

**FIFE CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor Cerqui called the Regular Meeting of the Fife City Council to order at 7:00 PM.

**Present:** Mayor Cerqui, Mayor Pro Tem Hull, Councilmembers Curtis, Hulcey, Dukes-Gethers, and Wolfrom.

Absent: Excused – Councilmember Godwin

**Staff Present:** City Manager Zabell, Finance Director DeGroot, Public Works Director Blount, Community Development Director Osaki, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Reuter, Chief of Police Blackburn, Assistant City Attorney Amann, Administrative Assistant Merlino, and City Clerk Etgen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Hulcey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CHANGES, ADDITIONS & DELETIONS**

Consensus from Council to add item 6c to the agenda, Justin LeBlanc, LeBlanc Government Relations, LLC, for a legislative update.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Cerqui presented the following items for consideration on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2012 and September 15, 2012
2. Approval of Payroll Vouchers: #48970- 49001 in the amount of \$449,520.92
3. Approval of Claims Vouchers: #87397 – 87543 in the amount of \$971,069.20

Councilmember Hulcey moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Dukes-Gethers seconded and motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS**

**Presentation - Saddle Creek Park Grand Opening**

Councilmember Dukes-Gethers presented a power point presentation on the Grand Opening of the new Saddle Creek Park. The Ribbon Cutting for this new park was held Saturday, September 8, 2012. Councilmember Dukes-Gethers thanked the many residents, City Staff, and commercial businesses who helped in making this park a great addition to the City of Fife.

**Presentation - Fife Harvest Festival**

Julie Ryan updated Council with a power point presentation illustrating the new logo and branding materials for the Harvest Festival. Julie also presented the agenda for this year's Festival, advising all of the activities will take place on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Julie reported that all events this year will be held at Dacca Field. The Pancake Breakfast will be located in Dacca Barn. Julie also reported on the new events and thanked the many sponsors who helped make this one of the City's most successful events.

### **Presentation – Legislative Update**

Justin LeBlanc with LeBlanc Government Relations, LLC, updated the Council on the following issues:

- City visioning efforts
- Transportation funding issues
- Current political issues

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL DELEGATE**

Mayor Pro Tem Hull reported on his attendance at the monthly Pierce County Regional Council Meeting and advised a proposal was received from County Commissioner Roger Bush to provide structure and policies for the Transportation Coordinating Committee.

Councilmember Hulcey reported on a Strategic Planning Meeting with MultiCare and Tacoma Family Medicine. Councilmember Hulcey further reported on his visit with the 75th Ranger Regiment 2nd Battalion. Councilmember Hulcey invited everyone to the dedication and memorial on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Cerqui attended the Mayor's Breakfast, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Cerqui advised ballot boxes will be located at the Criminal Justice Center in Fife for those wishing to drop off their ballots. Mayor Cerqui also attended the open house of the Chief Leshi Sports Conference Center.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **2013-2014 Revenues and 2013 Property Tax Levy**

City Manager Dave Zabell advised this public hearing is part of the process for adopting the annual budget; the City Council is required to hold a public hearing on the revenue sources intended to fund the 2013-14 biennial budget.

Finance Director Dave DeGroot reported the Preliminary budget estimates for 2013-14 projects total revenues from all sources excluding beginning fund balance is \$44.40 million for 2013 and \$50.50 for 2014 for a combined biennial total of \$94.90 million. The General Fund portion is projected at \$13.66 million for 2013 and \$13.83 million for 2014 with a combined biennial total of \$27.49 million.

Finance Director DeGroot reported on the preliminary property tax levy limit for 2013 including the statutory 1% increase, new construction and levy for refunds is \$2,838,829.

City Manager Zabell discussed revenue shortfalls and some viable revenue options that are available to help the stop gap and provide some new revenue sources, such as:

1. Implementation of a Business and Occupation Tax on businesses operating within the City of Fife;
2. Implementation of incremental increases in utility taxes on: water, sewer, stormwater, gas, telephone, and introduction of a utility tax on solid waste;
3. Implementation of a \$20 vehicle license tab fee for street capital maintenance and improvement, such as overlays

Mayor Cerqui opened the public hearing at 8:38 p.m.

Aaron Williams representing the Fife/Milton Chamber of Commerce, spoke on behalf of the business community, and their opposition to the proposed Business & Occupation Tax.

At 8:41 the Mayor closed the public hearing.

After much discussion, the Council unanimously opposed the implementation of a B&O Tax. By a majority consensus, the Council favored an increase in the utility taxes. Several Councilmembers questioned the impact this increase would impose on residential households. The Council had mixed consensus on the implementation of a \$20 vehicle license tab fee. City Manager Zabell advised he would provide more information relating to debt payoff options.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **Ordinance No. 1813 – First Reading**

Delegating to the City Manager Contracting Authority in Certain Circumstances

Councilmember Hulcey moved and Councilmember Wolfrom seconded a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1813 for first reading and place this item on the October 23<sup>rd</sup> consent agenda.

Assistant City Attorney Amann reported this is an administrative ordinance that grants the City Manager contracting authority to enter into contracts to purchase goods and services up to \$15,000 provided the funds have already been appropriated within the budget.

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution No. 1500**

Adopting Revised Financial Policies for the City of Fife

Councilmember Dukes-Gethers moved and Councilmember Hulcey seconded a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1500.

Finance Director DeGroot reported, as stewards of the public's resources, the City Council and City Manager need to ensure sound financial management of the City. The primary purpose of this proposed Resolution is to:

- Add policies regarding administration of the Contingency Fund in accordance with state law,
- Note the move to a biennial budget, and
- Modify policies regarding reserves.

Councilmember Curtis questioned the effective date of the policies as January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, and beyond until amended.

After some discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Hull moved to amend the motion to revise the effective date of the policy to read: This update to the Financial policies is effective as of January 1, 2011, and shall remain in effect until subsequently amended or repealed by the City Council. Councilmember Wolfrom seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon vote the motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

### **Resolution No. 1501**

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the Fife School District for School resource Officer Services

Councilmember Hulcey moved and Mayor Pro Tem Hull seconded a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1501.

Chief Blackburn addressed the proposed resolution advising this is a renewal of the Interlocal agreement between the City and the Fife School District.

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution No. 1502**

Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with the City of Buckley for the Housing of City of Buckley Offenders in the Fife Jail.

Councilmember Hulcey moved and Pro Tem Hull seconded a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1502.

Chief Blackburn reported this is one of the first agreements with neighboring cities that will help fill the capacity of the Fife Jail. Approval of the agreement is consistent with Goal 3 of the City of Fife Council to increase levels of service and expand partnerships with adjoining cities.

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Zabell reported on the following:

- Brookville Garden Parks is moving into the design phase;
- Centennial Park improvements are complete;
- South Campus Planning meetings have started with the School District, Arts Commission, and Planning Committee relating to the conceptual design options;
- The new 7-11 is one permit away from opening- next week;
- Larson Power Sports Northwest has applied for a business license;
- A representative from FEMA will be at City Hall next week, updates will be provided at a later date;
- The Parks and Recreation Department hosted the emergency management agency;
- 25 City employees received their First Aid Training Certificates;
- Public Works Director Blount reported on the approved and signed Federal Highway; Administration Agreement relating to the Port of Tacoma Interchange Project.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilmember Hulcey commented on the 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue viaduct project, and suggested that perhaps off ramps could be included in the design of this project.

Pro Tem Mayor Hull asked for further information about card rooms in Fife and also that perhaps a study session topic could involve discussion of supporting the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment Rangers.

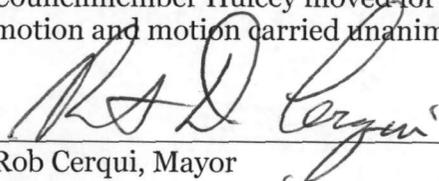
Councilmember Curtis expressed gratitude for the progress of the 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue project.

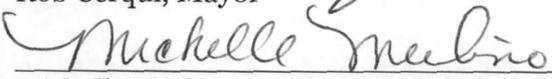
**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

No citizen comments were received

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Hulcey moved for an adjournment at 9:51 PM. Pro Tem Mayor Hull seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

  
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Rob Cerqui, Mayor

  
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Michelle Merlino, Administrative Assistant