

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

January 12, 2010

Mayor Eaton called the January 12, 2010 Study Session to order at 9:01 A.M.

Council Present: Mayor Robert Eaton, Peter DeVries, Tibor Lak, Michael Molohon, Lucky Moore, Elmer Larsen, Robert Francis, and Cheri Kelley Farivar.

Staff Present: Connie Krueger, David Schettler, and Michelle Brooks.

1. WCIA Training, Lew Leigh

Mayor Eaton introduced Mr. Lew Leigh from Washington Cities Insurance Authority who presented a one-hour training on Council Do's and Don'ts.

2. Council Open Discussion

Councilmember Cheri Kelley Farivar stated that she has had three constituents call with regard to the utility rate increases. She noted that after doing some research that the water, sewer and garbage rates have gone up 28% over four years. Councilmember Farivar suggested that notification be sent out prior to implementation of the rate increase. Mayor Eaton explained this had been done during the budget process through Public Hearing announcements, etc. He thought that more information needed to be made available to the public on how funds operated and that there can't be a comingling of funds. Mayor Eaton remanded the Public Works Committee to develop a one page position paper or FAQ sheet to be sent to residents explaining the rate structures and utility funds of the City.

Councilmember Elmer Larsen would like to have the shop area cleaned up and have the chain link fence completed. He noted that the chain link fence had not been completed due to the current City Ordinance for that zone, and recommended that the ordinance be updated to allow chain link fencing for safety issues in certain commercial zones. After much discussion on the subject, Community Development Director Connie Krueger stated she would work on the issue.

Councilmember Elmer Larsen noted his frustrations about using Study Session to discuss items in depth rather than doing so at Council Meetings.

Councilmember Peter DeVries noted that the Group Funding Request form developed by Mayor Eaton was well done. He reported that the State Auditor has conducted an eight county audit on building and land use fees. Councilmember DeVries shared an article called "Building Outside the Box" and thinks the City should follow the example in the article when dealing with small projects.

Mayor Eaton explained Group Funding and how the process works.

3. Easement Request

Community Development Director Connie Krueger explained that a letter had been received from Ian and Joanna Dunn explaining their position and concerns with signing the current drafted easement for the sewer line that crosses their property as proposed by the City. She noted that the Dunn's have made a proposal which would constitute a financial obligation for the City and as such

requires Council's discussion and direction. Public Works Director Dave Schettler explained where the sewer line is located and that at some undetermined time in the past the sewer line had been installed crossing a property on Whitman Street, which is currently the Dunn's property. Director Schettler explained to Council how the line can be re-routed in another area, and until such time, the line can be relocated and abandoned. Any new development can connect to the main rather than the line bisecting the Dunn property. He stated that approximately five to eight homes will need to have their connections relocated. Mayor Eaton directed Director Schettler to develop a solution and report to bring back to a future Study Session.

4. Beneficiary Release for Icicle Entertainment

Mayor Eaton explained that the City had served as lead agency in a Housing and Urban Development low-interest loan application for the Icicle Junction development on Highway 2. He noted that this was a housekeeping item and the City may fully release the deed as the loan has been paid.

5. Upper Valley Mend Utility Connection Fee

Director Krueger stated that Upper Valley Mend has submitted a request to the City asking that the City waive the water system connection fee based on City Resolution 9-2002. She noted that based on the Resolution, Council has discretion to waive the fee entirely, partially or not waived. Director Krueger expressed concerns with regard to Resolution 9-2002 and if a policy of waiving the fees that are identified in the resolution continues to be supportable for other future development given the financial obligation of the City in relation to long-term utility system development. Council expressed concerns with the impact of these types of Resolutions, and also keeping in mind who is benefitting from the waiver of these fees. Mayor Eaton said this request is bringing an opportunity to support this project which will benefit the handicap, special needs and elderly, and to allow Council to review current Resolutions as the City needs to be able to fiducially support the water and sewer system funds. Director Krueger recommends rescinding Resolution 9-2002 for review excluding the current request. Mayor Eaton asked that the Public Works Committee review and make recommendations to present to Council on the MEND request.

Mayor Eaton excused himself from the meeting to take a conference call that was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Mayor Pro-tem Peter DeVries preceded the meeting.

6. Wayfinding Signage Strategy Contract

Director Krueger explained that the Downtown Steering Committee, which includes Councilmembers Molohon, Lak and DeVries amongst others, has been working on the development of a Wayfinding Signage Strategy. She distributed and reviewed a scope of work overview that was prepared by SeaReach, a firm that specializes in wayfinding signage planning, design and construction. Director Krueger stated that the Committee had interviewed and selected SeaReach, Ltd. and a contract will be coming before Council for approval at the next Council meeting. Councilmember Lak stated that this signage covers everything on both sides of the highway, including Community Bulletin Boards and Kiosks and will be long term. Councilmembers DeVries and Molohon both support and highly recommend SeaReach, Ltd. and the contract.

7. Icicle Brewery Industrial Discharge Contract

Director Schettler presented the proposed Icicle Brewery Industrial Discharge Contract and reviewed the contract with Council. He explained that the Public Works Committee will also be discussing the contract and that City Attorney McCauley had reviewed the document. Director Schettler stated that the contract was prepared with the assistance of Peter Burgoon who has developed similar contracts in the past. He noted that the contract will be presented to Council for approval at the February meeting.

8. Code Amendment Update

Director Krueger reviewed with Council the proposed code amendments and how the process will continue. She noted that the Council will be asked to set a public meeting at the Council meeting for January 26th. Councilmember Larsen stated that he wants a public hearing rather than a public meeting so that the public can voice any concerns they may have. Director Krueger explained that the Planning Commission had a public hearing on the LMC proposed amendments last week and no one attended.

Study Session adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

APPROVED

ATTEST

Robert C. Eaton
Mayor

Michelle Brooks
Deputy Clerk