

LYNDEN CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

MAY 17, 2010

I CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Korthuis called to order the May 17, 2010 regular session of the Lynden City Council at 7:00 P.M. at the Lynden City Hall Annex.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mayor Scott Korthuis; Councilors Gary Bode, Dave Burns, Ron De Valois, Tobey Gelder, Jerry Kuiken, Nick Laninga, and Brent Lenssen.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: Fire Chief Gary Baar, Administrative Assistant Rachel Byers, Finance Director Teresa Camfield, Chief of Police Jack Foster, Public Works Director Duane Huskey, Parks and Recreation Director Vern Meenderinck, and City Administrator Bill Verwolf. Also present was City Attorney Bob Carmichael.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor De Valois moved and Councilor Kuiken seconded that the minutes of the May 3, 2010 Regular Council Session be approved. The motion carried.

ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Scheduled

Ms. Mary Michaelson – Judson Statue Update

Ms. Michaelson appeared before Council and reviewed a document titled Judson Statue Report that she had provided. The report covered the sculpture, the sign marking the future sight of the sculpture, new fundraising efforts, upcoming events, present challenges, and a projected completion date.

Mayor Korthuis thanked Ms. Michaelson for all her hard work and he stated that it is people like Ms. Michaelson that make our community special.

Fire Chief Gary Baar – Contract Negotiations with North Whatcom Fire and Rescue

Chief Baar read a letter to Council stating the current staffing situation in the department, current response goals, and he listed six issues that he would like addressed if the City does not contract with North Whatcom Fire and Rescue for services.

Destination Imagination Awards – Ms. Gwen Oliver

Mayor Korthuis presented awards to the following teams.

Lynden Middle School Project Outreach Team

Coaches: Tiffany Kayser and Elizabeth Kayser

Team Members: Tara Gartner, Kelsey Hewson, Sarah Kayser, Julianne McKay, Grant Scarlett, and Austin Witman.

The team presented a check in the amount of \$1,002 made out to Project Hope and a check in the amount of \$1,146 made out to the Lynden Middle School Library.

Isom Elementary State Champions – “You’re Gonna Flip” Challenge Division

Coach: Lauri Rick, Destination Imagination Lynden Booster Club President

Team Members: Hope Abundis, Natalie Amos, Jake Bedlington, Ben Cooley, Samantha Cruz, Kristen Hewson, and Katelyn Oostra.

Isom Elementary State Champions – “DI-BOT” Challenge Division

Coach: Vickie Crane, Isom Teacher, Lynden Destination Imagination Co-Coordinator, and Destination Imagination Lynden Booster Club Board Member.

Team Members: Kayana Bren, Stephen Cummins, Samantha Martin, Zach McKay, Cameron Oliver, Alexis Varner, and Hailey Washkow.

Bernice Vossbeck Elementary State Champions – “Do or DI” Challenge Division

Coach: Mary Roebuck, BVE Teacher, Distnation Imagination Co-Coordinator, and Destination Imagination Lynden Booster Club Board Member

Team Members: Emily Clark, Devin Gartner, Kelsey Matthews Ashely Quintanar, Makenna Skaftun, TJ Vanderyacht, and Landon VanBerkum

Unscheduled

Mr. Michael Gleeson – E-Verify

Mr. Gleeson, 4761 Mosquito Road, Deming, WA 98244, appeared before Council and thanked the Finance Committee for allowing him to present his reasons for why the City of Lynden should use the E-Verify system. He stated that he does not understand why the members of the Finance Committee unanimously voted not to recommend this issue to Council but said he looks forward to receiving a letter stating their reasons.

II CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Claims

Manual Warrants No. 52653 through 52670	\$ 121,141.95
Voucher Warrants No. 52671 through 52825	\$ 763,550.81
Direct Payment	\$ 14,260.99
Total	<u>\$ 898,953.75</u>

Resolution No. 821 – Six Year Transportation Improvement Plant (STIP) – Request to Set Public Hearing

Councilor Kuiken moved and Councilor Bode seconded that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried.

III NEW BUSINESS

Contract with North Whatcom Fire and Rescue

Mayor Korthuis thanked Councilor Burns, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Councilor Gelder, Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr. Bill Bode, Lynden resident, and City Administrator Bill Verwolf for serving on this negotiation committee with him, representing the City of Lynden, over the last several month.

The City of Lynden has reached a point in its negotiations with North Whatcom Fire and Rescue where a draft contract for services has been created and may be considered by Council. There are a couple of important sections remaining to be negotiated; however, there is enough information to allow the Council to determine if further negotiations are warranted. The current version (Version 4) has been provided to Council.

Council discussed several aspects of the latest draft which included the following questions: is the contract mutually beneficial; is it mutually cost effective; will service be maintained or improved; and will the City have a say in the services provided to its citizens. The Council was in agreement on their appreciation of all of those involved, both from Lynden and North Whatcom Fire and Rescue, and that the possibility of future discussions should not be ruled out.

Councilor Burns moved and Councilor Bode seconded that the City of Lynden cease negotiations with North Whatcom Fire and Rescue on a contract for services. The motion carried.

Mayor Korthuis thanked Chief Baar for his leadership and for his efforts. He also thanked the members of the Lynden Fire Department for the tremendous service they provided to our City, for their professionalism, and for their integrity.

Year 2011 Draft Budget Calendar

As required by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), there are several budget preparation deadlines as the City moves forward in preparing its year 2011 budget. A draft 2011 budget calendar has been proposed for Council's review.

The Finance Committee has reviewed the draft calendar and will be reviewing the final schedule at the Finance Committee meeting on June 7, 2010 prior to presentation to the Council that evening.

This agenda item was for information only and will be brought back before Council on June 7, 2010.

Discuss Options for Old City Hall – 323 Front Street

The Council discussed three options for the old City Hall located at 323 Front Street. The property could be sold outright, it could be available for rent, or a lease/purchase deal could be developed.

Councilor Bode moved and Councilor De Valois seconded that the lease/purchase agreement be pursued with the sale price set at \$200,000 with an 18 month lease.

Councilor Gelder made a friendly amendment to the motion that staff prepare documents using the parameters set forth in the motion for review in Executive Session at the next scheduled meeting. Councilor Bode and Councilor De Valois accepted the friendly amendment.

The amended motion:

That staff prepare documents relating to a lease/purchase agreement with the sale price set at \$200,000 and an 18 month lease for review during the Executive Session at the next Council meeting.

After further discussion, Councilor Bode removed his motion, Councilor De Valois removed his second, and Councilor Gelder removed his friendly amendment. Council agreed and directed staff to prepare documentation using the lease/purchase option for the old City Hall for their review during the next Council meeting in Executive Session.

IV EXECUTIVE SESSION - Cancelled

V ADJOURNMENT

The May 17, 2010 regular session of the Lynden City Council adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

Bill Verwolf, City Administrator

Scott Korthuis, Mayor