

**FIFE CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION  
MINUTES**

**5A-1**

**Fife City Hall  
Council Chambers**

**Date: November 18, 2008  
Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

**Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui convened an executive session at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of Real Estate and Potential Litigation RCW 42.30.140 for approximately 30 minutes.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui adjourned the executive session at 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER  
AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui called the Fife City Council study session to order at 7:07 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Richard Godwin, Glenn Hull, Butch Brooks, Barry Johnson, Rob Cerqui, Nancy de Booy, and Kim Roscoe.

Staff Present: City Manager Steve Worthington, Senior Administrative Assistant Cindy Dunn, Public Works Director Russ Blount, Confidential Administrative Assistant Andrea Richards, City Attorney Loren Combs, Police Chief Brad Blackburn, Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services Kurt Reuter, and Recording Secretary Danielle Gardea.

**PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Hull led the pledge of allegiance.

**CHANGES,  
ADDITIONS OR  
DELETIONS TO  
AGENDA**

A City Manager's Report was added to the agenda.

A discussion was added on the I-5 improvements involving sound walls and quiet pavement.

**STUDY SESSION**

**Police Activity  
Mapping & KP Report**

Police Chief Blackburn provided a series of handouts and explained how maps were developed showing different types of crimes occurring in the City during different years. The maps help to establish patterns of crime occurring throughout the City. Chief Blackburn reviewed the following types of crimes:

- Other Types of Crimes – 1<sup>st</sup> half 2008
- Crimes Against Persons – 2007
- Crimes Against Persons – 2008
- Property Crimes – 2007
- Property Crimes – 2008

Police Chief Blackburn described the color-coding schemes.

Mayor Johnson asked about the police calls to the City of Milton. Police Chief Blackburn reported the City of Fife assists the Milton Police Department. The color codes differentiate the type of service call. Most of the calls were for assistance.

Councilmember de Booy asked whether the information is shared with Milton, Edgewood, and Tacoma. Police Chief Blackburn said he meets quarterly with the other police chiefs to review coordinated calls for services between the three cities. However, there is no capability for the other cities to extract the data. Currently, the data is internal only to the City of Fife. City Manager Worthington explained that the maps are the first maps produced as part of the department's analytical work and to provide more information to the Council. Councilmember de Booy suggested it would be wise to share the information with the other cities. Police Chief Blackburn acknowledged the comments and added that staff from the department's investigation team share crime analysis and tracking of crimes with other cities. The maps are the first product through incorporation with GIS and a new computer program at the Dispatch Center. The department is working on developing a module that could be extracted through the City's website. The dots represent the type of crime occurring at a specific location but not the number of crimes. The maps reveal patterns and ripple affects of certain types of crimes.

Councilmember Brooks asked whether there are any major areas of concern. Police Chief affirmed that based on the patterns, the only drop in crimes occurred in the Radiance subdivision in crimes against people. However, along the Highway 99 corridor, there is an upward swing in crime. Property crimes on the south side have increased. Normally, when the economy worsens, the number of crimes increases because people need money. That's a trend the department is beginning to see increase.

Mayor Johnson asked about the number of crimes in the north and south of Interstate 5 for service calls. Police Chief Blackburn advised that he has the information available, which is broken down by grids and districts. Mayor Johnson noted it appears that the response time is slower on the south side of the freeway than in previous years. Police Chief Blackburn reviewed the staffing level and acknowledged that during some shifts, officers do not cross the freeway because of other criminal activity and the time it takes to process the crimes. The level of service provided to Fife citizens is much higher than Tacoma and other neighboring cities.

Police Chief Blackburn reviewed statistical information graphed for arrests, calls for service, collision reports, criminal traffic, patrol checks, notice of infractions, vehicle stops, general reports, DUIs, felony charges, and misdemeanor charges occurring in 2007 and 2008. All categories reflect an increase in calls or incidents, except for felony charges, which decreased by 4%. Police Chief Blackburn described different circumstances for response and changes in police response dependent upon staffing levels. He noted the City's violent crimes have increased in seriousness, such as robbery of local hotels. Felony crimes are labor intensive for the department.

Mayor Johnson inquired about the comparison of Fife's criminal activity with Pierce County's average and the reason for the difference. Police Chief Blackburn

said the reason for the activity is because Fife is located on the north side of the community which attracts transient activity. Many people stay in local motels and hotels and commit crimes in other locations. Many of the local hotels cater to that demographic by charging for rooms by the hour. Drug crimes are increasing with many different types of drugs involved. Overall, the incidence of meth labs has decreased in the county. More often, meth activity is occurring in hotel/motel rooms that are difficult to discover.

Councilmember de Booy questioned the reasons for the increase in the number of crimes. Chief Blackburn said some increase can be attributed to the increase in population, but most can be attributed to the north side of town where the transient population resides. Some of it can be attributed to the casino as it can have a ripple affect across the City. The department is working closely with hotels/motels and other businesses to reduce crime.

K9 Officer Aaron Gardner reported he is one of two K9 handlers for the Fife Police Department. His police dog is Maggie, a two-year old black Border Collie. Officer Gardner briefed the Council on statistical information involving the K9 program. Over a 10-month period, Maggie has searched 140 vehicles, which includes cars, RVs, trucks, and commercial vehicles. The other police dog has searched 57 vehicles. Several arrests occurred from the searches as well as seven vehicle seizures involved in a criminal activity. Forty-eight building/room deployments involved both dogs over the last 10 months. The dogs are also deployed in open area searches, such as parking lots, fields, and drainage ditches to search for contraband tossed from a vehicle involved in a pursuit. The total deployment of both dogs was 271 during the 10-month period.

Officer Gardner reviewed drug seizures from searches by the K9 unit, as well as drug paraphernalia.

Officer Gardner provided information on community demonstration events by the K9 unit to schools and to the public. He reviewed training requirements consisting of one to three sessions monthly. During the last 10 months, over 100 hours of canine training has been completed.

Officer Gardner reviewed the working relationship with the Fife School District. The canine unit is an element of the Metro Canine Team, a countywide metro team involving narcotic canines and tracking canines. Maggie has been deployed to Tacoma, Bonnie Lake, Puyallup, and other agencies requesting assistance.

Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui inquired about the Chief's concerns on the staffing cuts with the increased levels of criminal activity occurring in the City. Police Chief Blackburn said he is concerned especially because of the level of increase in activity and reduction in staff.

**Facilities Study Update** City Manager Worthington reported the Council selected Driftmier Architects to complete a facilities study for the City. The briefing will include a timeline for major facility projects. The briefing will cover the Capital Facilities Program, Brookville Gardens design, and the Valley Avenue project. City Manager Worthington introduced Rick Driftmier, Driftmier Architects, who reviewed a Gantt Chart of a facility analysis and needs assessment.

Mr. Driftmier reviewed the era when the City was first established and major events occurring during that time. He reviewed the tasks of a facility analysis and needs assessment and noted the timeline is subject to change dependent upon staff availability. Mr. Driftmier identified existing and planned facilities to include:

- Brookville Gardens Park
- Pacific Highway site facilities
- City Center Campus

The goal of the study is to analyze the City's existing facilities and greater master plan. Mr. Driftmier asked a series of questions with the Council's responses bulleted below:

*Identify other goals or questions the study should achieve or answer.*

- Seeking a study that examines conditions of existing structures and where the City might be considering life cycle issues involved in either moving forward with existing facilities that might create significant maintenance issues or constructing new facilities, as well as other factors such as programs and needs and whether it's cost effective to remodel/ expand or replace.
- Reference was made to the City of Puyallup's multi-purpose building used for different functions. That might be an option for the City to consider in the future as the City's civic area expands as well as the expansion potential of the civic area.
- Requested a careful review of the City's older buildings, such as the Community Center and the Fife Swim Center and whether the study will include area trends pertaining to different types of community needs. Mr. Driftmier advised that the intent is to work with staff, Council, and the public on what's foreseen as needs over the next number of years and then review the information with staff for refinement and presentation to the Council.
- Determine whether there is interest or an option of co-locating with other government entities within Fife. City Manager Worthington said one option is co-locating with the library. However, the option is a decision of the Council. Mr. Driftmier said it will be important to discuss the option so that everyone is aware of other opportunities to explore.
- There is a trend for multi-use facilities in a private/public partnership arrangement. The current Community Center is undersized. There is the

need for potential public open space.

- The study should consider the lifespan of existing facilities to assist the Council in rendering better decisions on new facilities. Mr. Driftmier responded that different buildings have different life spans as well as other considerations, such as location and uses. Newer buildings will likely have 30 years of lifespan or more before any major renovations are needed. The City is outgrowing facilities in different ways. He cited the pool as an example of where the Council's direction will be in terms of the service need for the pool. The study will provide some ideas on options.
- The study should consider future trends in terms of more needs for facilities or whether the internet will play a role in facility requirements.
- Consider options for partnering with the school district.

*Do you have any hunches or gut feelings regarding facilities that you can verify or disprove?*

- Discussions have occurred about a possible maintenance facility for parks located on the Brookville Gardens site. Phasing of the park has been emphasized and there is some speculation that locating a maintenance facility in the park may not be desirable. Suggest ideas on the location for a maintenance facility and whether the park is the right location as well as considering the overall needs for the entire park system.
- In terms of the civic center campus approach involving the Community Center, City Hall, and Fire Station, consider the long-term plans of the Fire Station for potential development of a future campus. Additionally, consider combining services at the Community Center and the pool. Mr. Driftmier cautioned against possible conflicts of co-locating a center and pool.
- Consider shop/work area for volunteers who perform community service.

*What opportunities and challenges do you see the City accommodating in City government over the next 20 years, such as the kind of services provided or what will be the opportunities and challenges?*

- City departments will grow and will have additional needs, such as police services as the community expands. However, available developable land is limited. Mr. Driftmier said the Council will consider ways to build out and what services to provide over the next 20 to 30 years.

*Mr. Driftmier referred to the condition of the Kinoshita Building, which houses Parks and Recreation and building inspectors and suggested the condition of the building may not warrant retention of the building. He asked the Council if they foresee additional apartments constructed in that location, at another location, or City services moving out of the facility in the next 10 years.*

- Growth is at a maximum in the current location and a City campus will be

needed in the long-term dependent upon the condition of the City Hall building.

- Caution against planning on a piecemeal approach, need to consider the overall picture.
- Prefer directors on site with staff.

Councilmember Roscoe asked for a list of the questions so she can provide additional input.

*As the Criminal Justice Center is overcrowded, do you envision an expansion of the building, or letting the Police Department take over the building and moving courts elsewhere on the campus, or moving courts off campus as well as the police station?*

- Approximately three years ago, a pending state case delayed plans by the City for moving forward on a Criminal Justice Center. The project has not been readdressed since that time. The discussion centered on having the police remain in the building and that the courts would move to a new facility.
- Discussion followed on a tunnel system connecting the Police Department with the Court. Police Chief Blackburn said transport is a serious concern. However, there are concerns with tunneling in areas with a high water table. The Police Department and the Court is looking at video arraignment, which would reduce the need for transporting.
- Several Councilmembers recommended keeping the Police Department and the Court within the same complex. Consider expanding the jail to increase safety for employees. The City has land available in the same location.
- Consider police substations in the south area for residential coverage.

*There have been discussions about the need for a teen center, community center, and senior center. How does the Council envision the three facilities working together and what are the Council's thoughts on the issue?*

- The youth center has been a vague concept as to what is required in Fife. Currently, the City has the Surprise Lake Middle School After School Program in conjunction with the school district in Milton as well as a private non-profit youth center in Milton. The study should indicate if there is a need and provide information on what is effective in other jurisdictions and what type of facility has a positive impact on children.
- The Community Center for seniors could be improved, which would increase activity to include the entire community including youth. The Community Center should be enhanced in its present location. Mr. Driftmier offered that the Community Center should be adapted to address current and future programs. It's unlikely the City will want a building that segregates uses by age.
- Support servicing the needs of youth and seniors; however, the issue

concerns the budget and the level of funding for programs. As the City moves forward, a modern new facility in the area will be less expensive than a piecemeal approach. The City needs to take the approach on how it serves all citizens and avoid a comprehensive one-use building. Mr. Driftmier added that there could be a number of permanent uses within the building as well as transient programs.

*Does the Council envision the Fife Swim Center expanding, adding programs, or possibly adding another pool in another location?*

- Do not envision another pool within the community.
- Support future multi-use facility to meet the needs of the community. Mr. Driftmier commented on the helpfulness of a 20-year plan to address a number of needs, although it may not address current needs. However, it would be beneficial to have a long-term goal.
- Like the multi-use facility concept but believe the cost is underestimated.
- Multi-use facilities tend to be a draw point for larger areas where services can be concentrated in one building. Prefer to keep the pool as a stand-alone facility because of the type of facility and its maintenance impact on buildings. Enhance current pool to provide opportunities for parents and siblings not involved in swimming activities, such as an exercise facility.
- Analysis should include information on the remaining service life of the pool and the extent of renovation the pool needs.

*The Public Works Building is approximately 10 years old. Operationally, it could be closer to the center of the City. Does the Council envision Public Works remaining at its present location and funds allocated to upgrade offices and shop areas?*

- Director Blount noted the buildings are not substantial but provide functionality. The present location is preferable because of operational considerations and large equipment. However, for a 20 or 30-year plan, it's doubtful the buildings would remain viable.
- Public Works has two major elements – shop maintenance and planning/engineering. The two elements housed in the same building have some value.
- Maintaining the shop at its present location is preferable. Moving office staff closer to City Hall makes sense.
- City Manager Worthington said another question is whether there is a better use for the site. If the courthouse is moved near the Police Station, this site is an alternative site. He noted the City has ample land for relocating a public works facility.
- Support the current location.

*Does the Council envision Parks administration housed with the parks maintenance building?*

- The Council differed in their response. Additional discussion was deferred until later.

*The Council has had conversations about the library. If the library is built, where in the City would it be located?*

- The library should be located near the Community Center. The City needs an area for community events close to the library and the Community Center.
- Several Councilmembers preferred the library located near the civic campus. The study should also consider 20<sup>th</sup> as it develops.

*The City has over 100 acres of additional property that hasn't been addressed. Are there other properties the Council believes should be considered within the study in addition to the properties already addressed, such as the Justice Center complex, Brookville Gardens Park area, civic campus, and the Public Works area?*

- Would like an evaluation on reasons for retaining some of the properties. Lay out existing properties for potential future use to help the Council ascertain which properties to retain and which ones should be sold.
- Work with City staff on identifying those properties that could be sold and properties slated for some kind of development or open space.
- The Levee property should at some point have a community park.
- Provide suggestions for residential access from the south side of the railroad tracks.

City Manager Worthington reported the expectation of the study is to develop a list of projects within the CFP for prioritization by the Council within the scope of a realistic budget for planning capital expenses over the next 10 to 20 years. Mr. Driftmier is working with staff to develop the information.

Councilmember Brooks asked whether the scope of work could address an all-weather surface at one of the athletic complexes for expanding availability. City Manager Worthington said it's not included in the current scope work, but the request could be added to the scope of work.

### **Valley Avenue Project Update**

Director Blount provided a quick update on the status of federal funding and new projects ready to go for construction if an economic stimulus package is released. Randy Anderson, David Evans and Associates, is assisting staff with a Time, Size, and Location Study for an overcrossing carrying 70<sup>th</sup> over the railroad tracks. The project is not funded beyond the initial study, but there has been some analysis completed for culvert replacements, etc. If Washington, D.C. released funds, David Evans and Associates is prepared to assist the City in commencing construction by the end of 2009.

Director Blount referred to critical path information on the status of right-of-way

acquisition for 70<sup>th</sup> and Valley. There are several items on a critical parallel path. One is the tribal swap of land, which involves the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other parties, as well as, involving 36<sup>th</sup> Street. Another is right-of-way pertaining to several parcels. A permit revision is necessary to incorporate the tribal properties, which involves a letter from the Tribal Council. Many of the tasks are critical to maintain the construction schedule. He described the project as complex and coming together from a variety of directions. In the last several weeks, the City has closed on the Managing Green property, which will be Trading Stock for the tribe. Staff believes negotiations with the tribe are nearing a successful completion. However, part of the process involves deeding back to the tribe, property that is equal in area to the property in front acquired for Valley Avenue. This involves relocating a private access easement called 36<sup>th</sup> Street East. Part of the critical path is to build 36<sup>th</sup> Street access. He described the complexities involved in the improvement and timing associated with the trade of land.

Director Blount referred to a status summary for right-of-way acquisition and reviewed the status of pending property acquisition. Staff is making good progress for acquiring all necessary properties.

Director Blount responded to questions on tribal properties and identified the specific properties. Councilmember Godwin asked about the potential for the City to make improvements to 36<sup>th</sup> Street East only to have tribal properties withdraw from the negotiation process. The Council questioned whether the issue is driven by property owners or the tribe requiring the improvements prior to the trade. City Manager Worthington said staff believes before the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Tribal Council will approve the transaction, the City needs to provide free title to a comparable property, which is not possible unless an alternative easement is constructed.

Mr. Anderson reported overall, plans will be 99% completed by the end of the year or early next year. The plans cannot be finalized until all right-of-way is acquired. A 60% plan review was completed three weeks ago.

Councilmember Brooks commented on the tight schedule and reliance on other agencies for various approvals. He asked about the timing associated with the NEPA reevaluation to incorporate tribal lands. Mr. Anderson reported the NEPA reevaluation has been completed. WSDOT will not review the reevaluation because the agency needs a letter from the Puyallup Tribe of Indians indicating they are satisfied with the transaction and agree to the terms.

Councilmember Brooks asked about utility relocation and possible delays with Puget Sound Energy. Mr. Anderson said the project will involve total undergrounding of utilities. As part of the project, David Evans and Associates is installing all infrastructure components.

Councilmember Brooks commented on the winter weather and inquired about pushing up the advertising date to expedite the process. Mr. Anderson said the

project involves federal funds, which requires completion of some processes prior to releasing construction bids.

Councilmember Godwin expressed concerns about the tight timeline and the pending issues that may impact the timing of the project

Councilmember Brooks offered the suggestion of staff proposing the Council consider a road closure to facilitate attaining a milestone after construction begins on the project. Director Blount replied that staff has discussed the option with the consultant and one discussion point centered on a road closure with only local access.

### **Brookville Park Update**

Director Reuter referred to a Gantt Chart on the Brookville Gardens Community Park project. Councilmember Roscoe expressed appreciation to staff for receiving Gantt Charts on the various agenda items.

Director Reuter reviewed the timeline for environmental permitting. The SEPA Checklist involves a 99-day process to complete the checklist scheduled for completion in late April. The critical area review entails a 119-day process scheduled to conclude in late May. The JARPA and Biological Assessment is a 60-day process, which is tight, but achievable. The main task is the US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 27, which will take a substantial amount of time. The schedule shows a 170-day timeframe with completion in approximately one year.

Staff compared environmental permitting for the park against a similar project. There are concerns in terms of the time required to obtain permits. The previous project entailed a two-year period to obtain permits. However, staff believes the Brookville project is different for the creek work, which shouldn't be as difficult as the other project. However, there are some concerns, but the consultant feels confident that the timeline can be achieved.

Sixty-four days are scheduled for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) hydraulic project approval.

Another critical milestone is the 50% construction document package, which is due from the consultant on December 19, 2008. The package will be reviewed internally by staff for two weeks for return to the consultant team at the first of the year. The timeline may conflict with the holidays.

The Council expressed interest in reviewing the 50% construction document package during a study session in January.

The 99% construction document package is scheduled to begin in early February and completed in early April.

Councilmember Roscoe suggested the possibility of scheduling a joint meeting

with the Parks Board in January. A majority of the Council agreed with the suggestion.

Director Reuter reported construction is scheduled to begin during the construction season in 2010. If permitting problems delay the timeline, there is ample time built into the schedule to achieve the construction date.

Director Reuter pointed out the need to have flexibility within the permitting process to handle any problems the project may encounter.

Mayor Johnson asked what triggers a Corps review. City Manager Worthington said working in wetlands trigger Corps permits. Mayor Johnson commented with some dismay about the 22 month-long process. City Manager Worthington reminded the Council of the length of time required in working with the Corps based on previous experience.

Director Reuter said that as the City moves through the permitting process and receives permits, there may be permit conditions forcing design changes, which must also be considered. The timeline accounts for that possibility. The consultant was directed not to prepare bid documents until all permits are received and funding has been identified for the project.

While the timeline shows a 2010 completion timeline, funding is still short by approximately \$2.5 million to \$2.7 million to achieve the final product. The shortage does not include construction of the Parks Maintenance Facility and does not provide for architectural and engineering (A&E) for the maintenance facility. The consultant was asked to break the project into pieces. As a cost saving measure, staff did not include A&E on the park maintenance facility.

Councilmember Brooks asked staff to provide updated Gantt Charts during each update so the Council can track progress. He said he's encouraged some additional time is included between permitting and construction.

Councilmember de Booy asked whether staff is considering grant funds to absorb some of the funding shortfall. Director Reuter affirmed the consultant has listed grant sources. One grant through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has been submitted for \$50,000. The largest grant source is the Recreation Conservation Office (RCO). Unfortunately, the project falls midway between RCO's funding cycle. The next funding cycle is 2010 for funding in 2012. Staff will continue to pursue all grant sources.

Mayor Johnson asked whether the consultant contract includes language on what the consultant will provide in terms of grant applications. City Manager Worthington said the contract stipulates the consultant will identify potential grant sources and provide the technical information with the City preparing the grant application. Director Reuter added that the consultant team provided staff with technical information that was helpful in filling out some of the application's

narrative sections.

**Motion**

**Councilmember Roscoe moved, seconded by Mayor Johnson, to extend the meeting 30 minutes to 10:30 p.m. Motion carried. Councilmembers Hull, de Booy, and Godwin opposed.**

**Loading Dock Door Fee**

City Manager Worthington reported he has been exploring the option of adopting a Loading Dock Door Fee since January 2008 and recently met with Valley Cities to explore the issue and whether the authority exists or needs to be created. An attorney the City of Auburn has on retainer drafted an opinion outlying the basis for the fee. There is sufficient authority today through business licenses and excise tax to assess the fee. It provides the City with the power to implement the fee without legislative change. The question is the City's policy pertaining to the fee. Several of the cities are interested in assessing the fee.

The fee helps to offset the costs of wear and tear on City streets caused by trucks. Trucks caused wear and tear at a significant higher level than standard vehicles. The City has the responsibility to maintain truck routes, but receives no specific revenue for the maintenance. Trucking companies pay overload fees, taxes, and gasoline taxes. However, the City competes for dollars out of the state pool.

If the Council agrees to consider the fee, the Council will have an additional opportunity to review the matter. It provides for a fee that could be used for a portion (50%) of truck route/freight corridor street repair and maintenance. The fee would generate approximately \$100 to \$120 annually per active loading door with an exemption for the first two doors for smaller retailers. The fee would be assessed annually through the annual business license process. Companies would receive stickers to affix to loading doors. Projected annual revenue could be \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually for truck route maintenance.

City Manager Worthington shared information on some of the contacts with the business community about the fee as well as working with the other cities to fine-tune the details. There has not been much opposition from the business community at this point.

**Public Comment**

**Kory Edwards, 5510 15<sup>th</sup> Street East**, provided some history on why the issue was initially explored by the City. Although truckers pay for wear and tear of streets, warehouses do not. Warehouses on 70<sup>th</sup> and other areas should have some responsibility for the damage caused by container trucks. He urged the Council to move forward on assessing the fee. Businesses creating the truck traffic in Fife have not been responsible for the damage trucks cause. The fee is only assessed on doors that are used.

Mayor Johnson added that he's attended many of the meetings with City Manager Worthington and there is much support for the fee by many of the cities. It's also a way for warehouses to pay a share of their impacts on the community.

Councilmember Hull said he's not supportive of the proposal especially in monitoring compliance with limited resources.

Councilmember Godwin expressed some concern about losing sight of maintenance of residential streets. There have been no provisions for truck route maintenance and the City is now trying to catch up. There are a number of trucks routes that are inadequate and also unsafe. The amount of revenue is not sufficient to maintain truck routes.

Mayor Johnson said the fee is just a piece of the funding solution.

Councilmember Brooks supported the proposal for ongoing truck route maintenance. He agreed the fee is somewhat low.

Councilmember de Booy supported the proposal and urged consistency in fees between the jurisdictions. Businesses should be assured the funds will be dedicated to maintain truck routes.

Councilmember Roscoe asked whether any discussion occurred with truck drivers about the possibility of delay if loading docks are shut down to limit the number of doors. She said she supports the door fee.

Mayor Pro Tem agreed there could be some problems with enforcement that the fee is a good idea.

City Manager Worthington confirmed the Council's direction to move forward.

#### **Credit Card Machine Usage**

City Manager Worthington reported staff has been moving forward on the idea of implementing credit card capability. However, the Council had some mixed feelings about it. Currently, the City accepts credit and debit card payments at Municipal Court, the Community Center, and the Fife Swim Center. State law allows the City to recoup a credit card fee when used to pay court fines. However, the City is limited in recouping additional handling fees for other types of charges.

There is great deal of customer demand for credit card payments. Many people want to pay utility bills with credit cards especially on shut-off days when people are unable to pay cash creating many utility cut-offs. While there are increased costs associated with accepting credit cards, staff believes there are offsetting savings and other benefits. The most significant is increased customer satisfaction.

Full implementation will require policies.

City Manager Worthington cited correspondence from a citizen requesting credit card capability.

Councilmember Godwin said he doesn't foresee a problem with providing credit card capability. He questioned whether electronic payments are an option. City

Manager Worthington said in the future, the City will allow online payments.

Councilmembers supported a credit card option.

**Motion**

**Councilmember Brooks moved, seconded by Councilmember Roscoe, to extend the meeting until the Council completes its agenda. Motion carried.**

**Quiet Pavement/Sound Wall Issue**

City Manager Worthington reported he sent an email to the Council on the subject of the sound wall proposal. The City has received approximately 24 letters from concerned business owners. The Chamber has also expressed interest. The Council may be asked to take a position on the sound wall issue at its next meeting. The issue is whether the Council prefers to take a position.

Mayor Johnson said one of his concerns involved WSDOT's presentation, which conveyed that quiet pavement will not work and instead offered asphalt. WSDOT blatantly ignored that asphalt is available through Fife. WSDOT also didn't provide information on why quiet pavement would not be effective. He asked for information from staff on why quiet pavement wouldn't be effective through Fife.

Councilmember Godwin commented on the ineffectiveness of sound walls.

Councilmember Brooks said he believes the WSDOT representative said the technology for quiet asphalt in the state hasn't been proven. Quiet pavement is used throughout the nation. Messages from local business have been vocal and that the Council should send a clear, concise message to WSDOT that in lieu of sound walls, the City wants quiet pavement.

**City Manager Report**

City Manager Worthington reported on the following events/activities:

At 2:00 p.m. at City Hall on November 19, 2008, a holiday message from the City will be broadcast by Comcast. The library open house will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

The Victims Impact Panel for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) annual victims bell ringing ceremony is planned at Columbia Junior High School on Friday, November 21, 2008 from 6:15 p.m. Police Chief Blackburn and Judge Ringus are Boardmembers.

There are two Planning Commission vacancies. The City has received some applications.

City Manager Worthington advised the Council of a lease renewal for farming on the Brookville property for 2009.

City Manager Worthington referred to the City's budget and reduction in staff and service impacts and asked staff to provide additional information associated with the cuts. Police Chief Blackburn said four positions in the Police Department have

been cut. They include Community Policing, which is crime prevention and block watches, has been reduced to 10 hours a week. The position was combined with the SRO position. Two employees are retiring and will not be replaced. The last position is the Corrections Sgt. position approved in 2007, but not filled. The cuts represent a 12% reduction in service by staff. Police Chief Blackburn said property crimes will be a lower priority and the department will be implementing a policy of not investigating property crimes below \$5,000. The department has implemented a plan not to accept nonpriority calls during the last hour of a patrol shift to avoid overtime.

Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui inquired about the impact of the casino and the expansion. Police Chief Blackburn cited an example of a number of stolen vehicles from the casino. Although Tribal Officers handle the calls, the problem is where the cars are found. There are crimes of opportunity in the area. City Manager Worthington said the issue is addressed through the SEPA process for mitigation of police impacts. He indicated he reminds the tribal quarterly about SEPA requirements.

Councilmember Godwin urged avoiding the policy of not investigating property thefts under \$5,000 as it erodes support for the Police Department within the community.

Councilmember Roscoe suggested developing a community message on the efforts of the City to balance the budget. It's important to convey to citizens the need to cut expenses and that departments will be affected.

Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui expressed optimism for finding a way to fill two officer positions and continue investigating property crimes less than \$5,000.

Councilmember Hull mentioned the possibility of home monitoring alarms as a source of revenue.

Director Reuter reviewed budget impacts to the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department. One seasonal parks maintenance position was eliminated. The Fife Swim Center will have reduced hours on Sunday and only open for lessons and rentals. A similar schedule is under consideration for hours of low attendance. The recreation department reduced teen activity nights from four to three and reductions in other youth and adult programs. Part-time staff was reduced in the Community Center to cut back on part-time hours. Reduced hours at the Swim Center will begin in January.

City Manager Worthington reported on unfilled City Hall positions and shifts in some position responsibilities. Community Development is also experiencing a reduction in hours.

The other aspect of the budget is work on ways to increase revenue. City Manager Worthington said there is an opportunity for the City to provide services to other jurisdictions. He said he's spoken with representatives from the cities of Milton

and Edgewood about building inspection services and plan checks. There appears to be some interest as both cities have reduced staff. The City is also looking at dispatch services as well as jail services to the City of Lakewood.

Councilmember Brooks asked for updated information on the 2008 budget.

**Adjournment**

**Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui adjourned the meeting at 11:07 p.m.**

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Rob Cerqui, Mayor Pro Tem

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Cindy Dunn, Senior Administrative Assistant

Prepared by Valerie Gow, Recording Secretary  
Puget Sound Meeting Services