

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

February 9, 2010

Mayor Eaton called the February 9, 2010 Study Session to order at 9:02 A.M.

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

Staff Present: Connie Krueger, Chantell Steiner, and David Schettler.

1. Council Open Discussion

Councilmember Molohon asked for an update for seasonal summer staff. Director Schettler noted that we have just started the advertising process for an 8-month seasonal position and up to three 6-month positions. Councilmember Farivar noted that she had received some calls over the weekend about overflowing garbage receptacles at City Hall and Director Schettler said he would look into that. He also noted that the city crew believes that they may have hit the side of the building during plowing and it would also be reviewed for repairs. Councilmember DeVries and Lak updated Council on the progress of the design for the Carillon Bells and status of the music component that is currently not functioning properly. Councilmember Farivar suggested contacting a former resident that had a similar system that may be interested in donating or selling it to the City. Director Schettler added that a new 5-disc CD player has been purchased for the Gazebo sound system and that he is currently reviewing other equipment that could upgrade the system with a USB hub for quick and easy music transitioning. Councilmember Lak noted that it would be nice to have a wireless speaker at the west end of town as well. Councilmember Larsen asked for an update on the Chumstick Project and the Rob Johnson Project. Director Krueger updated the Council on the Chumstick Trail Project noting that this is a fully funded grant project and that they are currently reviewing design, right-of-way and alignment issues. She continued to add that they are working with the Johnson's on their project and are currently working on some legal issues with the Department of Ecology. Councilmember Larsen expressed his concern for staff to move swiftly with development projects to help stimulate the local economy.

2. Executive Session: RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)(A) Litigation - Connie Krueger

Mayor Eaton announced that Council was going to enter into executive session at 9:20 a.m. under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)(A) to discuss litigation for approximately twenty minutes with no action to be taken.

Mayor Eaton moved to reconvene at 9:37 a.m.

3. Ordinance 1357: 2010 Budget Amendment – Chantell Steiner

Director Steiner reviewed the budget amendment with Council noting that it included adjustments to the beginning fund balances and increases/decreases in the ending fund balances respectively. There are adjustments to remove grant items in the budget that were not received and adjustments to several line items for contracts from a 2009 carryover as well as some minor corrections to line items in the General Fund. Councilmember Lak asked if the payback of the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) Loan is included in the 2011 budget. Director Steiner confirmed that it is; however, new developments for payback options of this loan are now emerging and will be reported back to Council once confirmed that could allow for extension of the payback without full commitment to construction.

Director Schettler added that there is a new round of American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds now emerging through local sources and that he would be applying for funding for various current projects including Front Street.

Mayor Eaton updated the Council on the \$1.63 million requests through Doc Hastings office for work on Ski Hill and Pine and noted that our request did make the bill and is now heading for review on the floor. Discussion continued on getting support through the County, the School District and the Department of Transportation related to funding, bonding and street assessments. A discussion followed on possibly requiring no parking on the County side of Pine Street.

4. City Day at the Festhalle Discussion and Request – Rich Brinkman, Chantell Steiner

Mayor Eaton announced that Trout Unlimited has requested a ‘City Day’ at the Festhalle. Several Councilmembers were in support of the request from Trout Unlimited. He asked that Council work on reviewing how to handle these requests in the future and after considerable discussion, remanded a review process through the Economic Development Committee to put together criteria, guidelines and an annual application process with a nominal fee of \$50.

5. Group Funding Requests – Rob Eaton

Mayor Eaton announced that he has received three requests from the Upper Valley Historical Society, Leavenworth International Dance Festival and the Icicle Creek Theatre Festival. Due to the deadline of March 1, Council will review all final applicants at the March 9 Study Session and may choose to award the recipients at the evening meeting.

6. BT Parton Leavenworth Shuttle and Taxi – Rob Eaton / Tibor Lak

Mayor Eaton noted to Council that the first quarter (October – December) numbers for passengers came in at about 83% of the original projection being approximately 3,400 out of 4,000 riders. He said this was great news and he anticipates the January figures soon. He then introduced BT of Leavenworth Shuttle and Taxi.

BT explained to Council some of the challenges that he has faced with the new station that includes a lack of available shelter and the issues that arise due to the trains being behind schedule. He explained how intricate the process is to facilitate having up to a hundred people from as many as ten different locations gathered and ready in a timely fashion. He said that when the trains are late, he stays to provide warm shelter for the passengers; however this is causing a toll on his ability to be profitable. He has approached the business community as well as the Chamber for assistance and has had some positive feedback but expressed the need to have a more viable shelter for visitors to be dropped off at. He thanked the Council for the recent port-a-potty and noted that a butt can and a shovel during winter would also be helpful. Mayor Eaton suggested that Council review this when starting on Phase II of the project to provide a bigger better shelter with restroom facilities and suggested reviewing the model used in Whitefish, Montana. Other suggestions included a forest service vault toilet, having vending machines or a mobile coffee/food cart company be present during boarding and unloading and to coordinate with local businesses for incoming visitors to have more availability to arriving passengers on the 6:00 a.m. train coming from the east. He noted that the only open facilities at that hour is Starbucks and McDonalds and that it would be nice to have hotels or a new type of business work out a location for those individuals to have amenities early in the morning such as food, showers etc.

Council proceeded to discuss the option of proceeding at this time with the second shelter that was originally planned and the need to proceed immediately to take advantage of the permits and certificates that are currently in place. If the project does not complete by March 12th, then it will cost the City additional funds to resubmit for a permit at nearly the same cost of construction of the second shelter. Council continued to discuss the legal options for contracting out the engineering design.

Mayor Eaton updated Council on the City Administrator search and noted that he will be coordinating small grouped meetings of two Councilmembers each with Waldron & Company to ask questions and get the process underway. He added that he will be heading over to Seattle next week for meetings related to a partnership between the Cruise Ships and Amtrak passengers from Leavenworth.

Director Schettler distributed the packet information for the purchase of the garbage receptacles and noted that the bid documents with Tacoma are all in order. Chantell added that due to the price of the garbage receptacles, Council would need to authorize the purchase at the evening meeting to allow for a budget amendment for the higher cost.

Study Session adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

APPROVED

ATTEST

Robert C. Eaton
Mayor

Chantell Steiner
Finance Director/City Clerk