



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 6, 2010

15728 Main Street, Mill Creek, WA 98012 425-745-1891

Mike Todd, Mayor
Donna Michelson, Mayor Pro Tem
Terry Ryan
Kathy Nielsen
Bart Masterson
Mark Harmsworth
Mark Bond

April 6, 2010
Regular City Council Meeting
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Todd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called by the City Clerk with all Councilmembers present.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

Bill Durham
2926 151st Place SE
Mill Creek, Washington 98012

Mr. Durham told the Council that membership for the senior program was up 50% in January due to the new space in the City Hall Annex building. He also invited the Council to the Taste of Retirement event this Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He thanked the Council again for the new space at the City Hall Annex Building.

STUDY SESSION

Public business is conducted at a study session. Citizens are welcome and encouraged to attend study sessions, but participation by citizens shall be permitted only upon the consensus of a majority of the Councilmembers present.

SNOCOM Presentation

(Debbie Grady, Executive Director, SNOCOM)

The following agenda summary information was presented:

Debbie Grady, Executive Director for the Southwest Snohomish County Communications Agency (SNOCOM) has requested time to address the City Council regarding mission of SNOCOM. The intent is to provide information on SNOCOM's role in providing emergency communication services in the county.

Discussion.

Executive Director Grady presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Council. She invited Council to come to SNOCOM and do a "sit-a-long" with her dispatch staff.

Continued Discussion on EMS Levy

(Landy Manuel, Finance Director and Timothy W. Burns, City Manager)

The following agenda summary information was presented:

At the March 9th meeting Council reached consensus on staffing at the 3 man engine/2 man medic level. Further direction was given to bring back the cost/EMS levy rate to include future costs increases over six years per the terms of the fire contract. Finance Director Manuel ran two scenarios; one calculating the EMS costs over the six year period as a percent of the total contract cost; the second maintaining the General Fund subsidy at the current proportionate level over time. The fire contract as amended allows for annual 1% increases and every fourth year (2012 & 2016) allows for a re-calculation of the formula up to a 6% increase. All figures and calculations have been updated per the assessor's just released Annual Report for 2010 Taxes.

EMS Cost at 83% of Total Contract:

The average annual EMS cost is calculated to be \$1,966,673. That figure translates into an average levy rate using the average assessed value of \$0.6253 which is in excess of the maximum allowed of fifty cents. Even if the 6% assumption in years 2012 and 2016 is reduced to 1% the result still far exceeds the maximum levy rate allowed. The resulting tax at fifty cents on the current value of a typical residence is \$200.60. At the current 2010 rate the levy is \$72.22, an increase of \$128.38.

General Fund Subsidy Proportionate Over Time:

The current year General Fund subsidy is \$878,420 which leaves \$1.3 million to be funded by the EMS levy. That amount is then increased over the six year period per the contract terms resulting in an average amount funded by the levy of \$1,414,015. The average EMS cost funded by the levy results in a levy rate of \$0.4496. This rate results in a tax of \$180.36 on a current typical residence, an increase of \$108.14.

Cost of Service:

The incremental cost increase of \$769,796 (as provided by the fire district) is equivalent to the salary and benefits costs of two firefighter/paramedics for 24/7/365 staffing. Without knowing the current staffing configuration of the station it may be possible to add one driver operator and one paramedic at a cost savings of \$32,864 annually. Otherwise we see a contract amendment totaling to what is presented here, i.e. current year amount plus the incremental increase plus 1% for a 2011 total of \$2,200,191.

A resolution to put a proposition on the ballot must be submitted to the County Auditor's office by May 25th to be placed on the August 17th primary ballot.

Discussion.

After some lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Council was to set the levy rate at \$0.45. This item will come back to the Council at the next meeting. The Fire District will provide a public statement for review at the next meeting.

Pavement Preservation Options

(Scott Smith, City Engineer)

The following agenda summary information was presented:

On February 23, 2010, the Public Works Department made a presentation to the City Council regarding the proposed 2010 Asphalt Repair Program. The main focus of that presentation was the short term repair work, but further discussions are needed on the long term challenges.

A typical asphalt pavement can be expected to last around 20 – 30 years, depending on the environment, traffic levels and maintenance upkeep. Some streets in the annexed Silver Crest area are almost 40 years old, while an average age for the central roadway system can range between 15 – 25 years. Since our traffic volume is relatively light, most streets in the City are still in fairly good shape with only minor patching and crack sealing maintenance needs.

However, pavement deterioration does not happen at a linear pace. The condition gradually degrades over a long time, and then will effectively “fall off a cliff” at a certain point when the deterioration gets to a critical point. The key to effective pavement management is to try and perform maintenance repairs or apply a surface treatment before it reaches that critical point. After a roadway condition reaches a certain level, it is often more cost effective to let it continue to deteriorate and rebuild in the future.

The upcoming challenge facing the City is that most of the streets are approximately the same age and are approaching the “edge of the cliff” at the same time. Mill Creek is still a relatively young city, but some of the infrastructure is starting to approach the end of its life. While there is not an immediate critical need, the aging street system will not last forever.

Several million dollars may be needed over the next decade. The major factor in determining the cost is what surfacing options are acceptable to the Council and citizens. The proposed action plan over the next two budget cycles is to try various surfacing techniques and see how well they are received, as well as gather data on the existing structural condition of the roadway for better life cycle projections.

Discussion.

Council and staff engaged in a discussion of the options.

MOTION: At 8:30 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Michelson made a motion to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m., Councilmember Masterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council will give some thought to the options and this item will come back to a future meeting.

(Timothy W. Burns, City Manager)

City Manager Burns relayed that due to the hour, the standing committee item will be deferred to the next meeting. He asked Council to think about which committees they may be interested in.

Mayor Pro Tem Michelson stated that she was not in favor of the standing committees. Council discussed this matter briefly. This item will come back to the next meeting.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

Troy Smith

Fire District #7 Union President

Mr. Smith spoke to the Council about the EMS levy. He explained that the Mill Creek Fire Station, #76, is the busiest station in their district.

Pam Pruitt

14429 28th Drive

Mill Creek, Washington

Ms. Pruitt stated that she lives in the Cottonwood division. After the street project was completed in her neighborhood, the residents were promised that the street would look better than it currently does.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Michelson made a motion to extend the meeting to 10:00 p.m., Councilmember Nielsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The meeting recessed to executive session at 9:25 p.m. to discuss potential litigation for approximately 15 minutes and performance of a public employee for approximately 15 minutes. No action will be taken.

MOTION: Councilmember Harmsworth made a motion to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m., Councilmember Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION:

The meeting reconvened to regular session at 10:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Michelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilmember Masterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Mike Todd, Mayor

Kelly Chelin, Executive Assistant/City Clerk