



**CITY OF LA CENTER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 28, 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	Present
Councilmember Cerveny	Present
Mayor Thornton	Present

Staff:

Suzanne Levis, Finance Director/Clerk
Jeff Sarvis, Public Works Director

Guests:

Doug Boff	Larry Lewton
Doug & Barbara Burtwell	Nelda Perryman
Al Filla	Suzi Terrell
Jack La Bounty	

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS/ADJUSTMENTS – 12.28.16**
 - B. **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – 12.14.16**

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LUIZ, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CERVENY AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 28, 2016 CONSENT AGENDA.

5. **COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS.**
 - A. **MAYOR’S REPORT.**

- The next monthly Mayor’s Town Hall meeting is Wednesday, January 4, at the Public Works Office.



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- The date for the next City Council Retreat / Special Meeting is confirmed for Saturday, January 28, 2017, at the Public Works Office beginning at 9 a.m. Lloyd Halverson will facilitate. Specific topics of discussion will be provided at a later date. (Minutes from the February 27 and August 27, 2016, retreats were provided to Councilmembers.)

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

C. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

- **COUNCILMEMBER BIRDWELL-CURREY – None.**
- **COUNCILMEMBER LUIZ – None.**
- **COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS – None.**
- **COUNCILMEMBER VALENZUELA – None.**
- **COUNCILMEMBER CERVENY** asked people to check on friends and family during the cold weather.

D. STAFF REPORTS.

- **DIRECTOR JEFF SARVIS, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.** Director Sarvis provided an update on the I-5 junction monument / signage. A map was displayed showing the proposed monuments / signage and locations thereof. There are three roundabouts, two of which are planned to display monuments and signs welcoming the public to the City of La Center on each end of the overpass. The third roundabout near the ilani Casino is planned to have a monument dedicated to the Cowlitz Tribe. However, discussions are underway wherein the Cowlitz Tribe claims the roundabout closest to the southbound lane of traffic is on tribal land and should have a Cowlitz Tribe monument.

Mayor Thornton believes the City of La Center should have monuments on both roundabouts in accordance with the original agreement. He asked for Councilmembers’ feedback on the issue.

COUNCILMEMBER LUIZ: The monument plans should stay as originally designed and not changed at the last minute. The roundabout in question is not on tribal land and, in the original plans presented to City Council, the two roundabouts on each end of the overpass are to have City of La Center



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monuments/signs. The southbound traffic should be met with a La Center welcome sign as well as the northbound.

COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS agrees that the City of La Center should remain prominent. Visitors to the La Center cardrooms from the north might get confused, if they see a monument for the tribal reservation. Perhaps a tribal monument could be on the roadside on the boundary line.

COUNCILMEMBER VALENZUELA. The Intergovernmental Agreement states the La Center monuments / signs are to be at both roundabouts. The roundabout in question is in State of Washington right-of-way and the City.

COUNCILMEMBER CERVENY believes the plans should remain as originally presented where the signage and landscaping at the La Center exits would stand out from others and attract people to the City of La Center, its businesses, and casinos.

COUNCILMEMBER BIRDWELL-CURREY believes a combined monument at the second roundabout would represent both parties working together. The tribe's dedicated monument will be at the third roundabout closest to the casino.

Discussions with the Cowlitz Tribe will continue and updates provided as they become available.

- **DIRECTOR SUZANNE LEVIS, FINANCE DEPARTMENT.** Director Levis provided an update on the purchase of tablets for City Council's use in an effort to go paperless. Councilmembers were unanimous in their preferences for the tablets versus paper copies of meeting materials. Director Levis will move forward with purchasing the tablets. Training will be provided to Councilmembers.

6. CITIZEN'S PUBLIC COMMENT.

LARRY LEWTON, 1109 W. C AVE. Regarding the monuments / signage at the I-5 junction discussed earlier, the bottom line is that the second roundabout is not on tribal land. The tribe cannot claim a mistake, after they originally agreed to have City of La Center monuments at the two roundabouts.

SUZI TERRELL, 628 E 18TH ST. Some of the signs as presented on the map are misleading because they seem to indicate that La Center owns the Cowlitz Reservation. Mayor Thornton clarified that the signs she is referring to are not at issue and are State of Washington signs.



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JACK LA BOUNTY, 1406 W ALDER PL. He would not put the monuments on the roundabouts. He would put them on the side of the road with a welcome message.

7. **PRESENTATIONS** – None.

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

A. ORDINANCE NO. 2016-15 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LA CENTER, FISCAL YEAR 2016.

Finance Director Suzanne Levis summarized the year-end budget amendment as outlined in her staff report (made a part of these minutes and available on file). A complete year-end analysis for 2016 will be presented in February 2017.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER CERVENY, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BIRDWELL-CURREY AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2016-15 AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LA CENTER, FISCAL YEAR 2016.

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

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS** – None.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Greg Thornton

Suzanne Levis, Finance Director/Clerk