FIFE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Fife City Hall
Council Chambers

Date: November 24, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Johnson convened an executive session at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of Real Estate and Labor Negotiations RCW 42.30.140 for approximately 65 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Johnson adjourned the executive session at 7:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Johnson called the regular meeting of the Fife City Council to order at 7:08 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, City Attorney Loren Combs, Finance Director Steve Marcotte, Police Chief Brad Blackburn, Public Works Director Russ Blount, Parks, Recreation & Community Services Director Kurt Reuter, Senior Planner Beverly Boyle, Planner Chris Pasinetti, Administrative Assistant Andrea Richards, Municipal Court Judge Kevin Ringus, Financial Analyst Dave DeGroot, Marketing Coordinator Laurel Potter, and Recording Secretary William Gow II.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Brooks led the pledge of allegiance.

Memory Observance

Mayor Johnson observed a moment of silence to honor the memory of City of Puyallup Deputy Mayor George Dill, who passed away last week.

CHANGES, ADDITIONS, OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Brooks moved, seconded by Councilmember Godwin, to add Resolution No. 1326; Approving Purchase of Khara Property, remove Ordinance #1705; 2010 Budget, to provide additional time to Council and staff to investigate the status of the potential sale of City property to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and add a discussion on Pierce County Health Department letters of support for grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Seeger, Fife Flowers, 1504 54th Avenue East, commented on the record election turnout of Fife citizens. It speaks well of the community in the turnout of voters. He congratulated Councilmember Hull on his re-election as well as his opponent, Carole Sue Braaten, for her willingness to participate in the election.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes: Date: November 10, 2009 Council Meeting

b. Approval of Vouchers:
Payroll: #46251 – 46286 $393,456.37
Claim: #77770 – 77896 $333,289.06

A change was requested to the minutes of November 10, 2009 on page 2 revising the first sentence in the fourth paragraph to state, "Councilmember Brooks said although he wasn't a supporter of the issue based on timing, the voters have spoken through their vote of support..."

Councilmember Hull addressed the issue of payment of membership fees to the Fife Chamber of Commerce when the City is the primary financial supporter of the chamber. He suggested discussing the issue at a future study session.

Motion

Councilmember Brooks moved, seconded by Councilmember Godwin, to approval of the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Tree Lighting Reminder December 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Worthington reminded the community of the annual tree lighting ceremony at City Hall on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Santa will be present and refreshments and cookies will be served.

COUNCIL DELEGATE REPORT

Councilmember Godwin reported on his attendance to the Regional Communications Committee meeting. The Fife Council meetings as well as other Pierce County city council meetings are broadcast on the internet at www.piercecountytv.org. He attended the Pierce Council Regional Council in Councilmember Brooks' absence. The Council elected Bobbi Allison from the Town of Eatonville as Chair and Katrina Asay from the City of Milton as Vice Chair.

Councilmember Hull represented the Council at two speaking engagements with the Greater Tacoma Kiwanis Club and at the Safe Streets Program in transforming the lives of youth. He filled in for the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem at the Friday luncheon meeting of Valley Cities. The discussion focused on transportation issues affecting all cities in the valley as well as the benefit district of the street maintenance utility as some cities are moving toward formation of the utility. Members also discussed flooding and streamlined sales tax mitigation. Some of larger cities believe the state will eliminate SST mitigation as the state deals with its budget crisis. Members want to share legislative agendas at the December 18, 2009 meeting. On November 30, 2009, Councilmember Hull reported he is participating in the launch of the Snohomish County Safe Medicine Return Program at 1:30 p.m.

Councilmember Brooks thanked Councilmembers Hull and Godwin for their assistance in attending meetings on his behalf during his absence.

Councilmember de Booy reported on her participation at the Thanksgiving lunch at the Fife Community Center, which was attended by approximately 50 individuals. She expressed disappointment with the lack of City representation. She attended the advisory committee meeting for seniors with members

agreeing the center should be referred to as the "Fife Community Center" rather than the "Senior Center." She participated on a trip to Ellensburg for an event during the weekend.

Councilmember Roscoe attended the meeting of Pierce County/City of Fife Joint Determination Authority meeting and was unable to attend the last meeting of the Fife School District Board meeting. The board approved resolutions for a capital projects technology levy and an educational and operations levy.

Mayor Johnson attended the Mayor's Breakfast, which included updates on H1N1 flu and Pierce Transit's budget shortfall of $44 million because of the drop in sales tax. The transit agency is examining its operations to address the budget shortfall. Mayor Johnson reported he and City Manager Worthington are attending a mayor's exchange in Olympia on December 2, 2009, and a Puyallup River Executive Task Force meeting on December 7, 2009.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinances

#1705; 2010 Budget

Deferred to the next regular meeting.

#1706; 2009 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Motion

Councilmember Brooks moved, seconded by Councilmember Godwin, to approve Resolution #1706; 2009 Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

City Clerk/Finance Director Marcotte read the title of Ordinance #1706:

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fife, Washington, amending the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Fife pursuant to the State of Washington's Growth Management Act.

Planner Pasinetti reported staff recommends the Council approve second reading of Ordinance #1706, adopting four Comprehensive Plan amendments for 2009.

Councilmember Godwin noted that the Puyallup School District included a rate for its impact fee in excess of $26,000, which is likely the reason the district didn't include the figure in the documents originally.

Motion

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

#1324; Reappoint Municipal Court Judge

Motion

Councilmember Brooks moved, seconded by Councilmember Godwin, to approve Resolution #1324; Reappoint Municipal Court Judge.

City Clerk/Finance Director Marcotte read the title of Resolution #1324:

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Fife, Pierce County, Washington, confirming the appointment of Kevin Ringus as Fife Municipal Court Judge and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an employment agreement with the Judge.

City Manager Worthington reported the Council has the opportunity to appoint the Municipal Court Judge. He met with Judge Ringus and several of his peers and recommends the Council re-appoint Judge Ringus for another four-year term beginning January 1, 2010.

Councilmember Brooks commented on Judge Ringus' participation in the community and his excellent representation of the community.

Motion

Motion carried unanimously.

#1326 Approve Purchase of Khara Property

Motion

Councilmember Brooks moved, seconded by Councilmember Godwin, to approve Resolution #1326; Approve Purchase of Khara Property.

City Clerk/Finance Director Marcotte read the title of Resolution #1326:

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Fife, Pierce County, Washington, authorizing the purchase of a portion of Tax Parcel Nos. 0420174057 and 0420174058 from Gurmej S. Khara and Brij Bala Khara for right of way.

Director Blount reported the property is located off Valley Avenue East immediately west of Freeman Road East. The agenda packet did not include the item because the City negotiated an agreement with the property owners on November 23, 2009, with the assistance of Assistant City Attorney Greg Amann in the range authorized by the Council. The property is immediately west of the former grocery store. Purchase of the property enables the City to include planter strips as part of the street project.

Councilmember Brooks asked how much of the purchase price includes the

right-of-way. Director Blount reported over three-quarters of the purchase price is for right-of-way. He outlined the location of the slope and construction easements. The land area is approximately three-quarters of the value. The purchase will aid in the alignment of the street project, which will increase the cost of the project by approximately $100,000.

Director Blount addressed questions regarding the retaining wall.

Councilmember Cerqui asked about the portion of Valley Avenue east of Freeman and whether it will be a five-lane road when the project is completed. Director Blount said the roadway east of Freeman will not be five lanes after the completion of the project. However, staff met with Pierce County's Public Works Director and traffic engineers. The county foresees some improvement of the roadway to five lanes in the near future. One of the reasons for the recommendation is because the property located to the north of Valley is in tribal trust. It's more feasible to expect any eventual alignment to occur on the south side of the roadway rather than the north.

Councilmember Godwin asked how much of the additional cost can be attributed to design. Director Blount indicated it's approximately $30,000.

Motion

Motion carried with Councilmember Brooks opposing.

Councilmember de Booy left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Commission Appointment Process

City Manager Worthington reported of the three Planning Commission positions expiring at the end of the year, three members have requested or are in the process of requesting reappointment. Additionally, current member Donald Alveshere was elected to serve on the Council replacing Councilmember Roscoe. The City is currently advertising the positions.

The Council agreed to consider reappointment of the current members and consider applicants for the one position vacated by Mr. Alveshere.

Park, Recreation and Community Services Advisory Board Process

City Manager Worthington reported that similarly, two terms on the Park, Recreation and Community Services Advisory Board are expiring. One member has officially requested reappointment while the other member remains undecided.

Councilmember Brooks commented that the City should ensure each advisory board is aware of openings in the event members wish to be considered for appointment to another advisory board.

The Council agreed to follow a similar appointment process.

Setting December 22, 2009 as Voucher Approval Meeting Only

Mayor Johnson suggested not cancelling the meeting until December 8, 2009 dependent upon the adoption of the 2010 Budget.

Pierce County Health Department Letters of Support

Mayor Johnson reported he was asked to sign two letters of support regarding smoking cessation and combating obesity in the community. The Pierce County Health Department is applying for a $2 million grant to support the two efforts and has requested the City of Fife sign as a signatory on the letters of support for the grant application.

The Council agreed to participate as a signatory for both letters.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Worthington reported on the following activities:

- With construction underway on the Valley Avenue project, the speed limit has been temporarily lowered through the construction zone as well as along 70th from 26th Street to the railroad tracks to 25 miles per hour. The revised speeds are posted as well.
- He advised residents in the Radiance subdivision on the presence of City representatives in the wetland area for evaluation of the buffer and for future plantings in the area.
- The Fife-Milton-Edgewood Junior Soccer Club held its 21st Annual Turkey Jamboree on November 21-22, 2009 at Dacca Park.
- City Manager Worthington congratulated all Council candidates for their willingness to run for office.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmembers individually wished the community a good Thanksgiving holiday.

Councilmember Cerqui congratulated Judge Ringus on his reappointment.

Councilmember Cerqui asked about the timing for the reduced speed limit along the construction zone. City Manager Worthington said the reduced speed limit is posted and in effect 24 hours a day.

Councilmember Roscoe congratulated Councilmembers Hull and de Booy on their reelection, Mr. Alveshere on his election, and Carole Sue Braaten for running for office. She noted that the number of votes cast in the election was more than in previous years, but the percentage return of registered voters was only 41% while it was 44% in 2007, 43% in 2005, and 46% in 2003. The percentage of voters who are voting is decreasing. Gig Harbor was consistent at 62% of its registered voters casting a ballot with previous past year results. She suggested it might be interesting for the City and Pierce County to collaborate to increase the percentage of voters casting a ballot.

Mayor Johnson thanked Ms. Braaten for running for office and congratulated

Councilmember Hull on his reelection.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Gonzales said he's new to the community and is from the Los Angles area serving in the military and nearing retirement. His son is interested in playing football and the nearest facility offering football is in Federal Way. He asked the Council about the possibility of creating a tackle football team in the City of Fife. He acknowledged the importance of sports to youths and how it helps to keep youths on track and leads to youths graduating from high school. It's expensive to create a league, but with dedication and individuals willing to help, it's possible to establish a football league. He mentioned the possibility of Councilmembers Hull and Godwin participating in developing a league because of their interest in youths and sports.

Councilmembers Godwin and Hull agreed there a number of opportunities to explore and agreed to meet with Mr. Gonzales.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Barry Johnson, Mayor

Steve Marcotte, City Clerk/Finance Director

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President
Puget Sound Meeting Services