

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

May 9, 2017

Mayor Cheryl Kelley Farivar called the May 9, 2017 Study Session to order at 9:00 AM.

Council Present: Mayor Cheryl Kelley Farivar, Elmer Larsen, Carolyn Wilson, Gretchen Wearne, Mia Bretz, Margaret Neighbors, Richard Brinkman, and Sharon Waters.

Staff Present: Joel Walinski, Herb Amick, Nathan Pate and Chantell Steiner.

1. Chamber Report

Chamber Director Nancy Smith provided the Council with the annual publications produced by the Chamber for residents and visitors and introduced Paula Helsel Chamber President. She then updated the Council on the upcoming festival activities and discussed the Maifest grand procession that will include participation from the Council and other events that are planned for the festival including a photo selfie station. This year includes the first year of honoring a mother that will be crowned the Mai Queen. She proceeded to review advertising and marketing that is currently underway through various outlets, a trade conference that she is scheduled to attend, and bus advertising for ski and stay packages.

2. Fire District #3 – Chief Kelly O’Brien

Fire Chief Kelly O’Brien and Fire Commissioner John Dawson thanked the Council for allowing them to present information today regarding the upcoming Fire District #3 Levy that is planned for the August special election. Chief O’Brien proceeded to present a PowerPoint Presentation detailing the findings that the District has identified to support the levy request. As part of this review, a fact sheet was provided, detailing each of the areas and steps involved with defining a vision statement and identifying the history, needs and goals of the District.

Provided within the presentation were levy facts, which were determined based on historical rates from 2000 to current; how levy rates compare across other Chelan County Fire Districts, which denotes Leavenworth currently as the 2nd to lowest rate; tax impacts of the request from \$0.39 cents to \$1.00 per thousand of assessed value; population changes that are very minimal; staffing levels needed due to impacts from recent commercial and residential growth; the lack of support from property tax collections; volunteer availability; safety standards and state driven requirements; and traffic congestion. He provided identification of how the levy funding will be utilized to support a strong volunteer membership with stipends and training programs, implementing a Firewise prevention/inspection program for all local residents, equipment upgrades, debt reductions and capital reserves for future equipment needs, and insurance costs. Chief O’Brien identified benefits to the Community compared to consequences of failure regarding financial, economic, response and growth adaptability that are all impacted by a lack of funding, personnel support and aging equipment needs. Council had a discussion on the need to support our Fire Department staff, ensuring proper and efficient equipment to protect the Community now and into the future, and the need to continue encouraging all residents to be Firewise.

3. Solid Waste Advisory Council Update – Brenda Blanchfield

Mayor Farivar introduced Chelan County Solid Waste Coordinator Brenda Blanchfield. Ms. Blanchfield explained the mission of the Solid Waste Council to manage garbage and recycling throughout the County, identified requirements within the State laws, and the current process underway to review and update the Chelan County Solid Waste Management Plan. She stated that the last plan was adopted by the Leavenworth City Council in 2006. She discussed some of the goals of the plan to increase recycling, reduce waste, use of reuse type thrift stores such as Goodwill and the Community Cupboard that reduce landfill waste, and the importance of local reuse through garage sales and other donation type programs. She noted that there are ongoing financial challenges with the new facility for hazardous waste drop off that will be in Wenatchee and she currently is not aware of a resolution for that project. She gave some statistics on the annual collection and disposal of waste services and the lack of funding to operate transfers stations versus the main landfill that is located in Douglas County. Ms. Blanchfield talked about having a tire collection event that could be coordinated for the Leavenworth Community if the City would like to host the event. The Council talked about challenges with trying to find a way to compile, in one location, all of the various services for odd types of disposals for residents to be better informed.

Ms. Blanchfield continued to discuss the Management Plan; she stated that the Plan includes a section on recycling services that covers most recyclable materials with exception to glass, which continues to be a nationwide concern for costs of disposal. Mayor Farivar questioned progress of the potential for garbage trains from the west side for disposal on the east side; Ms. Blanchfield discussed concerns of future disposal and land availability noting that this project has not come to finalization at this time. The Council discussed some of the recycling successes that have been occurring in the greater Seattle area due to mandatory recycling requirements; although, it was noted that denser populations help considerably to reduce costs for such programs to work efficiently. The Council and staff talked about other recycling occurring for yard waste, cardboard, and paper materials and the future opportunities to expand and contract with Waste Management for single stream recycling services at the City's Recycle Center. Ms. Blanchfield stated that she will be asking for the Council's support of the updated Solid Waste Management Plan as the County comes to finalization of the Plan.

4. Draft Resolution XX-2017 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan

City Administrator Joel Walinski updated the Council on some additional changes to the annual Six-Year Transportation Plan since the distribution of the draft at the last meeting. He noted some changes may be needed for the Whitman/Commercial/Enchantment project that will be on this evening's meeting for further discussion. He then reviewed the need to consider the removal or amendment of the US2 Preliminary Design Study identified as \$65 Million dollars which would be sponsored by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); Councilmember Bretz voiced concern at removal of the project and to look at amending the project for a more manageable plan with the WSDOT. There was a suggestion to replace the current item #8 Multimodal Access and Use Planning Study with item #18 the US2 Preliminary Design Study. Administrator Walinski questioned the removal of item #21 US2 Wenatchee River Bridge Cantilevered Sidewalks; it was noted that this item could also be pulled out and incorporated as part of an enhancement to item #8. Councilmember Larsen asked to include Mine and Mill Street to the Plan to start the process of considering a loop through town. Administrator Walinski asked if there are additional streets to be added to item #11 Residential Street Restoration Program; Mayor Farivar stated that Benton Street needs to be considered and

clarified for the improvements needed due to current challenges as a safe route to school street. Council suggested applying for grants that would include Benton and Orchard Streets as a single project request and discussed options for multiuse trails versus sidewalks.

5. Discussion of Hourly Wages and P2/P3 Parking

Administrator Walinski reviewed the information provided in the packet on the current wage schedule, the changes occurring at the state level for minimum wage increases, and challenges at hiring part-time staff at the current rates. He stated that staff will be bringing the suggested rate amendments to a future meeting.

Administrator Walinski updated the Council on the current rates at the various parking lots and the need to consider similar rates across all the lots to avoid confusion at parking in one lot and buying a ticket from another lot at a different rate. The Council discussed the need to keep consistency at this time if possible and to consider changes through the parking study; the Council will receive an updated fee schedule to amend all rates to be the same as they currently are at \$1.75 per hour or \$10.00 for all day parking at the P1 and P4 lots.

6. Discussion of Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan

Public Works Director Herb Amick updated the Council on the current Draft Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan that Chelan County is working on. Development Services Manager Nathan Pate added that the Council will be included as a party to approve the Plan due to required state statutes. Administrator Walinski clarified that all residents of Leavenworth are a part of Chelan County and that is part of the requirement to have the cities participate and be involved in the approval of the Plan. It was noted that the current draft Plan does not include City of Leavenworth for potential use of funding sources; however, if a flood event were to occur, Chelan County may direct resources to assist in addition to federal or other state funding programs.

7. Proclamation – Statement of Intolerance

Mayor Farivar asked the Council to share their thoughts and concerns on the newly drafted proclamation language and whether it meets the statement that the Council wants to support. Council discussed the overall concern of having a political type of statement being projected; however, the need to consider support of all of our community members and to state that there is no tolerance for hate crimes, speech and threats is important. There are concerns in the Community of the hate crimes and harassment occurring, even if it is not widely seen or known. Councilmembers shared thoughts on suggested amendments to the draft language and/or consideration of not passing a proclamation at all. They shared comments from residents that they have received in support of passing versus not passing the proclamation due to the strong feelings on both sides of the issue at hand. There is significant concern at the divisiveness of the topic in general as well as the concerns for safety and camaraderie of the Council moving forward. The Council reviewed the options for moving forward, if not a proclamation, but possibly a resolution, or to consider active discussions with neighbors, friends and other community groups.

8. Council Open Discussion

Councilmember Larsen would like to get more information about the Festhalle availability for use to the public. There was a brief discussion of the new Festhalle Manager that will be presented to the Council for approval via a contract soon and that the Festhalle Committee would like to get her on board to address this concern.

Councilmember Waters requested that our next newsletter include something regarding the requirement for having your dog on a leash.

Councilmember Wilson asked for a status update on the parking lot property that was previously requested to be surplus and sold. Administrator Walinski noted that the Council was presented with a preliminary plan but at this time the proposed buyers of the land have chosen not to proceed with the request; therefore, the City has not sold the land.

Councilmember Wearne voiced concern at not having enough information to take action this evening on the Local Improvement District (LID) 24 Assessment Process / Bond Purchase. Administrator Walinski provided additional information on the original agreement and intent of the LID regarding the \$193,000 that the City would have provided as part of the affordable housing component that was to be completed with the full project. Moving forward, the project has since been terminated and no affordable homes were built; at this time the Council needs to consider how best to approach the \$193,000 commitment keeping in mind that there needs to be a fair approach to utilizing public funds. He discussed funding sources that have provided the funding that includes water, sewer, street and general fund dollars. The Council discussed the option of charging the full assessment to all the property owners identified in the LID and looking at future affordable housing projects to dedicate funding to.

Councilmember Larsen stated that he strongly believes the Council needs to consider a regionalization of utilities and with that in mind he does intend to continue running for his seat on the Council for this year's election.

Study Session adjourned at 12:00 PM.

APPROVED



Cheryl K. Farivar
Mayor

ATTEST



Chantell Steiner
Finance Director/City Clerk