CITY OF AUBURN WASHINGTON

City Council Study Session
March 23, 2015 - 5:30 PM
Auburn City Hall
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Holman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Auburn City Hall, 25 West Main Street in Auburn.

A. Roll Call

City Councilmembers present: Deputy Mayor Holman, Rich Wagner, Bill Peloza, Largo Wales, Wayne Osborne, Claude DaCorsi, and Yolanda Trout.

City officials and staff members present included: Mayor Nancy Backus, Community Development and Public Works Director Kevin Snyder, Sewer Utility Engineer Bob Elwell, Utilities Engineering Manager Lisa Tobin, IT Operations Manager Ashley Riggs, IT Customer Support Manager Reba Stowe, Finance Director Shelley Coleman, City Attorney Daniel B. Heid, Environmental Services Manager Chris Andersen, Police Commander Mike Hirman, Public Affairs and Marketing Manager Dana Hinman, Assistant Director of Engineering Services/City Engineer Ingrid Gaub, Transportation Manager Pablo Para, and City Clerk Danielle Daskam.

II. AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. Fourth Quarter 2014 Financial Report (Coleman)

Finance Director Coleman presented the fourth quarter 2014 financial report for the period ending December 31, 2014.

In 2014, General Fund revenues exceeded budget by $2.7 million. General Fund expenditures were approximately $5.2 million under budget.

The increased revenue is due to increases in sales tax collections and sales tax credit for annexation, increased revenues from development service fees, and increased revenues from building permits.

Finance Director Coleman spoke briefly regarding the volatility of the sales tax revenue stream since the Great Recession. In 2007, the City received its highest revenue from sales tax of $17.5 million. Sales tax revenue decreased approximately 33 percent over two years. Some of the decrease was due to the recession and some was due to the sourcing change of sales tax. Director Coleman reported that in 2014, the City's sales tax revenue reached (within $20,000.00) its record 2007 level for sales tax revenue.

Approximately $4 million of the residual budget will be carried forward for

2015 activities and some will go to the cumulative reserve fund to replenish the fund.

Director Coleman reviewed real estate excise tax revenue and the cemetery operating revenues and expenditures. Director Coleman noted the utility funds ended the year without a net loss.

Director Coleman cautioned the sales tax revenue level may not be sustained and the annexation sales tax credit will end in 2017.

Director Coleman stated that several million dollars in working capital in the enterprise funds are being carried forward for capital projects in 2015.

B. Comprehensive Sewer Plan Overview (Snyder)

Utilities Engineering Manager Lisa Tobin and Sewer Utility Engineer Bob Elwell presented an overview of the draft Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

The City is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Sewer Plan in parallel with the City's overall Comprehensive Plan. This plan is an update of the existing Sewer Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2009.

Engineer Elwell explained the Plan contains time frames that are the intended framework for future funding decisions, and within which future actions and decisions are intended to occur. However, the time frames are estimates and the timing may change due to project status and availability of resources.

Engineer Elwell reviewed the organization of the Plan chapter by chapter, and provided a brief explanation of each chapter.

Engineer Elwell displayed a map (Figure 5-6) showing existing sewer mains and facilities (in green) and proposed sewer mains and facilities (in magenta).

Engineer Elwell stated Chapter 7, Recommended Plan, is the capital improvement program, and consists of primarily repair and replacement projects. The system analysis reveals no need for capacity improvements.

In response to a question from Councilmember Peloza, Engineer Elwell stated the introduction of fats, oils and grease (FOG) into the sewer system is primarily from residential neighborhoods now rather than from restaurants, as restaurants are required to have grease traps and other pretreatment facilities. The FOG reduction program focuses on education.

Engineer Elwell advised that staff plans to bring the Comprehensive Sewer Plan to a future Council meeting for a more in-depth discussion.

C. Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update (Snyder)

Transportation Manager Pablo Para presented Chapter 5, Policies Summary, of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Manager Para reviewed the proposed revisions to the Transportation Plan policies.

Manager Para explained the last major update to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan was conducted in 2009. This year's update is proposed to complete minor policy revisions, map updates, format revisions to improve readability and incorporation of updated land use, population, and employment projects for the 2035 planning horizon year.

Councilmember Osborne questioned the revision to Transportation Policy TR 4, which states, "Safety shall be prioritized over driving convenience." Councilmember Osborne proposed instead: "Provide a safe and efficient transportation system" to reflect a multi-modal transportation system. Councilmember Wagner disagreed.

Councilmember Wagner suggested keeping Policy TR 70, which reads: "The City maintains the option of closing streets when freezing conditions are present to prevent frost damage." Mr. Para noted the policy was removed since closing roads for emergency purposes is a city authority that does not need to be an explicit comprehensive plan policy.

Councilmember Osborne suggested the pedestrian portion of the plan include a statement that a flashing light warning for pedestrian crossings, similar to that described in Policy TR 148, be included for all crosswalks.

City Engineer Gaub stated the full Transportation Plan will be presented to the Council at a future meeting where more comments can be taken.

D. Informational briefing regarding the proposed 2016 Interlocal Agreement for the Green/Duwamish Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA-9) (Snyder)
Staff to provide a briefing for the proposed 2016 Interlocal Agreement for the Green/Duwamish Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA-9)

Environmental Services Manager Chris Andersen reminded in September 2014, the Council received a presentation from WRIA 9 Watershed Coordinator Doug Osterman about the WRIA 9 Forum and the interlocal agreement for the Green/Duwamish Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9).

Manager Andersen reviewed the proposed WRIA 9 interlocal agreement (in the Council agenda packet) between local governments in the Green/Duwamish watershed. The City has been a party to the current interlocal agreement since 2006; the current interlocal agreement expires this year. The Green River watershed area is in South King County and covers approximately 500 square miles and extends from Howard Hanson Dam to Elliott Bay. There are 17 eligible parties to the interlocal agreement.

The purpose of the interlocal agreement is to promote the ecological health of the Green/Duwamish Rivers and the Central Puget Sound Watersheds and to provide a mechanism, governance and funding structures for jointly implementing the Salmon Habitat Plan.

The new agreement will be effective upon the execution by five eligible

local governments that cover at least seventy percent of the population of the watershed. The proposed agreement has an initial term of ten years, which can be extended.

Manager Andersen reported the WRIA 9 Ecosystem Forum has secured over $137 million since 2005 for watershed projects and programs.

Auburn's operating funding share for 2015 is $22,000.00.

WRIA 9 is seeking feedback on the proposed agreement from member jurisdictions until mid-April. Adoption of the agreement is targeted for July 2015.

Councilmember Peloza, the current vice chair of the WRIA 9 Forum, spoke in favor of the proposed interlocal agreement.

Mr. Osterman stated Exhibit A, Scope of Work, and Exhibit B, Staff Plan, for 2015 are available now.

Councilmember Osborne expressed concern that WRIA 9 made a proposal for resource planning areas that include the Auburn Golf Course. Manager Andersen stated the Flood Control District proposed the Auburn Golf Course as a resource planning area. WRIA 9 made recommendations on standards, but did not set a geography for the resource areas. Manager Andersen advised that the Executive Board for the Flood Control District has not taken action on the recommendation due to the concerns expressed by the City.

Director Snyder reported the City has expressed its displeasure with the potential impacts of resource planning area designations to City facilities, not only for the golf course, but to roads and other infrastructure. Director Snyder stated Mayor Backus and staff continue to work with officials from the City of Kent and the District to ensure protection for Auburn and Kent.

Mr. Osterman spoke regarding the fiscal agent and service provider for the District, which is currently King County.

E. Council Ad Hoc Committee on Committees

This item was postponed due to time constraints.

III. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

There was no other discussion.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:38 p.m., Deputy Mayor Holman recessed the meeting for a five minute intermission and then to executive session in order to discuss pending/potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 10 minutes. No action will occur this evening as a result of the executive session. City Attorney Heid attended the executive session.

The Council reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned 7:53 p.m.

APPROVED this 20th day of July, 2015.

Nancy Backus
NANCY BACKUS, MAYOR

Danielle Daskam, City Clerk