



**CITY OF WASHOUGAL
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
January 14, 2013
6:00 pm**

- CALL TO ORDER:** **Mayor Sean Guard** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the call to order.
- ROLL CALL:** **Present:** Paul Greenlee, Joyce Lindsay, Jennifer McDaniel, and Dave Shoemaker. Caryn Plinski entered the meeting at 6:18. Brent Boger entered the meeting at 7:09.
Absent: Connie Jo Freeman
- STAFF:** David Scott, City Administrator
Jennifer Forsberg, Finance Director
Trevor Evers, Strategic Planning Director
Mitch Kneipp, Interim Community Development Director
Darlene Stickel, Strategic Planning Administrative Support
Rose Jewell, Assistant to the City Administrator & Mayor
- PRESS:** Dawn Feldhaus, Post Record
- AUDIENCE:**
- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| John Wagoner | Martha Martin | Morry Secrest |
| Carolyn Simms | Janice Ellis | Anne Guard |
| Sharon Andreas | Gary Andreas | Don Weidner |
| John McClaskey | Stacy McClaskey | Ray Loney |
| Joseph Drew | Bill Durgan | Dan Coursey |
| Mike Norris | Terry Babin | Dawn Holleen |
- AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** **None**
- PUBLIC COMMENTS:** **Janice Ellis** suggested changing the meeting times to 7:00 pm.
- Dawn Holleen** discussed the *Relay for Life* event taking place at the Washougal High School on June 22nd and 23rd.
- Bill Durgan** commented on the traffic situation on E Street.
- Ray Loney**, with the Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW), congratulated the school district and city on area student's essays.
- PRESENTATION:** **Strategic Planning Roadmap**
Trevor Evers introduced the project staff and committee members. He reviewed the agenda along with the committee history, timeline, and the building blocks (public input, mission statement, community and

organizational, strategic analysis, vision statement, key issue identification, priorities, goals, and roadmap). He reviewed the SWOC (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges) Analysis and introduced the Strategic Goals. The documentation will be posted on the website for public review.

Joshua Banks shared his role in the project and reviewed Priority Goal Pillar #1 Communication.

Darlene Stickel discussed Priority Goal Pillar #2 Community Engagement developed by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Terry Babin reviewed Priority Goal Pillars #3 Core Services & #4 Economic Development. He explained the overall project and how the plan was developed. He discussed the recommended strategy of the city's core services, budgeting, transportation options, partnerships, investment in infrastructure, development fees, quality of life, permitting processes, economic development, marketing of the community, and the importance of establishing a good balance.

Trevor Evers addressed the recommendations and next steps in implementation. He reviewed elements to ensure the plans success, development of department business plans, performance appraisal of staff, execution, updating of the plan, enhancing communication, the public engagement campaign, maintaining momentum, plan adoption, volunteer opportunities for the committee members, resource enhancement, alignment of the vision and the allocation of resources, and website accessibility. Initial conversations have begun with Portland State University for their assistance with plan implementation.

Discussion ensued regarding: Review of the draft document, communication outreach efforts, the SWOC analysis, direction of the city, follow through on a determined direction, council's role in the process, prioritization, anticipated update action, and the executive summary.

NEW BUSINESS:

Set Public Hearing – Development Agreement (Schmid CR)

Mitch Kneipp reviewed the properties associated with the agreement, the trail easement, connectivity, and the recommended action.

PA I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project Update

David Scott provided the following:

- Project overview, impact's and details pertaining to Washougal
- The process for commenting on the project
- The five alternative (routes)
- Central is the preferred alternative
- Utilization of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) website
- Proposed tower and circuit size increases

- Mitigation measure possibilities through advocacy
- Project timeline

Discussion: The cost of undergrounding, rate payer's portion, and impact to aircraft.

Ordinance regarding Utility Rates.

Jennifer Forsberg reviewed the presentation agenda, change in existing policy for low income seniors adopting the federal guidelines, future low income assistance program and income thresholds, comparison of prior approved rates, water and sewer rate charts for 2013-2015, impact to overall billing, ordinances, and next steps.

Discussion: Potential state and federal mandates, stormwater planning, unit rate models, upcoming cost of service study, community notification of rate change, bond payments, debt requirements, Dept. of Ecology's approvals, utility tax rate, history of reserve funds, fund loans, mechanisms to reduce rates, rate itemizations on utility bills, debt ratios, system reinvestment, amending of the capital facilities plan, revisiting the Comprehensive Plan, alternative financing, one time utility rate relief, system development charges, utility tax holiday, supplemental budget, appropriation of excess reserve funds, implication of deferring the increase date, and bond legal minimums.

Mayor Guard discussed the timing of implementing rates changes. The excess reserve funds will be discussed at the upcoming retreat.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Janice Ellis** spoke on the proposed low income utility rates and asked question about the excess reserve fund holdings.

Ray Loney inquired about other jurisdictions rates.

Bill Durgan stated that the rates make the city less desirable. He commented on the cost studies and system connection costs.

Mayor Guard discussed the costs of services and the current real-estate sales in Washougal.

Anne Guard reflected on her hometown and spoke of putting the current rate increase back into the community.

Joseph Drew commended the city on the SWOC analysis and council on their efforts to address the rates. He commented on the value of planning property, utility fund tax, the importance of straight talk, statutes used to set rates, authorization of transactions, city attorney's role, infrastructure projects, attracting businesses, applying for grants, municipal bond rates, sales of old equipment, financial statement,

recouping costs from the previous administration, the importance of integrity, and bond end date extension.

Don Wiedner thanked council and staff for their efforts. He spoke on transparency, city codes, general and utility funds, and city administration costs.

John Wagoner reflected on his experience with attending council meetings. He complimented the city on its transparency and recalled the Mayor's effort during a recent town meeting.

Joseph Drew discussed the challenges of placing KV lines underground.

MAYOR'S REPORT: **Mayor Guard** reminded the council of the AWC Conference scheduled for February 13th & 14th.

**COUNCIL
COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Greenlee stated that he would not be in attendance during the second week in February. He discussed the types of studies being referred to throughout the meeting, retail businesses, home constructions, revitalization plans, sales tax, general funds expenditures, and staffing levels.

Councilmember Shoemaker spoke about council's integrity,

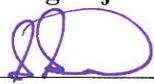
Councilmember Boger proposed rescheduling the Friday evening session of the Retreat.

Councilmember Lindsay complimented council and staff for their time and efforts.

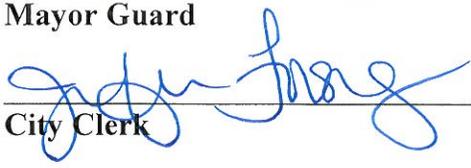
Councilmember Plinski praised staff for their open doors, thanked her fellow councilmembers for their assistance and for the liaison to the Parks Board appointment. She stated that her and Councilmember Greenlee meet weekly to sign the accounts payables and announced the upcoming chamber luncheon.

Mayor Guard added that there would be no council meeting next Monday due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The next meeting will fall on Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned 9:55 pm.



Mayor Guard



City Clerk