

**FIFE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
STUDY SESSION
MINUTES**

**Fife City Hall
Council Chambers**

**Date: January 19, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks convened an executive session at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of Labor Negotiations RCW 42.30.140 for approximately 72 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks Johnson adjourned the executive session at 7:12 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER
AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks called the special meeting study session of the Fife City Council to order at 7:16 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Richard Godwin, Glenn Hull, Butch Brooks, Barry Johnson, Rob Cerqui, Nancy de Booy, and Donald Alveshere.

Staff present: City Manager Steve Worthington, Assistant City Attorney Gregg Amann, Assistant City Manager Steve Marcotte, Police Chief Brad Blackburn, Public Works Director Russ Blount, Parks, Recreation & Community Services Director Kurt Reuter, Acting Community Services Director Carl Durham, Planner Chris Pasinetti, Administrative Assistant Andrea Richards, Acting Finance Director Dave DeGroot, Assistant City Engineer Ken Gill, and Recording Secretary Valerie Gow.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Godwin led the pledge of allegiance.

**CHANGES,
ADDITIONS OR
DELETIONS TO
AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

STUDY SESSION

Water Rate Study

Director Blount introduced Nihat Dogan, Project Manager, FCS Group, and Geoffrey Dillard, Southwest Regional Manager, RH2.

Mr. Dogan reported in 2008, staff and the consultants studied the City's water rate and general facility charge (GFC) as part of the City's comprehensive water update and to consider City water options. At that time, the consultants and staff reviewed financial impacts. There are two different financial components. The first is the rate increase necessary to finance the City's ongoing needs. The second element involved the update of the City's GFC rate.

The consultants began with a review of fiscal policies, capital improvement projects, operating costs, and reserve level. Based on that information, a capital

funding plan was developed. Capital projects can be financed by GFC revenues or through fund reserves and, in some cases, direct payments from the rates or through debt financing. Debt financing, debt service repayments, and direct rate bonding directly impact the total revenues needed. Combined with operating costs, the annual needs were determined. Key assumptions of the rate study include having the Holt Well on line by 2012. Once the well is on line, water purchases from Tacoma would be at the 2004 level. Another key assumption is no additional water purchases from Tacoma would occur. Until the well is on line in 2012, the City will be using the existing water allotment from Tacoma. There will be two operating cost impacts of the Holt Well. The first is the addition of a .5 FTE at an annual salary and benefits of \$46,600 based on 2010 prices. Another operating impact is the cost of power and chemical for treatment, which equates to \$115,000 annually at 2009 prices.

Mr. Dogan displayed two summary rate alternatives. Alternative 1 includes a projected rate increase in 2010 of 32% with two 14% rate increases in 2011 and 2012 followed by inflationary increases in future years. He noted the water utility has been operating in a deficit and has been using its reserve. To reach a break-even point, the utility needs a 14% rate increase without any additional capital projects. Under the Alternative 1 scenario, two bond issues are projected, with the first in 2010 of \$3.8 million and a second bond in 2012 of \$6 million. None of the bond issues are assumed to finance multiple year capital projects. There will be debt service impacts. The utility will need a 32% rate increase. The average monthly water bill would increase from \$25.12 a month to \$33.15 in 2010.

Under the second alternative, the goal is to implement a level rate increase during the first three years. The first three years would reflect a 20% increase. To achieve the lower rate increase, one key assumption is that the sewer fund would lend \$250,000 in 2010 to mitigate the impact of capital projects in 2010. With short-term financing, the water utility will be able to delay the first bond issue by one year. The first bond would be issued in 2011.

The second component of the work was the update of the GFC. The methodology was used similar to the sewer charge in place. It takes the total cost of existing facilities currently paid by ratepayers and adding the total cost of future capital projects that will serve existing and future customers, which is then divided by the total system capacity at the end of the study period (2029) to arrive at a total GFC. The GFC was calculated under two alternatives. The first is based on the equivalent residential unit (ERU), which is 430 gallons a day of water consumption. The City's current capital assets total approximately \$26.7 million. The current GFC is \$4,318. The maximum GFC that can be charged is \$5,266.

Councilmember Godwin questioned whether the City would increase the rate if the rate of inflation is negative. Mr. Dogan explained that if the City maintained the existing rate and applied the rate of inflation, the rate would

remain the same. However, that rate was calculated in 1999.

Director Blount explained that the ordinance was originally adopted in 1999, which includes a statutory rate of inflation adjustment. If the Council did not act on the GFC, the rate would decrease because of the inflation factor. However, the rate study reveals that existing capital assets in the City are much larger than when the rate was first calculated. In accordance with state law, the Council could raise the GFC, which would raise money for well construction and other capital costs. That increase would ensure that future development pays a greater share of the costs and potentially offsets the need for existing ratepayers to pay that cost. The Council could raise rates.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks asked whether the upcoming public hearing includes a potential increase for the GFC. Director Blount replied that at this point, the public hearing is to consider a rate increase for water only and not the GFC. City Manager Worthington said that while the Council is receiving a briefing on both water rates and the GFC, staff wanted to enable the Council more time to discuss the GFC.

Mr. Dogan said the second alternative for the GFC is based on per meter equivalent based on size. Instead of considering the numbers of ERUs, the City considers the number of meters by size. The consultants calculated the total customer base to be 7,343. Meters generally determine the maximum capacity of usage. The approach considers the total demand each customer places on the system assets. Instead of water usage, the maximum demand any customer can place on the system is determined. Water system infrastructure is generally designed and built to serve the maximum capacity. However, the City's immediate need is based on source of supply.

A proposed third alternative is a GFC hybrid based on projected water usage. The hybrid approach implements the GFC based on meter equivalency factors of smaller meters of up to two inches. For meters larger than 2 inches, the Director would have the discretion of considering two alternative methodologies and charge the appropriate GFC. The hybrid approach provides the City with flexibility to fit its GFC approach to the expected impact of specific larger customers.

Mr. Dogan presented additional information on typical residential water usage bills from different cities in the region and information on the two rate alternatives representing a 32% rate increase and the second alternative of a 20% rate increase. He noted that each city's utility system is designated differently with different needs for each utility.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks asked about the City's long-term commitments in terms of water purchase from the City of Tacoma. Director Blount advised that currently, Tacoma's wholesale rate is a higher rate than what Fife charges its customers. The City's commitment is that the City will pay for the water it

uses. There is no take or pay clause. Tacoma has adopted rate increases over the last several years and likely will have further rate increases. The model is based on Fife continuing to pay those rates for the next two years. The Holt Well will not produce 100% of the City's water needs and will require the City to continue purchasing some water from Tacoma, but at a lower capacity. The City anticipates producing water at \$.60 per cubic foot while Tacoma charges \$1.60 per cubic foot. He acknowledged that the cost of constructing the well and associated infrastructure will cost millions of dollars, but in the long term the City will save on water.

Councilmember Godwin commented that in the late 1990s the GFC was approximately \$3,000. The proposed rate doesn't appear fair. He acknowledged that some increase is necessary, but noted the cost of construction is down while the City continues to escalate costs. The additions to the system have typically occurred by new development adding to the system. Director Blount noted that the City of Tacoma also charges the City a GFC of approximately \$1,700. The remaining charge is for infrastructure. Many of infrastructure improvements to the existing system occurred concurrently during roadway projects. One example is the road project near City Hall when 54th Avenue was rebuilt. The old asbestos cement pipe was replaced with pipe tripling the capacity. When Pacific Highway East was rebuilt on the other side of I-5, the water utility paid for major improvements in the pipe infrastructure out of accumulated GFC. The City has invested upwards of \$6 million in capital improvements in the water system. Developers do build much of the infrastructure, however.

Councilmember Hull asked about the time of an aquifer recharging after well withdrawals. Director Blount advised that the time varies. The Holt Well has been tested and the City is confident that it can draw 1,000 gallons of water a minute indefinitely. However, the long-term production of a well is always an unknown. The City of Tacoma receives most of its water from the Green River. Tacoma has some backup wells, but the majority of water is from the surface.

Councilmember Hull asked whether Tacoma is obligated to provide water to the City if for unforeseen reasons, its source of water is threatened. Director Blount advised that the City is a preferred customer of Tacoma. Tacoma now has two major pipelines and it's very unlikely that supply would be jeopardized. There could be usage restrictions employed during drought situations. However, those instances would be rare and would be unlikely to occur.

Councilmember Hull said he assumes the City is paying an industrial rate to the City of Tacoma. He asked whether the City of Tacoma has considered lowering costs for municipal users. Director Blount said not at this time.

Councilmember Hull commented on the impacts to citizens and the desire to cause the least amount of impact. Director Blount described how today's investment in infrastructure will eventually save costs and provide long-term

benefits in providing the City with its own source of water. The proposal is not to charge exorbitant rates for water. There is a finite level of future growth along with finite needs for water. Putting several wells on line and paying them off are more reasonable over the long-term.

Councilmember Hull expressed reservations with the unknowns associated with future production and the risks associated with the costs of producing water. Director Blount acknowledged the concerns and explained the Council's previous direction when Tacoma rates were steady. Things have changed since then with Tacoma implementing a series of rate increases.

Councilmember Alvesshere asked about the capacity the Holt Well is expected to produce for the City. Director Blount said the well is anticipated to supply the City with approximately one-third of its water need.

Director Blount provided additional information on how the charges could be determined for large users of water.

City Manager Worthington explained why rates and the GFC discussions were separated. For the GFC, the Council will need to discuss more policies as well as issues associated with economic impacts associated with the GFC.

Mayor Johnson asked whether it will be necessary to transfer well rights to the Holt Well. Director Blount said the City will apply to the Department of Ecology for both a transfer and for new rights on a parallel track. If the City can obtain a new right, the other rights can be transferred for another well. It is likely that some of the existing rights will transfer to the Holt Well.

Councilmember Godwin asked whether another well drawing from the aquifer could produce similar results as the Holt Well in terms of providing the City with another third of its water capacity. Director Blount indicated that it's possible. There is a condition of the Tacoma rate that the City must maintain a certain percentage of its yearly purchase relative to summer peak usage. The first third that is pumped would provide 100% in savings. The agreement with Tacoma is to purchase water consistently throughout the year. The second well is not a component of the current proposal and is a "what-if" scenario. It depends on the City's overall water demand.

Councilmember Hull said he would feel more comfortable knowing who else draws from the aquifer. Mayor Pro Tem Brooks pointed out that the study staff is seeking the Council to authorize will address those types of questions. The request is for additional study to address the Council's concerns. Director Blount said the City must also demonstrate that the Holt Well would have no negative impact on wells currently drawing from the aquifer. The City is aware of other users. It's likely that the City would not have any impact on other household wells. The specifics of the study for transferring water rights are the intent.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks asked staff to be prepared to discuss long-term capital needs beyond the well. Director Blount acknowledged the request.

City Manager Worthington commented on the importance associated with the cost of water and how it contributes to the City's economic base. He invited Mike Jordon, Vice President, Praxair, to comment on several aspects of the ongoing discussion between City staff and the company over the last several months concerning the cost of water.

Citizen Comment

Mike Jordon, Praxair, Fife, said he would like the Council to know that the company recently added a new tower and during the course of the expansion, the company has come to realize that the GFC that would be accrued for the facility based on 230 gallons of water a day would be well over a million dollars. Currently, the company is struggling with the investment as well as the economy. The company is considering what it should be doing in terms of its facility. There have been a number of investments occurring within the industry including a new facility at Moses Lake. The company is working to ensure its competitive standing in the industry and continued growth. The company approached City staff to help the City understand the dynamics and how the company is trying to achieve a balance. He expressed potential regret if the facility is forced not to operate the facility because of the high GFC. There is no new infrastructure planned for the facility other than the company is adding some piping for fire protection. The City has been very helpful and understanding. He asked the Council to consider some of the flexibility as reviewed by Director Blount. The company's competitive standing is at stake. He asked the Council to consider the information so that the company can continue to grow its business in the Northwest.

Councilmember Godwin commented that the average citizen is also experiencing difficulty as well. To ask the City to forgive a major portion of the GFC is unconscionable. If the City were to consider that approach, citizens will need to pay.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks commented that the situation is a good example of what can occur when the City wants to draw industry that is a heavy water user. It does put the City at a disadvantage when trying to attract industries.

Business Economic Impact Study

City Manager Worthington reported the study is a compilation of data obtained in 2008 and 2009, from public sources and surveys of local businesses to determine tax collection amounts for certain types of businesses.

City Manager Worthington introduced Dorian Waller, who assisted the City in the study. Planner Pasinetti assisted in developing the report.

Planner Pasinetti highlighted the general conclusions of the study. Manufacturing uses generate substantially more tax revenue in total to the City

of Fife than any other traditional industrial use. Commercial/retail uses generates, by far, more tax revenue than any other use in the City of Fife.

City utility taxes generate a large amount of general fund revenue. Manufacturing uses in the Industrial zone generates the most City of Fife utility tax.

When older residential single family homes are compared to new single family density, there is a significant contrast in Fife tax revenue per acre.

Councilmember Godwin asked about the purpose of the study. City Manager Worthington reported the study sets the stage for several issues. The report cites the total of all taxes based on acre. There are many reasons for making land use decisions. The report provides information for policy-making and for decision-making on how specific land uses generate tax revenue.

Councilmember Cerqui noted the call for services should be factored as well, as it may offset any revenue gains. Call for service includes roads, police, schools, water, sewer, etc.

Mayor Johnson noted that the Port's planning for development has retained heavy industrial and manufacturing users within the Port while warehousing facilities have been pushed toward the City of Fife. It's clear from the study why that is occurring.

Councilmember Alveshere said the report is a component of what the Council considers in terms of land use. However, it's important for the Council to consider the entire picture in terms of the type of City desired. Many times, there is discussion for more industrial and commercial uses because residential doesn't contribute to the revenue base as significantly as other uses. It's interesting to note that industrial and manufacturing users are only marginally more productive than some of the new housing developments. Additionally, police action occurs more within the commercial district involving hotels and other businesses that needs to be factored as well. He cautioned about the importance of fully capturing the full burden of costs in some of the categories.

Councilmember de Booy asked about the disparity in cost between new and older homes. Planner Pasinetti advised that it pertains to residential density.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks echoed similar comments as Councilmember Alveshere. The report is a useful tool in moving forward.

SEPA Thresholds

Acting Community Director Durham reviewed thresholds allowed without triggering a SEPA checklist. Exempted construction projects include:

1. Residential structures of four dwelling units.
2. Barn, loafing shed, farm equipment storage building or similar structure

- of 10,000 square feet or less.
3. Office, school, or commercial storage or service building of 4,000 square feet or less, with parking for 20 cars or less.
 4. Parking lots for 20 cars or less.
 5. Lifetime fill or excavation of 100 cubic yards or less.

All projects, however, must be built to code and meet all code requirements.

Councilmember Godwin said there are a number of existing homes built prior to the last development phase that sit below the elevation of some warehouses. Many of those homes suffer from flooding and excessive water. Many of the warehouses sit three feet higher than many homes. Sheffield place is a good example. He said he's not advocating for allowing people to add fill to their yards, but that the current exemption of 100 cubic yards of fill can be exceeded quickly in large area. He questioned whether 500 yards is even acceptable. He cited his own landscaping where he added 140 cubic yards of dirt, which didn't cover his entire yard. Neighbors with water problems could solve the issue if fill was added to yards. However, the current exemption of 100 cubic yards is not sufficient to solve many of the water problems. He suggested increasing the amount so that residents can resolve drainage issues.

Acting Director Durham responded to questions about permit requirements versus SEPA requirements. A City permit is required for any amount of fill while a SEPA checklist is required for any amount of 100 cubic yards or more. A load of topsoil requires a City permit.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks said although he works within the industry, he has misunderstood the code as it appears the code requires permits for cut or fill.

Director Blount explained that two-thirds of the City is located within a floodplain, which involves a no net increase in fill within the floodplain. The City's threshold is five yards or one small truckload of topsoil.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks asked whether the City's code is consistent with Pierce County or other local municipalities. Acting Director Durham said the City's codes are similar. Mayor Pro Tem Brooks asked staff to provide a comparison of SEPA and code requirements with other jurisdictions.

Councilmember Godwin referred to some actions by a homeowner who helped improve drainage. The City should be providing the opportunity for landowners to solve issues.

Councilmember Alveshere said most people don't understand that a permit is needed for any amount of fill. It's important to ensure citizens are aware of the code.

Councilmember Godwin said his issue is that the City has allowed major

developments in the City that are higher in elevation. Many residences are now paying the price of that development.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks acknowledged that staff will provide additional information on local thresholds for both permitting and SEPA for a future Council discussion.

Granicus Software

Assistant City Manager Marcotte reported on changes to the City Clerk function and public access to the City's meeting information. The Granicus software package is designed for city clerks and is loaded on the City's website so citizens can access a single point within the meeting agenda. The software links the agenda topic to the web stream so citizens can review the Council discussion without having to search or listen to hours of meeting recording. The City's goal is increasing public access to meeting minutes in a searchable format. Minutes can be completed during the meeting and immediately uploaded to the City's website.

Assistant City Manager Marcotte demonstrated the program online. Staff is currently training on the software and trial runs will be conducted at the Planning Commission and Parks Board meetings. Transitioning to the software program is expected to occur by the City's first meeting in February.

Assistant City Manager Marcotte addressed questions from the Council and described how written action-oriented minutes will be produced. The City's Clerk Office will provide minutes. The website will include an archive of past meeting minutes.

Councilmember Alveshere recommended including information on the new software within the *Fife Flyer*.

Fife Historical Society Funding of Dacca Barn Renovation

City Manager Worthington reported that in his role to understand the initial intent of the City Council, it's clear that he didn't accurately understand the intent of the Council's direction in August 2008 concerning how the funds to the Fife Historical Society would be allocated and for what purpose. Subsequently, the issue has become clearer. The City is preparing a check for the amount currently authorized in 2008 for 2009 funds, which is \$55,000. Approximately \$9,000 is due to the Society for 2009.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks said during the last several weeks, there have been discussions on resolving the discrepancies up to this point in funding. It's the intent of the City to continue the good work of the members in terms of restoring the Dacca barn. As part of the earlier motion to fund the project, there were some implied stipulations. He acknowledged that he did not accurately clarify his amendment and that in moving forward, the Council needs to determine some means of knowing the scope of the improvements and the cost. Outside of the scope of this discussion, the future operation of the Dacca barn also needs to be considered.

Councilmember Godwin requested clarification on some of the funding amounts. City Manager Worthington clarified that the society received payment of \$27,924 for 2008 site improvements. Councilmember Godwin said that work was complete at the time the motion was made. The motion for another \$130,000 didn't include the \$27,924 worth of work completed.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks said it appears that the Council wants to complete the barn. The cash flow issue of the Society appears to be solved on a short-term basis. It appears the Council should receive information on what remains to be completed on the barn and the cost. It's important to clean up loose ends and complete the project.

Councilmember Hull referred to the motion and expressed approval of providing up to \$75,000.

Councilmember Godwin said when the amended motion was made it was for \$130,000 with the Society withdrawing \$55,000 leaving a balance of \$75,000. He said he doesn't have a problem with the Society providing an estimated scope of work. The Council should proceed with an open mind because of the way it's being handled. Mayor Pro Tem Brooks didn't disagree but suggested developing a reasonable budget. Just because the Council authorizes some funds for the project, it doesn't mean that those funds must be expended.

Councilmember de Booy recommended the Council should agree to provide the Fife Historical Society their due of approximately \$75,000 with the caveat that the amount will be used for completing the Dacca barn.

Councilmember Cerqui agreed. The intent of allocating \$130,000 was to complete the barn. Some of the breakdown in communication occurred because a budget amendment should have occurred rolling over to the next year. The amount of \$75,000 appears to the original intent.

Mayor Johnson added that the City does need some accountability of the amount of funds to be spent. He supports completion of the barn. The operation of the barn also needs to be discussed between the Council and the Historical Society.

Public Comment

Mike Kelley, 3120 Freeman Road East, said prior to his joining the Board of the Historical Society, the roof was already installed on the barn. From that point forward in the fall of 2008, \$130,000 was allocated to the Board to work on completing the barn to the extent possible. To date, the Board has spent \$55,000, which includes time and material donations. The Board estimates the effort, to this point, has received upwards of \$165,000 in donations. Had the Board only spent the \$130,000, it's likely the end product would be a workable barn, but not as nice of a barn as it is today. The Board has done a terrific job in soliciting donations of time and materials from the community. Mr. Kelley

said he added fill and completed site drainage. Wood was donated from the community along with the sheetrock. He said to his knowledge there were no billings in 2008 for the barn because there were no charges to pay. He said he's not sure what the \$27,924 is for. Perhaps it is for the sewer. In 2008, there were no checks written to cover any costs.

Mr. Kelley said the Board plans on having a completed barn to include staining and sealing the concrete floors and having an audio and overhead projector with a screen. The only thing not fully included is a commercial kitchen. There might not be sufficient funds to outfit a commercial kitchen. By the end of the week, the railroad tracks should be nailed to the ties and the engine should be delivered within the next several weeks. The next big expense is the heating system. A rough estimate can be provided for the remaining items.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks commented on the importance of the City receiving some estimate of the costs. Perception is reality and everyone has a great desire to finish the project. The goal of the Council is to provide the Board with the tools to do so. He asked the Council to consider releasing a small works roster to complete curb and gutter improvements. The Council agreed. He asked about the timing for a budget amendment to provide time for the Board to provide an estimate. City Manager Worthington suggested the Council should adopt a resolution, which will be drafted by staff, and to direct staff to prepare a budget amendment during the regular budget amendment cycle scheduled in April. It would potentially identify the amount and could include an agreement on the use of the barn and how the scope of the work will be determined. He noted Assistant City Manager Marcotte has some ideas on how to clarify billing procedures.

Councilmember Godwin stressed the importance of having the resolution specify the amount of \$75,000 to avoid any future conflicts.

Councilmember Alveshere said much of this occurred prior to his seating on the Council. He acknowledged the budget tension associated with the creation of the lodging tax budget and that whatever amount is approved fits within the context of the approved budget. Mayor Johnson clarified that the issue is not about reallocating lodging tax.

Councilmember Hull said any funds appropriated by the Council expire December 31. He said he's comfortable allocating up to \$75,000.

Mr. Kelley said he doesn't believe the number will go above \$75,000. He said he will prepare an estimate on the costs. Mayor Pro Tem said he's not comfortable setting the amount until he receives an estimate of costs to address one time. He agreed to expedite the issue beyond the normal procedures because of the previous issues. City Manager Worthington acknowledged the Council's intention and said the resolution could stipulate the expenditure of funds as soon as it's approved.

City Manager Worthington acknowledged that staff will present a resolution for the Council's consideration at its first meeting in February.

Citizen Comment

Mike Seeger referred to his work on the locomotive project and expressed concerns about continued funding to complete the project. City Manager Worthington confirmed the funds for the locomotive are carried forward for the completion of the project.

The Council discussed options for developing an operational policy for the barn. Councilmember de Booy said she would like to receive input from both the Parks Board and the Historical Society on the operational policy for the Dacca barn before moving forward on a decision. Councilmember Godwin agreed but noted that he would favor the Fife Historical Society because of the time and effort members have contributed on the barn. It might be possible for the Society to offset some of its costs if the operation of the barn was handled by that group.

Councilmember Hull commented on the possibility of the Society presenting its case to the Parks Board.

Mike Kelley said the Society was established for the community. The Council and the Society can work on the details pertaining to the operation of the barn later.

Discussion followed on the amount of funds spent to date on the locomotive. Approximately \$61,000 is remaining for the locomotive project.

City Manager Worthington advised the Council that he will provide a report within the next 60 days on potential operational policies for the barn.

City Manager Report

City Manager Worthington reminded the Council of the upcoming goal setting retreat on Friday, January 22, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 23, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. Staff is working on dates for budget retreats. Established dates include March 20. The remaining tentative dates are in early June and in September. There are several conflicts and there is no date where there isn't a conflict. He suggested if two Councilmembers can't meet, the date will be rescheduled. The calendar has been broadened to include potential weekends as well as adding a Friday or Sunday as a possibility. He asked the Council to submit their preferred dates.

**REVIEW OF
UPCOMING
COUNCIL AGENDAS**

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks referred the Council to copies of future meeting agendas for their information.

**COUNCILMEMBER
COMMENTS**

Mayor Johnson commented on reading some editorials on several city websites and inquired about the status of including information on the City Manager's role on the City's website. City Manager Worthington confirmed the

information will be posted by next week. Mayor Johnson suggested including information on emergency flood preparations and emergency management on the City's website.

Councilmember de Booy confirmed her attendance to an event showcasing student talent at Columbia Junior High school as the City's representative.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks commented on the Council's previous discussion of scheduling a joint Council/Police Officer event and the need to follow up. City Manager Worthington recommended discussing it during an executive session.

Mayor Pro Tem Brooks commented on progress occurring on the Valley Avenue project and the Council's concerns to ensure the City publicizes closures appropriately and that it's important to ensure the City does a good job in announcing the closures.

Councilmember Cerqui commented on the need to replace batteries on detour signs. It also appears the timing loop for the light is off. Director Blount advised that the lights are on a timer. More work on the project must occur before the loops are restored.

City Manager Worthington reported the Emerald Queen Casino is having a ribbon cutting on February 25, 2010, for its new space from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tribal members will be attendance if the City Council attends the event.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Brooks adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

Butch Brooks, Mayor Pro Tem

Steve Marcotte, City Clerk/Assistant City Manager

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President
Puget Sound Meeting Services