FIFE CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET RETREAT MINUTES

Fabulich World Trade Center
Fife, Washington

Date: March 20, 2010
Time: 9:00 to 3:00

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:
Meeting called to order at 9:05 by Mayor Pro Tem Cerqui. Attending: Cerqui, Godwin, Hull, Alveshere, de Booy. Absent: Johnson (excused).

COUNCIL GOALS FOR 2011
Staff presented recommendations to address each of the Council's Goals and Tasks as they identified them at their Budget Retreat in January.

Goal 1: Develop a style of government that is proactive, transparent, and easily accessible by the citizens. Staff recommended implementation of the Project Management (PM) module in the accounting system as a way to get more information regarding capital projects. Staff also recommended several ideas for increasing citizen use of the City's web-site. Finally, staff provided suggestions for some of the content in the Preliminary Budget including labor information and expenditure information at the Division level. Council was supportive of these recommendations.

Goal 2: Develop and implement community building strategies. Council and staff discussed several potential methods for incenting development including property tax deferrals and tax increment financing. Also discussed were ways to improve the delivery of parks and recreation programs for Fife youth.

Goal 3: Determine appropriate levels of service for public safety and identify appropriate funding and implementation strategies. Council has previously resolved the policy questions regarding the Photo Red Light Enforcement Program. Also discussed was the emergency response time from Tacoma Fire Department where Councilmember Godwin and Chief Blackburn shared their thoughts from a recent meeting with the Tacoma Fire Department. Council expressed support for continuing efforts with the State Legislature to broaden the uses of the lodging tax.

Goal 4: Identify funding solutions for major projects. Staff presented information regarding the current funding for major capital projects including Valley Avenue, 70th Street, Freeman Road, Levee Road and the potential interconnector between Frank Albert Road and 54th Street that may be built by the Puyallup Tribe. Council discussed priorities including a desire to find a funding solution for the Freeman Road LID. This could include use of future collections in the Public Safety Fund.

Staff discussed the City's current debt amount and explained the State's Constitutional Limitation of Indebtedness.

Staff also presented information about the City's current efforts to obtain grant funding and the criteria staff uses to evaluate the cost/benefit trade-off for deciding whether it is worthwhile to pursue any particular grant. Staff also shared the 2008 Schedule 16 from the State Auditor's Report which serves as an inventory of grant expenditures for that year.

Kurt Reuter discussed the particulars of the RCO grant for the Brookville Garden Park project to obtain direction from Council as to whether it would be worth pursuing. While the grant would aid the project, it is unlikely that the actual construction schedule would utilize the grant funds quickly enough. Council consensus seemed to be that the grant should be pursued both to gain experience and to expose the project to RCO staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 2:38.

Rob Cerqui, Mayor Pro Tem

Steve Marcotte, City Clerk for Steve M.