



LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Monday, August 24, 2020

City of Lakewood

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

Telephone via Zoom: +1(253) 215- 8782

Participant ID: 868 7263 2373

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Councilmembers Excused: 1 – Councilmember Linda Farmer.

Public Safety Advisory Committee Members Present: 6 – Chair Ken Witkoe, James Hairston, Mark Peila, Alan Hart, Mark Terry and Ray Dotson.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Joint Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting.

Chair Witkoe highlighted the activities of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) including the review of the city's fireworks code, committee recruitment efforts, evaluation of adult family home businesses and rail crossing safety in Lakewood. He stated that PSAC recommended not changing the city's fireworks code at this time due to enforcement issues but recommended the development of firework education and outreach programs. Discussion ensued on the direction of PSAC, committee recruitment, and the potential review of training policies and manuals, use of force policies and manuals, and body-worn cameras.

Point Defiance Bypass Rail Update.

Mr. Andrew Austin, Government & Community Relations Manager, Sound Transit reported on Sound Transit and the resumption of Amtrak passenger service on the Point Defiance Bypass segment. He was joined by Interim Chief Safety Officer Moises Gutierrez, Director of Project Transition Office Julie Marshall, and Interim Operations Director Paul Denison. Sound Transit representatives provided an overview of Sound Transit's internal Rail Activation Process, including the safety certification process. Discussion ensued on train speed, ensuring safety mechanisms were and continue to remain in place, audits of rail users, the difference between

safety hazards and undesirable safety hazards, positive train control, signage, coordination with other entities, curve design, and training qualifications.

Review of potential 2021 Lakewood Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map amendments and new City Industrial Center of Local Importance.

Planning Manager Speir shared a presentation on the 2021 Comprehensive Plan Amendment cycle through the Fall of 2020 and into the Winter and Spring of 2021. She provided a review of City-initiated text applications, including replacement of Sustainability Chapter with an Energy and Climate Change Chapter and a potential modification to the City's existing Centers of Local Importance. Discussion ensued.

Biennial review of Downtown Subarea Plan, Planned Action and Hybrid Form-Based Code.

Planning Manager Speir reported on the status of the Downtown Subarea Plan and its related Planned Action and hybrid form based code. She provided a review of the Downtown area, private development projects within the area, and discussed transportation mitigation fees the city collected since the adoption of the Plan and code. She reported that the Planning Commission and Community and Economic Development Department recommended that no changes be made to the Downtown Plan and Development code at this time. Discussion ensued on economic development and potential impediments to development in the Downtown Area.

JBLM North Access Improvement Project Update.

Public Works Engineering Director Bucich shared an update on the 90% planned design for the JBLM-North Access Improvement Project. He was joined by Civil Engineer Troy Pokswinski. He shared that the city was not successful this year in its application for Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) funding. He shared that the city is preparing to move forward with a segment of this project that includes Gravelly Lake Drive from south of Nyanza Road and through Washington Boulevard intersection then west to include the Interlaaken intersection. The city has applied for a Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant for this project. Discussion ensued on the project's linkage with the current Veterans Drive project, easement access issues, potential funding sources, breaking the project into smaller components, the potential relocation of the Lotus Blossom art piece, and a potential parking area in front of Lakewood Gardens.

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state legislation. He shared that he expected the opinion by the AGO would likely be made in the late Fall of 2020.

He shared that Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) representatives will be attending a future meeting to discuss future electrical and water rate increases in Lakewood.

He complimented Assistant City Manager/Administrative Services Director Tho Kraus and her Finance Team on a clean audit finding by the Washington State Auditor's Office.

He shared that Senior Policy Analyst Shannon Kelley-Fong released on Facebook the latest Build Your Better Here imaging campaign video highlighting the city's parks.

He shared that Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director David Bugher and Planning Manager Tiffany Speir met with Pierce County and the cities of Puyallup, University Place, and Auburn to discuss population allocations in core cities. He shared that Mr. Bugher would be providing more details on this at the City Council meeting of October 19, 2020. He noted that all cities in attendance agreed that their respective future population allocations were too high and that Pierce County adopts the final population allocations figures.

He shared an update on the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission (CACC). He shared that the city's Governmental Affairs consultant Shelly Helder researched and learned there are two key factors that are on our side in preventing commercial air services at JBLM and that these are why WSDOT did not recommend JBLM as a potential site when they provided the short list of options. He shared that sponsors are needed for a potential commercial site and that it is unlikely someone in Pierce County will sponsor JBLM. He stated that the city is considering sending a letter to the CACC highlighting its concerns with a potential commercial site at JBLM.

He shared that Recreation Equipment, Inc. (REI) and Amazon are currently looking for new locations and that he talked with Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County (EBD) CEO Bruce Kendall about the potential relocation of these companies to Lakewood and Pierce County. He commented that Amazon likely already made the decision on what they will do and that the company is likely trying to get the Seattle City Council to change its policies. He shared that REI is more likely to relocate and the city is working on a pitch document to REI highlighting opportunity areas for relocation such as Lakewood Landing and the Downtown.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Moss shared she attended a Pierce College Golf Tournament on Thursday and that one member of the Sister Cities made a presentation there. She thanked her for the mask donation.

Councilmember Brandstetter shared that he participated in a webinar held by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) on racial equity and how cities could address the issue in the current environment. He also shared that he will be attending a South Sound 911 (SS911) board meeting this upcoming Wednesday and hopes it results in the adoption of the SS911 2021/2022 budget.

Deputy Mayor Whalen shared that he received some inquiries on Lakefront street-ends and that the City Manager is responding and reminding people of the 2009 Lakefront Street-end Study.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.



DON ANDERSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SHANNON KELLEY-FONG
ACTING CITY CLERK