

FIFE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING / STUDY SESSION
April 19, 2011

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor ProTem Cerqui called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

The following Councilmembers were present: Mayor Johnson, Mayor ProTem Cerqui, Councilmember Hulcey, Councilmember Alveshere, Councilmember de Booy, Councilmember Godwin, Councilmember Hull.

The following Councilmembers were Excused / Absent: None

Staff present: Dave Zabell, City Manager, Dave DeGroot, Finance Director, Greg Amann, Assistant City Attorney, Ken Gill, Acting Public Works Director, Brad Blackburn, Chief of Police, Kurt Reuter, Parks and Recreation Director, Andrea Edwards, Executive Assistant and Acting City Clerk, Kristen LaFrance, Senior Administrative Assistant and Acting Deputy Clerk and Jan Kurz, Administrative Assistant.

Staff Absent: Steve Marcotte, Assistant City Manager, Russ Blount, Public Works Director and Carl Durham, Community Development Director.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Hull.

CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

2011 1st Quarter Financial Report

Finance Director, Dave DeGroot gave a brief description on the state of the local economy. He stated that the local economy continues to remain stable and City revenues show no significant signs of growth in the first quarter. Overall revenues are tracking approximately with projected levels with the exception of real estate excise tax collections which are down 87% and photo red light enforcement fines which are down 28% from a year ago. Auto sales are picking up at both the national and state levels however appear to be flat here in Fife.

He then summarized the regional economic condition. This included a number of slides with charts showing the status of revenues and expenditures for the first quarter (January , 2011 through March 31, 2011) On the National level, he summarized that recent geopolitical developments, both oil prices and the tragedy in Japan, have affected the recovery process. In addition, slow job growth, a sluggish housing market, tight credit for small businesses, consumer retrenchment after the holidays, and fiscal drag from the federal stimulus winding down, as well as, cuts in state and local government expenditures are having effects on the recovery as well.

He mentioned Boeing's tanker win and how that will also provide a psychological boost to Washington State, however he restated that the recovery in Washington, as in the nation, is being held back by a weak housing market and sluggish job growth.

Finance Director, Dave DeGroot, also mentioned the Water Utility Fund. He explained the need for the recent rate increase due to higher monthly rates from Tacoma Water.

Councilmember Alveshere would like to see additional notes of explanation to more fully explain changes in expenditures and revenues.

Amend Public Safety Fund Language

City Manager, Dave Zabell, summarized the current authorized uses of the Public Safety Fund, as well as potential alternatives such as building trails to improve connectivity for Fife citizens.

Questions were put to Council, such as, would they like to consider expanding the use of the Public Safety Fund, for projects that promote pedestrian safety and lesson pedestrian vehicle conflict.

Councilmember Godwin and Mayor ProTem Cerqui both prefer to leave it as it is for now. Other Councilmembers would like to see some adjustments. Some Councilmembers stressed that funds should be used for pedestrian safety. Councilmember de Booy pointed out that there are more grants available to build trails. Councilmember Hull is in favor of giving some latitude as long as it is related to public safety. There were concerns of the decreasing revenue, but that means driver behavior is being modified, which is the goal of this program. .

Dave Zabell, City Manager stressed that this issue is in the hands of the Council. It is not up to City Staff to decide how to spend the funds. It was determined that this issue was worthy of examining again at a later date. Council would like to look at it again, and maybe take it on a project by project basis. Mayor Johnson pointed out that initially, council wanted to direct any Photo Enforcement revenue to public safety, and to date they have done this.

Dave Zabell, felt there was enough interest to bring it back for a discussion. This could mean possible changes to the Ordinance #1636, particularly the use of the revenue from the Photo Enforcement program. Council is very clear about the money going for projects that are directly related to pedestrian safety.

Storm water Management Plan update

Acting Public Works Director, Ken Gill opened with the yearly presentation of the Storm Water program. He mentioned a letter from the Dept. of Ecology last June, which stated they were happy with what we did. Councilmember Godwin and Councilmember Hulcey mentioned their dissatisfaction with some of the ponds in the area. Mayor Johnson and Mayor ProTem Cerqui would like to see a more thorough investigation and more detailed presentation. Ken restated that Public Works would be happy to provide much more details at the May 17th, 2011 Study Session.

REVIEW OF UPCOMING COUNCIL AGENDAS

City Manager, Dave Zabell, briefly described upcoming issues to be discussed at the next few meetings.

Information on the Budget will be discussed at the April, 26th, 2011 Council meeting and the BCRA Contract for Brookville Garden is on the May 10th, 2011 agenda. He also mentioned other issues that will be discussed at the Study Session on the 17th, 2011 of May.

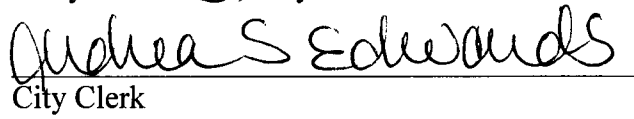
Councilmember de Booy spoke of the desire and the need for Council to write articles in the Fife Free Press.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor ProTem Cerqui adjourned the meeting at 8:17pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry D. Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Barry D. Johnson, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea S. Edwards", written over a horizontal line.

City Clerk