



CITY OF LA CENTER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
October 12, 2016

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City Council

REGULAR MEETING:

1. Mayor Thornton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL:**

Council:

Councilmember Birdwell-Currey	Present
Councilmember Luiz	Present
Councilmember Williams	Present
Councilmember Valenzuela	Absent/Excused
Councilmember Cerveny	Present
Mayor Thornton	Present

Staff:

Tony Cooper, City Engineer
 Marc Denney, Chief of Police
 Suzanne Levis, Finance Director/Clerk
 Jeff Sarvis, Public Works Director

Guests:

Doug Boff	Judy Hickman	Dennis Nuttbrock
Barbara & Doug Burtwell	Dennis Hill	Nelda Perryman
Skip Carlson	Mr. & Mrs. David King	Andy "Sheriff" Taylor
Jack & Rosemary Davis	Cpl. Jerrin King	Rick & Suzi Terrell
Benjamin Eavenson	Sgt. Markayla King	Wyatt Webberley
Donna Emerson	William Koenig	Don Ziesmer
Al & Theresa Filla	Jack LaBounty	
William Hillgaertner	Joe Melroy	

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS/ADJUSTMENTS – 10.12.16**
- B. **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – 09.28.16**
- C. **RESOLUTION NO. 16-411 SURPLUS PROPERTY**

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUIZ, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 12, 2016 CONSENT AGENDA.



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5. COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A. MAYOR'S REPORT.

- Representatives from the Clark County Young Marines were in attendance to recognize Red Ribbon Week, the annual national drug awareness event on October 23-31. Every year, the City issues a proclamation in support of Red Ribbon Week. Young Marines Sergeant Markayla King and Corporal Jerrin King were in attendance with their parents, David and Deanna King. The Young Marines presented background information on the history of Red Ribbon Week. Mayor Thornton read the Proclamation into the record and presented it to the Young Marines, who distributed red ribbons and pins to everyone.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CERVENY AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 23-31, 2016, AS RED RIBBON WEEK IN THE CITY OF LA CENTER.

- The Mayor's Town Hall meeting held October 5 was well attended. Topics discussed were the I-5 junction interchange construction and law enforcement at the junction. The Town Hall meetings will continue on the first Wednesday of each month.
- A City Council Budget Work Session is scheduled for October 18 at 6 p.m., City Hall.
- An open house is scheduled for October 19 at 6 p.m., Public Works office, to receive public comment on the City's future Pollock Park and Water Trail.
- The La Center Road interchange will be closed between the hours of 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. on October 17-21 for safety reasons while the girders for the new overpass across I-5 are put in place.

B. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – None (Absent/Excused).

C. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

- **COUNCILMEMBER BIRDWELL-CURREY** – None.
- **COUNCILMEMBER LUIZ** alerted everyone to the inclement weather predicted for the next few days and encouraged neighbors to clear leaves from street drains and prepare for potential power outages.



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- **COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS** – The Chelatchie Railroad will hold its groundbreaking for the maintenance facility and museum area in Yacolt this Saturday. The public is invited. The regularly-scheduled steam train will be running.
- **COUNCILMEMBER VALENZUELA** – Absent/Excused.
- **COUNCILMEMBER CERVENY** – The North County Community Food Bank auction and murder mystery dinner fundraiser is October 22.

D. STAFF REPORTS.

- **POLICE CHIEF MARC DENNEY, POLICE DEPARTMENT.** Chief Denney emailed the October 2016 *Monthly Advisor* to Councilmembers which included crime statistics for September as well as other PD highlights. Speeding in school zones is still a problem—citizens were asked to please slow down to avoid citations. Citizens should call non-emergency 3-1-1, if they experience downed tree limbs during the forthcoming stormy weather.
- **DIRECTOR JEFF SARVIS, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.** Director Sarvis emailed his staff report to Councilmembers. The report provided updates to projects and other activity in the Public Works department.
 - Public Works has staff available 24 hours a day for emergency downed limbs during the storm (360-524-3450 or 3-1-1); sandbags will also be available.
 - The City is asking the public to help name the new water trail park, which is temporarily named “Pollack Park.” (Open house is October 19.)
 - The sewer line is still under design and the financing ordinance will be presented at an upcoming City Council meeting. The water line construction on La Center Road begins next week and will involve traffic delays for two to three months. The sewer line construction will take an additional two to three months.
- **DIVISION CHIEF DAN YAGER, CLARK COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE (CCF&R).** CCF&R is updating its strategic plan and Mayor Thornton is participating in the process. CCF&R also has sandbags if needed for this weekend’s inclement weather.



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6. **CITIZEN'S PUBLIC COMMENT.**

AL FILLA, 152 W. 15TH ST., reminded everyone of the American Legion flag disposal ceremony on October 13 at 6 p.m. If bad weather prevents the ceremony, people can still drop off their tattered flags at the church.

7. **PRESENTATIONS** – None.

8. **ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

A. **PUBLIC HEARING – 2017 BUDGET – REVENUE SOURCES – (PROPERTY TAX, EXCISE TAX, AND HOTEL-MOTEL TAX).**

Finance Director Suzanne Levis presented the first public hearing on 2017 revenue sources. Another public hearing will be held at the next City Council meeting on October 26. The City is considering new taxes this year: property tax (statutorily restricted to 1% increase), excise taxes, and hotel-motel taxes (restricted uses).

The City is currently in a strong financial position due to the cardroom industry, and high levels of services have been provided to its citizens with a low tax burden compared to other municipalities. However, Council is considering new revenue sources for 2017 with the reduction in gambling revenues projected for 2017-2019.

Property Taxes: A small portion of the property taxes goes to the City for parks, public safety and other services the City provides. Staff is recommending a 1% increase in property taxes for 2017, which will be a small impact to the individual homeowner.

Excise Taxes. The City has the authority to impose taxes on businesses to pay for services. Taxes may be levied upon cable TV, electricity, gas, sewer, stormwater, solid waste, telephone and water. City Council is considering a flat 6% excise tax across the board (*except* for sewer rates, which will not increase). These new taxes are estimated to be \$21 per month per household.

Hotel/Motel Tax. City Council is being proactive in anticipating a hotel at the I-5 junction and is considering putting hotel/motel taxes in place for the future. This tax would not impact La Center citizens, but the people who come and stay at the hotels/motels, RV parks, rooming houses, private campgrounds, and similar facilities. The hotel/motel tax is restricted for use towards tourism, such as a Chamber of Commerce. The amount of the tax is to be determined.

The City Council is holding a public Work Session to discuss the budget on Tuesday, October 18, 6 p.m., City Hall.



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The 2017 Preliminary Budget along with a strategy will be presented by Financial Consultant Paul Lewis at the October 26 City Council meeting.

At 7:40 p.m., Mayor Thornton opened public comment.

JACK LA BOUNTY, 1406 W. ALDER PLACE, does not believe the increased property taxes and additional taxes will make up for the anticipated cardroom revenue shortfall.

DENNIS HILL, 1316 W. ALDER PLACE, asked how much revenue the 6% excise taxes will bring to the City. Director Levis provided an estimate of \$330,000.

At 7:46 p.m., Mayor Thornton closed public comment.

9. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA** – None.

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**.

A. RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION – ROUNDABOUT CONSTRUCTION.

City Engineer Tony Cooper presented. A portion of the bank property parcels is needed for construction of the roundabout. WSDOT requires a right-of-way dedication before it will certify the right-of-way for the project. No additional property is needed to construct the roundabout. Mr. Cooper recommended that the right-of-way dedication be approved, in order to have it promptly filed with the county.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUIZ, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CERVENY AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DEDICATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AS SHOWN AND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT A AND B TO THE RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION.

B. JUNCTION STRATEGIES COUNCIL MEMO – ERIC EISEMANN, PLANNING CONSULTANT.

Planning Consultant Eric Eisemann presented. The City is in the process of preparing an economic development strategy and developing a sub-area plan for the La Center junction with plans to implement it as soon as possible. The Clark Regional Economic Development Council (CREDC) is also conducting a site analysis throughout the county including the La Center junction, specifically Study Area #3 (south of La Center Road and east of Paradise Park Road as indicated on the map in Mr. Eisemann's presentation, which is made a part of these Minutes and available on file). They are looking at areas zoned for office commercial, office campus or light industrial with a large return on investments.



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The City currently has a moratorium in place for accepting development and sign permit applications in the La Center junction area. The moratorium can be lifted or extended on a month-to-month basis. The current moratorium expires January 2017.

Consultant Eisemann proposed that the City contract with Mackenzie, who is conducting the CREDC analysis, to develop an economic development strategy for the City and to follow through with a process that will engage a design team, engineers, stakeholders and the public on how the junction area will be laid out. Assistance will also be provided with the development of codes and regulations.

Council was asked to approve scope and budget, authorize Mr. Eisemann to execute the project on the City's behalf, and actively engage in the project to help meet the moratorium's January deadline. The project's budget will be spread over 2016-2017, and a budget amendment will be presented at the October 26 City Council meeting. The project is anticipated to be completed by February 2017.

It was the consensus of City Council to authorize Mr. Eisemann to proceed with the project.

12. ADJOURNMENT.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Mayor Greg Thornton

Suzanne Levis, Finance Director/Clerk