

City of SeaTac

Council Study Session Minutes Synopsis

June 25, 2013
4:00 PM

City Hall
Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER: The SeaTac City Council Study Session (CSS) was called to order by Mayor Tony Anderson at 4:02 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Anthony (Tony) Anderson, Deputy Mayor (DM) Mia Gregerson, Councilmembers (CMs) Barry Ladenburg, Rick Forschler, Terry Anderson, Dave Bush, and Pam Fernald.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Todd Cutts, City Attorney Mary Mirante Bartolo, Administrative Assistant 2 Zenetta Young, Police Chief Lisa Mulligan, Assistant Fire Chief Jim Schneider, Police Administrative Captain Annette Louie, Economic Development (ED) Manager Jeff Robinson, Stormwater Compliance Manager Don Robinett, City Engineer Susan Sanderson, Development Review Manager Ali Shasti, Public Works (PW) Director Tom Gut, Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Joe Scorcio, Finance and Systems Director Aaron Antin, Planning Manager Steve Pilcher, and Executive Assistant Lesa Ellis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to the agenda items listed below): Earl Gipson commented on the City's Fee schedule and strongly recommended lowering fees or keeping them at their current rates.

PRESENTATIONS:

●Evaluation of Alternatives for the Federal Way Transit Extension from Sound Transit

Sound Transit Federal Way Transit Extension Project Manager Cathal Ridge introduced Sound Transit Government Relations Coordinator Chelsea Levy. They presented an update on the level 2 alternatives analysis process.

Sound Transit was asked by the public to look at alternatives along I-5, SR 99, 24th Avenue South through Des Moines, and 30th Avenue South (alternative suggested by the City of Des Moines). Level 2 evaluations were conducted and several alternatives were eliminated from the Level 1 evaluation.

All level 2 alternatives have some measures in common. They all have the same ridership of approximately 23,000, same travel time of 14-15 minutes, and the population, employment, and household numbers are very similar for all alignment alternatives. The five alternatives were reviewed.

The alternative analysis phase is near completion. Public comment is being accepted through July 17. This information will be taken to the board in September along with the information received during the scoping period. The board will then identify what alternatives should be looked at in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It is very important to receive public comment at this time. The draft EIS will be published late 2014 with another round of public comment. After that public comment period, the board would again identify the preferred alternative to be analyzed further in more detail in a final EIS. Overall timeline would be to start service in 2023.

An open house is scheduled for June 26 at Parkside Elementary from 5-7 p.m. Mr. Ridge and Ms. Levy encouraged everyone to submit comments before the end of the scoping period or to attend an open house.

Council discussion ensued regarding level 2 alternatives.

●Fee Schedule Analysis

City Manager Cutts reported on the City's fee schedule, which Council directed staff to review and report back on their findings at the February 23, 2014 retreat. The City's fee schedule hasn't been updated in over 10 years. Staff felt City fees weren't commensurate with neighboring jurisdictions. Since February, staff has been conducting a fee analysis and developing methodology for assessing our current fees. Council agreed with staff that it was important the City's fees remain competitive with neighboring jurisdictions. Neighboring jurisdictions used for comparison were Burien, Des Moines, Kent, Tukwila, Federal Way, and Renton.

Staff conducted an analysis of the neighboring jurisdictions versus the City's current fees and confirmed that the City has not kept up with the current market. The more costs absorbed through the fees by those receiving the services, the less the cost will be absorbed by the overall tax payer in SeaTac.

The most noticeable changes were in CED. City staff also looked at opportunities for simplification and potential consolidation of some City fees rolling them together to make it easier for those applying for permits. Staff is continuing to look at reducing and eliminating some fees, to keep the City within that median.

DM Gregerson arrived at this point in the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS (Continued):

Fee Schedule Analysis (Continued):

Council discussion ensued regarding the fee schedule analysis.

Council directed staff to come back in the fall for further review of the fee schedule.

•Surface Water Plan

Stormwater Compliance Manager Robinett gave an update on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and background on surface water plan as well as the surface water utility.

Regarding the NPDES program and appeal, Council concurred to have the City participate in the appeal of the phase II permit. SeaTac is one of 23 cities and counties that are appealing the phase II permit. Currently, SeaTac is exploring topics for negotiation. Mr. Robinett discussed negotiation versus appeal and detailed the areas the City is appealing such as the Low Impact Development (LID) mandate.

The LID mandate will have significant economic impact to both the public and private sector as well as environmental impacts.

The surface water plan is a guide for the surface water utility and all its programs. It evaluates all of the City's existing programs, identifies future program needs based on community and infrastructure needs as well as the NPDES requirements. The plan makes recommendations on how to respond to identified needs. In addition, the surface water utility gives the City direction and sets the ground work for future surface water rate study. Staff plans to bring the surface water rate study before Council in fall of this year.

Mr. Robinett reviewed key issues identified in the plan: (1) asset management; (2) stormwater capital improvement program; and (3) NPDES permit requirements.

The Planning Commission (PC) had a briefing of the surface water plan and the following comments were received:

- Focus on the surface water plan. The PC wants staff to consult with other cities and counties that are already using LID in order for the City to learn from their experience. Concerns were also raised over future surface water rate increases and a request was made for staff to do what they can to utilize the timelines within the NPDES permit to keep these rates down.
- The pending NPDES development regulations. Mr. Robinett will be going back to the PC in September to discuss the impacts of the NPDES permit and how it affects development.
- Asked staff to evaluate potential use of economy of scale to encourage future development. They are essentially asking for the surface water utility or the City itself to evaluate creating stormwater neighborhood improvement projects.

Mr. Robinett will come back before Council on July 9 with a representative from Herrera Environmental to discuss details of the plan and their recommendations and again on July 23 with a motion for Council to accept the surface water plan. Surveys to gather input from the community regarding the surface water plan will be accepted until July 9.

Council discussion ensued regarding the Surface Water Plan

•Public Safety Statistics

Police Chief Mulligan presented crime status report for month of May. She stated there was a rise in commercial burglaries and a drop in residential burglaries, which were high last month, as well as a slight rise in robberies and a reduction in gang activity that was reported. The Police department is really interested in the burglary issues in the City, officers are coordinating and talking with each other and really making an effort to patrol areas thought to be the problem areas. A couple arrests were made last month believed to be related to some of these crimes.

Chief Mulligan stated they will continue with last year's emphasis on education and enforcement plan for the 4th of July. Postcards have already been mailed to residents in the City reminding them of the fireworks event at Angle Lake and that fireworks are banned within the City.

Police Chief Mulligan commented on an arrest that was made, related to the commercial burglary problems. On June 16, two night shift officers received a call of a suspicious person loitering and disturbing the locks of Angle Lake Cyclery. The officers arrived in time to see this person inside the closed business. They caught the suspect running out of the building. He allegedly broke off the lock and removed items from the store. The suspect was arrested and placed in custody.

PRESENTATIONS (Continued):

●2013 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Police Administrative Captain Annette Louie presented the 13 local Edward Byrne Memorial JAG. This is a regional grant administered by the Seattle Police Department (SPD). The initial allocation to the City is \$12,844. There is a 3% administration fee administered by the SPD, for a final allocation amount of \$12,458.68. The application opened this month with a deadline to the SPD of July 5 and to the Department of Justice (DOJ) by July 9. As required by the DOJ, staff has to present the grant at a public meeting to receive approval from Council to move forward with the application process. This is the same type of JAG grant applied for last year with SPD. There are no matching funds required. The funds will be used to purchase 3 Automated External Defibrillators (AED), which cost approximately \$1,100, and the remaining money will be used for annual training for active shooters with regards to overtime and back fill coverage.

6:03:07 PM Council concurred with approving staff to move forward with the JAG application process.

●Regional Fire Authority Questions/Answers

Mr. Cutts and Fire Chief Schneider presented a follow-up discussion from the June 21 Council retreat to give Council opportunity to bring back questions they had from the retreat. There were concerns regarding the City losing control and not having a vote on the board of the Kent Regional Fire Authority (RFA), transfer of equipment and assets, and dedicated representation at the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC).

Mr. Cutts stated that there is an advisory, non-voting, seat on the board. Assets are being sold to the Kent RFA. The City will be contributing to purchase of future assets each year and there is a clause within the plan which would also be inserted into to the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) where SeaTac could reverse out and buy back the assets from the Kent RFA using the same formula used in selling the assets to them.

There is accommodation in the plan for a Kent RFA staff member to staff the ECC in a leadership role. As part of the ILA SeaTac is going to get an Emergency Manager who would likely serve as the ECC coordinator. The draft ILA will be presented at the July 23 CSS for Council input.

RECESSED: Mayor A. Anderson recessed the meeting to an Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee at 6:18 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Review the Performance of a Public Employee (RCW 42.30.110 [1] [g])

RECONVENED: Mayor A. Anderson reconvened the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

ADJOURNED: Mayor A. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.