



**City Council Study Session
January 26, 2015 - 5:30 PM
Auburn City Hall
MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor John 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, City Attorney Daniel B. Heid, Assistant Director of Engineering Services/City Engineer Ingrid Gaub, Finance Director Shelley Coleman, Customer Care Manager Brenda Goodson-Moore, Solid Waste and Recycling Supervisor Joan Nelson, Chief of Police Bob Lee, Director of Administration Michael Hursh, Public Affairs and Marketing Liaison Dana Hinman, Parks, Arts and Recreation Director Daryl Faber, IT Operations Manager Ashley Riggs, IT Customer Support Manager Reba Stowe, and Deputy City Clerk Shawn Campbell.

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Discussion of the System Development Charges were removed from the agenda and discussion of Sound Cities Public Issues Committee Topics, Update on the Golf Course and Regional Committee Assignments were added to the agenda.

Deputy Mayor Holman asked Laura Westergard from the Auburn Downtown Association to provide Council with the 2014 Downtown Façade recommendations. There will be a presentation and discussion at the next Study Session. He requested Council review the documents provided.

III. AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

**A. Commercial Hazardous Waste Rate Restructure (30 minutes)
(Coleman)**

Director Coleman introduced Liz Tennant and Lynda Ransley from King County Local Hazardous Waste Program.

Ms. Ransley introduced the program and thanked Shelley Coleman, Joan Nelson and Brenda Goodson-Moore for their assistance and implementation of the upcoming rate change. The rate change has

been authorized by the Washington Department of Ecology and the King County Board of Health with oversight by the Coordination Committee. The mission of the program is to reduce the risks posed by the production of hazardous waste, use, storage and disposal for hazardous materials and to fulfill hazardous waste responsibilities for King County and its 30 cities. The funding source for the program is surcharges on wastewater and solid waste collection/disposal services.

Ms. Ransley explained the fee structure has not changed since the inception of the program. The only accounts that will be affected by the increases are non-residential. The fee schedule is changing from a flat fee to a monthly volume-based fee for non-residential customers. The goal is to make the program revenue neutral. The new rate schedule is broken out in tiers, based on monthly volume so the larger users will see an increase in their monthly bill. The residential accounts will see a 22% reduction in their hazardous waste fees. The rate changes will be implemented in April of 2015.

Councilmember DaCorsi asked about assistance to businesses to reduce hazardous waste. Ms. Tennant stated they provide education and consultation services to commercial businesses to help reduce the amount of hazardous waste produced.

Councilmember Osborne noted the changes primarily affect multi-family buildings and commercial customers.

Councilmember Pelosa asked how the program will affect the school district. Ms. Ransley explained the program contacted the school districts directly. The change to their monthly bill will not be substantial.

Councilmember Wales asked how King County is going to assist the City in cost recovery for the changes. Ms. Ransley explained they are working with City staff to identify some of the implementation costs that can be reimbursed. The County intends to work with Springbrook, the City of Auburn's billing service, and pay for programming costs. The County will also offer direct contact assistance to customers with questions. Director Coleman explained there will be some additional staff time required.

Deputy Mayor Holman thanked both Ms. Ransley and Ms. Tennant for their time and presentation.

B. Sound Cities Public Issues Committee Topics

Mayor Backus stated the Council has requested updates on the discussion topics at the Sound Cities Public Issues Committee meeting. At the last meeting the Committee discussed King County's request for support for flexibility in uses of the Hotel/Motel Taxes collected. King

County requested that once the Century Link Stadium bond has been paid off for the County to be allowed to bond against the tax revenues in the future for affordable housing. The change would only affect the King County portion of the tax.

Councilmember Peloza stated the Seattle Times published an interesting article regarding the stadium being paid off ahead of schedule.

Councilmember Wales stated she is glad to hear the request does not affect the City of Auburn's revenue. She requested the Mayor confirm the City of Auburn would be able to receive a portion of the funds collected for affordable housing.

Councilmember Osborne asked what the voters were promised originally regarding this tax. Mayor Backus explained this is a continuation of tax, it does not sunset. The tax is to be used for tourism.

Mayor Backus explained that cities will still have to use the tax revenue for tourism, King County wants the legislation to go through to allow the County to use the tax revenue for affordable housing.

Mayor Backus stated the Sound Cities Public Issues Committee also discussed the 1% property tax cap. Several cities and counties are struggling with only being able to implement 1% increase each year. The Committee decided to add this item as a legislative topic.

The Sound Cities Public Issues Committee also discussed the draft Sub Regional Transportation Principles. The Committee will provide feedback to the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board prior to adoption.

Councilmember Wales thanked the Mayor for speaking at the Pierce County Cities and Towns Committee meeting regarding the 1% property tax lid.

C. Update on Golf Course

Mayor Backus explained the Auburn Municipal Golf Course will have a new restaurant vendor. There will be no food available until early to mid February with the exception of catering for the Rotary lunches.

D. Regional Committee Assignments

Mayor Backus explained the Council asked for a future discussion on the Regional Committee assignments. She suggested the Council convene an Ad Hoc Committee to see if there are areas the City is overcommitted, lacking representation or if the committee would be better served by a different representative.

Deputy Mayor Holman asked for volunteers for the Ad Hoc Committee. Councilmember Wales, Councilmember DaCorsi and Councilmember Wagner volunteered and report back to the full Council in the next three to six months.

Councilmember Osborne asked how the Ad Hoc Committee would interview the other Councilmembers regarding their assignments and roles on each committee. City Attorney Heid suggested it could be done at a future Study Session but reminded the Ad Hoc Committee that they could not take testimony or interview the Councilmembers individually.

Mayor Backus suggested the Councilmembers could send agendas for each committee they are on each month to the Ad Hoc Committee to familiarize the Committee members with the topics covered by each regional committee.

IV. **OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Deputy Mayor Holman requested the Council review the Study Session topics in the minutes and confirm they are accurate. He will be adding these topics to future Study Session agendas.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVED this 11th day of February, 2015.



JOHN HOLMAN, DEPUTY MAYOR



Shawn Campbell, Deputy City Clerk