



## **LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES**

Monday, February 22, 2021

City of Lakewood

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cityoflakewoodwa>

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: 6 – Mayor Don Anderson, Deputy Mayor Jason Whalen; Councilmembers Mary Moss, Mike Brandstetter, Paul Bocchi and Linda Farmer.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

#### **Pierce Transit Update.**

Ms. Alexandra Mathers, Government Relations Administrator provided an update on Pierce Transit. She reported that to ensure the fiscal health of the agency several services were reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She shared that in April, 2020 ridership dropped 70% and gradually increased. She noted that 30% of the ridership were essential workers.

Ms. Mathers then shared that Pierce Transit has funded a system expansion study to be conducted in 2021 and she highlighted current services that are offered in Lakewood, which includes the vanpool, shuttle, and Orca passes.

Ms. Lindsey Sehmel, Principal Planner reported that Pierce Transit is working on a Bus Stop Balancing Project to increase customer safety, speed reliability and efficiency throughout the system. Public outreach on the project will begin this month followed by a presentation to the Pierce Transit Board in March. She noted that any stops that are identified for removal through the project would be removed in September. Ms. Sehmel then highlighted ridership activity in 2020 noting there are 8 routes and 299 stops within Lakewood city limits. Discussion ensued related to electrification.

#### **Transportation Benefit District Update.**

Assistant City Manager for Administrative Service Kraus shared that at the September 2019 Retreat the City Council reviewed four potential financing options for the Transportation Benefit District (TBD). The options included leveraging the \$20 vehicle-licensing fee, a property tax levy lid lift, a property tax excess levy and B & O tax. She shared that in 2020, \$835,000 was allocated from the TBD for the Chip Seal Program, Pavement Patching as well as Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding for the JBLM North Access Phase I project.

She shared that current options include rescinding the \$20 vehicle license fee, use the monies collected by the \$20 vehicle-licensing fee to continue investing via pay-as-you-go; use the \$20 vehicle license fee to leverage the issuance of bonds, or to increase the \$20 vehicle license fee to \$40. She shared that it is recommended that the City Council use the \$20 vehicle license fee to issue \$11.3 million in bonds to be repaid over a period of 20 years beginning in 2023.

Public Works Engineering Director Bucich then shared a map highlighting proposed projects. Discussion ensued and the City Council requested additional review and discussion on which projects should be prioritized for funding at a future meeting.

### **ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE MARCH 1, 2021 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING:**

1. Proclamation recognizing the City of Lakewood's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
2. Proclamation recognizing Captain Rudy Dambeck, 2/2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, as Honorary City Attorney.
3. Youth Council Report.
4. Clover Park School District Report.
5. Accepting a donation from CHI Franciscan Health, in the amount of \$8,200, for the Lakewood Farmers Market and one drive-in movie.
6. Authorizing the award of a construction contract to Northwest Cascade, Inc., in the amount of \$628,628, for the construction of the 108<sup>th</sup> Street SW overlay project. – (Motion – Consent Agenda)
7. City of Lakewood 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update. – (Reports by the City Manager)
8. Special Events Update. – (Reports by the City Manager)
9. South Sound Proud Mural Update. – (Reports by the City Manager)

### **REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Caulfield provided an update on the Federal COVID-19 Economic Relief Package which is expected to be finalized by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

He shared that Senator Murray has reached out to Washington State agencies to gather information about transportation infrastructure priorities and local needs. The city is expected to submit funding priorities for three projects. He also noted that discussions continue related to bringing back earmarks.

He then shared that the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) VISION 2050 population allocations are being updated based on growth targets. It is anticipated that Lakewood's population will grow to approximately 68,000.

### **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Anderson led the City Council in singing Happy Birthday to Councilmember Moss.

Councilmember Moss commented that she was unable to join Representative Morgan's Town Hall due to technical difficulties and she attended the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Town Hall on Saturday.

Councilmember Brandstetter shared that he attended the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Town Hall. He also commented on the Youth Council submission to the AWC Quality Communities Scholarship and reminded City Councilmembers that he is accepting donations for the Lakewood Lions scholarship match.

Councilmember Farmer commented that Burrs Restaurant has reopened. She shared that she testified on SB5123 related to sex offenders returning to county of origin. She also shared that she attended the Pierce County Regional Council General Assembly meeting.

Deputy Mayor Whalen shared that he last week he attended the Pierce County Regional Council General Assembly meeting and the 113<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Day Banquet. He commented on issues related to booking inmates at Pierce County Jail due to COVID-19.

Mayor Anderson commented on constituent concerns he has received related to traffic collisions at intersection of Gravelly Lake Drive at Pacific Highway. He then invited Councilmembers to travel with him to Sister City Bauang, Philippines for the Bauang Baggak Festival, which will be held over the New Year with the finale on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting 8:50 p.m.



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DON ANDERSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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BRIANA SCHUMACHER  
CITY CLERK