

City of SeaTac

Council Study Session Minutes Synopsis

January 12, 2016
4:30PM

City Hall
Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER: The SeaTac City Council Study Session (CSS) was called to order by Mayor Rick Forschler at 4:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Rick Forschler, Deputy Mayor Michael J. Siefkes, Councilmembers (CMs) Kathryn Campbell, Peter Kwon, Tony Anderson, Pam Fernald, and Erin Sitterley.

STAFF PRESENT: Acting City Manager Mary Mirante Bartolo, Senior Assistant City Attorney Mark Johnsen, City Clerk Kristina Gregg, City Engineer Florendo Cabudol, Community & Economic Development (CED) Director Joe Scorcio, Program Manager Soraya Lowry, Economic Development (ED) Manager Jeff Robinson, Planning Manager Steve Pilcher, Human Resources (HR) Manager Vanessa Audett, Public Works (PW) Maintenance Supervisor Sean Clark, Finance & Systems Director Aaron Antin, and Police Chief Lisa Mulligan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Tom Dantzer spoke in favor of Agenda Bill #4210 (Angle Lake District Station Area).

AGENDA BILLS:

Agenda Bill #4196; A Resolution fixing the date and time for a Public Hearing (PH) on the proposed vacation of an easement for public right-of-way (ROW) on Tax Parcel 384260-0170

Summary: The easement for public access was originally acquired by King County (KC) in 1952 in order to provide access to several homes. In 1970, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) condemned a portion of these tax parcels for the SR 518 project, and the homes were removed. However, the easement remained in place. Upon incorporation in 1990, management of the easement became the responsibility of the City of SeaTac.

In order to vacate this easement, the procedures set forth in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 35.79 are being followed. This Resolution sets the required PH date and time to consider the merits of the vacation request. The date of the PH must be set by a Resolution of the City Council. The date of the PH must not be more than sixty days, nor less than twenty days, after the date of passage of the Resolution setting the date for the PH. This Resolution sets February 23, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. as the date and time for the PH.

After the PH, the City Council will be asked to take Council action related to the vacation request.

City Engineer Cabudol reviewed the agenda bill summary.

Council discussion ensued regarding definition of vacating and what would happen if the Council does not pass this resolution. Mr. Cabudol stated that if the Council does not approve this resolution, the City will continue to have interest in the property and be called upon to maintain the easement which serves no one. The City would also have liability for the property.

Council consensus: Refer to the 01/26/16 RCM Consent Agenda

Agenda Bill #4204; An Ordinance acknowledging the merger of tw telecom Inc. and WilTel Communications Group, LLC with Level 3 Communications, Inc. and approving the resulting indirect change of control of the tw telecom of Washington LLC, telecommunications franchise with conditions

Summary: Level 3 Communications, LLC has acquired tw telecom LLC and WilTel Communications. The City has a franchise with tw telecom of Washington, a subsidiary of tw telecom LLC. Level 3 desires to transfer the franchise granted to tw telecom of Washington to Level 3. In order for this to occur, the City needs to consent to this transfer.

Second, WilTel Communications had a franchise with the City that expired last year. Level 3 wanted to clarify that the telecommunications facilities that were subject to the WilTel franchise are consolidated with the Level 3 franchise. If the Council consents to the transfer of the tw telecom franchise to Level 3, it would not be necessary for Level 3 to negotiate a new franchise to address the telecommunications facilities that were previously owned by WilTel.

City Engineer Cabudol reviewed the agenda bill summary.

AGENDA BILLS (continued):

Agenda Bill #4204 (continued): Council discussion ensued regarding impact to competitors. This is a non-exclusive franchise so it doesn't stop the city from having additional franchises with their competitors.

Council consensus: Refer to the 01/26/16 RCM Consent Agenda

Agenda Bill #4209; A Resolution confirming the appointment by the City Manager of Stephen K. Causseaux, Jr. as the City Hearing Examiner (HE), providing for appointment of a HE Pro-Tem, and authorizing the City Manager to enter into contracts for HE services

Summary: Ordinance #90-1045 established the HE system, which is now codified in Chapter 1.20 of the SeaTac Municipal Code (SMC). Section 1.20.030 provides for appointment by the City Manager, subject to confirmation by the Council of the HE to serve for a term of two years. Additionally, Section 1.20.060 provides for appointment of a HE Pro-Tem by the City Manager, subject to confirmation by the Council.

Stephen K. Causseaux, Jr. was appointed as the City's HE in November 2004, and he has done an excellent job serving the City in that capacity. The City Manager wishes to reappoint Mr. Causseaux as the City's HE for another term, and this Resolution confirms that appoint for calendar years 2016 and 2017.

Second, this Resolution provides that the HE be authorized to appoint a HE Pro-Tem, subject to the approval of the City Manager or designee, when necessary due to scheduling conflicts or conflicts of interest. While it is not possible to determine how many times the services of a HE Pro-Tem will be required, a Pro-Tem Examiner has only been needed one time since 2005.

Finally, this Resolution authorizes the City Manager to enter into contracts for HE Services with Mr. Causseaux and any Pro-Tem HEs.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Johnsen reviewed the agenda bill summary.

Council discussion ensued regarding the HE and Pro-Tem positions and services provided. CED Director Scorcio stated the city has chosen to not solicit for additional applicants because the current HE is good and knows the city's codes.

Council consensus: Refer to the 01/26/16 RCM Consent Agenda

Agenda Bill #4210; A Resolution directing staff to incorporate and advocate for the City's interests relative to the development of the Angle Lake District Station Area

Summary: On December 22, 2015, the City Council directed staff to prepare a Resolution outlining the Council's direction to staff regarding development of the Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) and the area surrounding the Angle Lake Light Rail Station in particular. The Council further discussed the need to clearly communicate the City's position to the Port of Seattle (POS) for inclusion in future communications and negotiations regarding environmental review and mitigation related to the SAMP and negotiations for the new interlocal agreement (ILA) that would be in effect after February 16, 2018.

CED Director Scorcio reviewed the agenda bill summary. This is a statement of intent for negotiations. The City doesn't want to see things incompatible with station area development.

Council discussion ensued regarding the purpose of and consequences of this Resolution. Mr. Scorcio stated this sets the tone of the negotiations.

Council consensus: Refer to the 01/12/16 RCM Consent Agenda

PRESENTATIONS - INFORMATION ONLY:

Sound Transit Update

Program Manager Lowry stated this presentation is to provide an update on a number of projects occurring in 2016 as well as solicit feedback on a draft comment letter regarding the new transit plan.

PRESENTATIONS - INFORMATION ONLY (continued):

Sound Transit Update (continued): Government and Community Relations Officer Chelsea Levy detailed the Sound Transit District and provided an update on the South 200th Street Link Extension (to be open for service in fall 2016), and the Federal Way Link Extension (in planning, currently in environmental review and scheduled to open at Kent/Des Moines by 2023).

Sound Transit ridership through 2013 was 30.3 million and projected through 2025 is 101 million.

More people are calling this area home with projected population growth by 2040 to 1 million new people to the region. SeaTac's growth is projected to be 71%. As a result of these projections, the Sound Transit Board is planning for ST3. The long range plan update was adopted in December 2014. In 2015, Sound Transit sought additional revenue authority from the legislature and is now in system planning. A ballot measure is being developed for November 2016.

The City has the opportunity to comment to the Sound Transit Board by January 21 on the candidate projects.

Senior Planner Val Batey reviewed the Sound Transit Board's Core Priorities for ST3: completing the link light rail spine, ridership, connecting the region's designated centers with high capacity transit (HCT), Socio-economic equity, integration with other transit operators/transportation systems, multi-modal access, promoting transit supportive land use and transit-oriented development (TOD), and advancing "logical next steps" projects beyond the spine; within financial capacity.

She highlighted the ST3 Candidate projects: Light Rail Candidate Projects, Bus Rapid Transit Candidate Projects, Sounder Commuter Rail Candidate Projects, and Region-wide Candidate Projects.

Upcoming schedule: January 21, 2016 – responses requested from jurisdictions/partners acknowledging scopes of candidate projects and providing comments, March 2016 – draft system plan, April 2016 – public stakeholder outreach, and June 2016 – potential adoption of Final System Plan.

Mr. Scorcio stated the draft letter echoes staff's three concerns: looking at increasing transportation options, supporting transit orient development (TOD), and relieving parking pressure on stations to the north.

Council discussion ensued regarding parking at Tukwila station as well as potential parking at Angle Lake Station, and the draft letter.

Mayor Forschler stated that based on tonight's discussion he would revise the letter and circulate it to Council for review by January 21.

PRESENTATIONS - COUNCIL DIRECTION:

Discussion of Unfiled City Staff Positions

Acting City Manager Mirante Bartolo stated that state law allows the City Manager to fill positions. Ms. Mirante Bartolo stated she is coming forward to the Council due to the limited term of her acting position and the current budget gap.

She presented a listing of 10 current vacancies and stated that two need consideration:

- (1) Senior Resident Civil Engineer – position required pursuant to Sound Transit Development agreement. 100% funded by Sound Transit. Limited term through 2016.
- (2) Public Works (PW) Director – vacated September 28, 2015. The Assistant City Manager (ACM) is currently the Acting PW Director and she will be leaving employment with the City on February 2. The interview process yielded two top candidates that have been waiting since December 18, 2015.

Mayor Forschler requested this presentation be continued to the Regular Council Meeting Agenda due to the potential length of the discussion.

NEW ITEMS:

Mayor Forschler stated the future CSS Agendas will include a section for New Items, time permitting, to allow for Council discussion related to any item.

He also requested Council consider scheduling a special meeting on January 19 to consider bringing in an Interim City Manager.

ADJOURNED: Mayor Forschler adjourned the CSS at 6:15 p.m.