

**Fife School
District Office
5802 20th St. E.
Fife, WA 98424**

**FIFE CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MEETING
MINUTES
March 21, 2017
6:00 PM**

Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Yambe called the Fife City Council Study Session to order at 6:01 pm.

Present: Mayor Roscoe, Deputy Mayor Yambe and Councilmembers Curtis, Hulcey, Gethers and Wolfrom.

Staff Present: City Manager Mukerjee; Finance Director Luat; Public Works Director Blount; Community Development Director Friddle; Parks and Recreation Director Reuter; Aquatics Director Jendrick; Chief of Police Fisher; City Attorney Combs; Executive Assistant Rota and City Clerk Etgen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Gethers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

WSDOT SR 167 Gateway Project Presentation

Public Works Director Blount introduced Craig Stone and Steve Fuch from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). WSDOT has been tasked with management of the Gateway Project which completes the SR509 freeway and the SR167 freeway within Fife with a unified budget and on a cash basis, with funding spread over 16 years. Completion of the project is scheduled for 2031. The various scenarios under consideration were illustrated and discussed. \$130 million dollars will come from local contributions, which would start in 2021 and spread out over time.

WSDOT staff has been working with elected and appointed officials to adjust the project scope to match the current budget for the defined scope of work which includes an update of the environmental documentation, the acquisition of project permits and right-of-way, and final design. WSDOT will host a public open house to present the proposed project elements on April 18th at Fife High School.

Water Supply Alternatives

Public Works Director Blount and Geoff Dillard of RH2 addressed Council regarding alternatives for the future water supply sources for Fife. Water is currently purchased from Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) at a cost which increases with usage above a pre-determined allocated amount (capital payments). Due to summer weather patterns, Fife will be in a position to pay capital payments to TPU. Payments are substantial; the last payment exceeded \$2.1 million dollars. Five potential options which were discussed include:

- 1) Payment with funds from the Public Works Trust Fund loan to TPU for additional permanent water capacity;

- 2) Negotiation of a short-term water purchase from TPU; short-term in this case would likely be twenty years. Such a contract would allow Fife to buy water for a period of years without acquiring any right to continued supply beyond the term of the contract;
- 3) Negotiation with another purveyor for permanent water capacity; staff currently knows of no such purveyor easily connected to the Fife system;
- 4) Negotiation with another purveyor for a short-term water supply. Any such supply would require either wheeling through Tacoma, which is unlikely, or construction of new water mains and intertie facilities; and
- 5) Drilling an additional well at the Well 5 site to allow for full use of existing water rights associated with that site, which has the risks of being a dry hole and some permitting risk.

Staff advised Council that the potential exists to use Public Works Trust Fund loan monies, but that the Washington State Department of Commerce would have to approve the use. Staff advised based on the various scenarios they will proceed with drilling a test well at Site 5 and begin negotiations with TPU for a 20-year contract.

REVIEW OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING AGENDAS

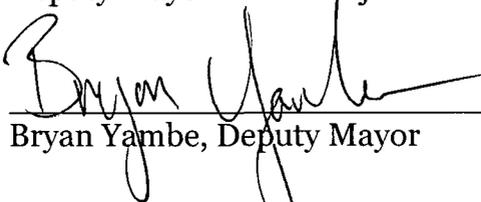
City Manager Mukerjee reviewed agenda items scheduled for upcoming Council meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:58 p.m. Council went into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the lease or purchase of real estate when there's a likelihood that disclosure would increase the price per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and for the purpose of discussing the qualifications of an applicant for public employment per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for approximately 30 minutes, extending the Executive Session for five minutes at 8:30 p.m., and coming out of Executive Session at 8:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Yambe adjourned Study Session at 8:35 PM.



Bryan Yambe, Deputy Mayor



Carol Etgen, City Clerk