented that the unification will benefit rate payers and the City, presented the non-economic benefits, discussed how unification can help balance economic development needs, and addressed future policy considerations.

Councilmembers inquired about connections fees for commercial businesses and asked if additional fees charged in Shoreline are due to insufficient water supply or sewer capacity. The savings from RWD was explained and it was clarified that the saving occurs from the unification, and not in RWD's budget. Questions were asked about estimating costs for SPU operating in Shoreline, utility accounting practices, and overhead impacting the City. Councilmembers expressed interest in reviewing the City's historical performance of managing utilities rates; asked for clarification regarding existing storm water utility savings; and commented on the cross training of utility staff.

Ms. Tabone responded that connection fees for commercial businesses are not related to water supply, but rather are based on what infrastructure is required to be built to service the development. Mr. Relph added that connection charges may have to be accessed to improve deficiencies but can be recovered by the developer through an agreement.

Ms. Tabone addressed utility accounting practices and stated that the cost for SPU operating in Shoreline was estimated by subtracting costs from revenues. She stated that rates of the utility are set equal to the cost specific to the utility, and that a transfer of funds to the City's general fund would only occur to cover administrative functions and from assessed utility taxes. Mr.

Relph stated overhead costs have to be reviewed as the utilities are merged, and Ms. Tarry provided examples of potential overhead costs. Mr. Relph stated that further clarification will be provided regarding the storm water utility cost and savings. He stated having utility staff under City operations lends to cross training and utilizing staff in varying capacities.

At 8:02 p.m. Mayor Winstead called for a five minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

b) Discussion of Ord. No. 688 Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA)

Ms. Tarry introduced Shawn Ledford, Shoreline Police Chief; Chad Devore, Shoreline Police Sergeant; and Julie Ainsworth-Taylor, Assistant City Attorney; to provide the presentation. Chief Ledford stated SODA is a court order issued by a judge and provides authority to police detectives to recommend to the prosecutor viable candidates to be placed on a SODA order. He explained SODA is needed to assist with resolving drug related criminal activity, for prevention of reoccurring crimes; and to promote a safe environment for citizens. Sergeant Devore presented a five year study and a corresponding graph of narcotics related activity in the City of Shoreline. Drug related calls for service were identified and an aerial map was presented displaying proposed SODA geographic boundaries.

Councilmembers commented on the consideration of neighborhood residents impacted by lawlessness on Aurora, expressed concern with the broadness of the area, and stated that SODA may serve to force low income residents with limited options to move away from Shoreline. Questions were asked about the ability of residents on a SODA order to travel by transit on the Aurora Corridor and about the number of repeat offenders violating Stay Out of Area Prostitution (SOAP). Councilmembers inquired as to how often the SODA tool will be used, and asked about resulting penalties. Staff was asked about SODA's effectiveness, and asked to provide feedback from other jurisdictions.

Councilmembers expressed the need to keep the area safe for residents, businesses, shoppers, and to provide police enforcement powers. It was asked if the SODA area could be expanded, and comments were made regarding costs impacting the City. Chief Ledford stated that SODA focuses on those people targeting Shoreline for criminal activity and stated that homeowners involved in criminal activity may not be a good candidate for SODA. Ms. Ainsworth-Taylor added that judges have the ability to exempt residents, and provide stipulations to allow travel to and from work. Chief Ledford stated that there are repeat offenders and will provide a specific number to Council at a later date. He stated SODA will be a resource available for police enforcement for chronic and repeat offenders, and hopes, through education, to deter drug related criminal activity. Ms. Ainsworth-Taylor stated the penalty is a gross misdemeanor, and that the SODA order can be issued as a pretrial release or as sentencing restrictions. Ms. Ainsworth-Taylor commented on expanding the SODA area and stated that a two year review cycle is built into the ordinance for modifications and updates. Sergeant Devore added that the SODA areas selected were specifically targeted to address the areas of the City currently being affected by drug related crimes.

Councilmembers commented that SODA will support Council's goals for public safety and economic development. Ms. Tarry stated staff will gather information regarding the effectiveness of SODA in other jurisdictions for Council's review and that the adoption of the ordinance is scheduled to come before Council in May.

At 8:57 p.m., Mayor Winstead declared the meeting adjourned.

Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk