

**FIFE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Fife City Hall  
Council Chambers**

**Date:  
March 16,  
2010  
Time: 7:00  
p.m.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**Godwin    Johnson    Hull    Cerqui    de  
Booy    Alveshere**

The following members were present:  
Councilmember Alveshere,  
Councilmember de Booy,  
Councilmember Hull,  
Councilmember Godwin,  
and Councilmember Cerqui.

Staff Present: Steve Worthington, City Manager, Steve Marcotte, Assistant City Manager, David DeGroot, Finance Director, Greg Amann, Assistant City Attorney, Russ Blount, Public Works Director, Carl Durham, Community Development Director, Brad Blackburn, Chief of Police, Kurt Reuter, Parks and Recreation Director, and Andrea Richards, Confidential Administrative Assistant.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember de Booy led the pledge of allegiance.

**CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

No changes, additions or deletions to the agenda.

**STUDY SESSION**

**Levee Road Discussion (Blount)**Levee Road Discussion

City Manager Worthington discussed receiving a letter from the tribe requesting the City of Fife examine Levee Road with regards to safety issues and accident records. He also stated that staff has prepared and will present information on the review status of Levee Road.

Director Blount reviewed the status of North Levee Road East the segment between 54th Avenue East and Frank Albert Road East. He stated the segment of North Levee Road between 54th Ave E and Frank Albert Rd E is narrower than the segment between 54th and Fife's east city limits and carries higher volumes of general and truck traffic than the segment between Frank Albert Rd and Fife's west city limits. He also reported there have been approximately 10 accidents on this portion of Levee Rd over the past 15 years which resulted in vehicles leaving the road and coming to a rest on the bench between the levee and the Puyallup River, but that no Levee Rd traffic has landed in the river to date. 3 of the 10 accidents over the past 15 years have occurred within the past year. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians has issued a formal request that Fife City Council consider closing this segment of Levee Road to some truck traffic. In 2008 the estimate cost of widening that area was at \$7,250,000. The cost for preparing permit applications and refining this cost was at \$175,000 and a 2% application has been filed with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians asking them to fund that step.

Director Blount recommends a combination of directing staff to raise the priority of this segment of Levee Road in the draft Transportation Improvement Program being circulated through the Planning

Commission for Council hearing and adoption in June or July and to direct staff to begin consultant selection for permit applications and preliminary engineering in advance of any funding notice from the Puyallup Tribe also to direct staff to emphasize this segment of Levee Road as the TATS moves forward.

**Red Light Enforcement Program (Blackburn)**

**Red Light Enforcement Program**

City Manager Worthington discussed the Red Light Photo Enforcement and the fines associated with the violations. He stated the City of Fife has operated a red light photo enforcement program for nearly 2 years. The program has resulted in a reduction in accidents at intersections in the city. Dispatch calls for accidents at the photo enforcement intersections are down by 27%. In addition accident calls at other intersections are also down by 10%. The number of serious T-bone accidents being seen in the Fife courts is reduced as well. All of these indicators demonstrate that red light photo enforcement has made Fife streets safer. During the January goal setting retreat council asked for an opportunity to discuss Red Light fine amounts to see if they could or should be adjusted. The City Attorney has determined that council may set a lower fine amount for different types of red light infractions. The current fine amount is \$124. People who are cited and wish to bring their case to a judge often see their fine reduced to a lesser amount depending on the circumstances of their infraction. The amount is often around \$95 but it may be more or less as determined by the judge. While this offense is not a driving infraction to go on drivers records, our court and city staff hear many complaints about red light tickets, delivered with a great deal of anger. There is the possibility

that a lower fine amount may reduce the potential for a shift in public opinion about red light photo enforcement being seen over all as a positive. It is clear that Fife streets are safer as an outcome of the Red Light Photo Enforcement program.

### **Freeman Road LID (Blount)**

#### **Freeman Road LID**

City Manager Worthington stated the Freeman Road LID was originally formed about a year ago and as the City has had an opportunity to work forward on the LID it became apparent that the value of the property vs the value of the projected cost were not in balance with the projected cost of the project being more than originally discussed. He asked council to look at solutions to reduce the overall cost.

Director Blount discussed breaking down the cost for the improvements to Freeman Road. He stated that the Fife Council adopted an ordinance in February 2009 and that in 2009 a survey, environmental and geotechnical work was completed. The Council received the results of that work at it's study session in November. By state statute special benefits must balance or exceed LID assessments to property owners, after Council direction to eliminate sidewalks on the east side of Freeman and other refinements, the cost/benefit difference was still approximately \$4 million to the wrong side of the balance. He stated that since November of last year, staff met with LID participating owners, shared plans and cost estimates, and received and evaluated their suggestions. These suggestions have reduced the extent to which the LID is out of balance, to under \$3 million. Further reductions in cost remaining under consideration would substantially impact the project's conformance with street standards adopted

by the City Council, and so could not be implemented without adoption of ordinance changing those standards. The changes include elimination of bike lanes and west side sidewalks and provision of a 10 foot wide combined use trail, reduction in posted speed from 35 to 25 and design speed from 40 to 30 and retention of overhead utilities instead of converting to underground. The total savings from the changes would be less than \$1 million, leaving a funding gap of approximately \$2 million. An alternative course would be to direct staff to begin a planning commission consultation and public outreach regarding standards and changes. Direct staff to look at funding options for public participation in the LID. Director Blount recommended to direct staff to look at funding options for public participation in the LID.

**REVIEW OF UPCOMING  
COUNCIL AGENDAS**

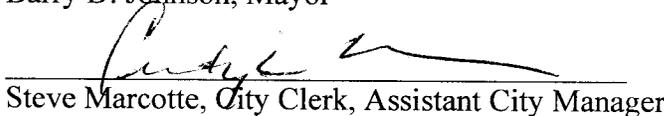
City Manger Worthington stated that on April 3rd at 2:00 pm the Reserve Police Officer graduation is being held at PLU with the State Attorney General Rob McKenna being the key note speaker. He also stated that on April 6th at 6:00 pm there will be a Councilmember candidate applicant reception held at City Hall and that so far the City has had 5 people request applications for the open Councilmember position.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 pm.



Barry D. Johnson, Mayor



Steve Marcotte, City Clerk, Assistant City Manager

*For Steven M.*

Prepared by Cindy Dunn, CMC, Senior Administrative Assistant