

# COUNCIL



# MINUTES

**Work Session**  
March 7, 2011

## **Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Nehring called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Roll Call**

Chief Administrative Officer Hirashima gave the roll call. The following staff and councilmembers were in attendance.

**Mayor:** Jon Nehring

**Council:** Lee Phillips, Carmen Rasmussen, Jeff Seibert, John Soriano, Michael Stevens, and Donna Wright

**Absent:** Jeff Vaughan

**Also Present:** Chief Administrative Officer Gloria Hirashima, Finance Director Sandy Langdon, City Attorney Grant Weed, Public Works Director Kevin Nielsen, Parks and Recreation Director Jim Ballew, Recording Secretary Laurie Hugdahl.

CAO Hirashima reported that Councilmember Vaughan had emailed requesting an excused absence due to work.

**Motion** made by Councilmember Wright, seconded by Councilmember Seibert, to excuse the absence of Councilmember Vaughan. **Motion** passed unanimously (6-0).

## **Committee Reports**

Councilmember Seibert reported that they had a wonderful Public Works tour on Friday. Councilmember Stevens concurred that it was beneficial to see the projects firsthand.

## **Presentations**

## **Discussion Items**

**Approval of Minutes** (Written Comments only Accepted from Audience)

1. Approval of February 28, 2011 City Council Meeting Minutes.

### **Consent**

2. Approval of March 2, 2011 Claims.
3. Approval of March 9, 2011 Claims.
4. Approval of March 4, 2011 Payroll.

### **Review Bids**

### **Public Hearings**

### **New Business**

5. Renewal Lease Agreement and Contract for Caretaker Services with Jeffrey and Karen Pickard for Deering Wildflower Acres Park.

Director Ballew stated that the caretakers have been there since 2001 and they love it. They are doing a fabulous job and would like to stay. There are no changes to any of the conditions or values associated with the contract.

6. An Ordinance of the City of Marysville, Washington Authorizing the Condemnation, Appropriation, Taking, Damaging and Acquisition of Land and Other Property for the Purpose of Constructing a Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail and Associated Improvements.

Director Ballew stated that this is a Condemnation Ordinance pertaining to a piece of property that the City needs to acquire which is currently bank-owned. He reviewed the history of this property. Director Kevin Nielsen distributed a map to the Council showing the area. The Condemnation Ordinance has been prepared in an effort to get this under our permit window. Staff expects to begin construction as soon as possible and it may be available for use by summer. This is the last section necessary for the Bayview Ridge Trail Alignment. Director Nielsen added that they got comments back from fisheries that they want a fish-friendly culvert. The City has decided to build a small pedestrian bridge.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked what the trail would do at Grove Street. Director Ballew stated that they would delineate it. There are already curb cuts there, but eventually they would like to do what they have done at the golf course.

Councilmember Soriano stated that this is exciting news as the neighbors inquire regularly about this.

7. A Resolution of the City of Marysville for the Acceptance of a \$1,000.00 Gift Subject to Conditions.

Director Ballew reported that the Marysville Noon Rotary and Steve Fulton from State Farm Insurance are sponsoring the Easter Egg Hunt this year.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked Director Ballew to bring a card next week so all of the Council can sign it. Director Ballew indicated he would do that.

## **Legal**

### **Mayor's Business**

Mayor Nehring:

- Expressed appreciation to staff for their work on the 88<sup>th</sup> Street Master Plan meeting last week. It was very well done.
- He asked Jim Ballew about the possibility of opening up Deering Wildflower Park more to the public. Director Ballew explained that they are going to talk about that issue on Wednesday night. He reviewed the history of this donated property. It has been treated as a conservation area with limited access and limited hours. The City would like to look at the idea of opening the park daily for more consistency. Councilmember Wright asked if the caretakers are aware of this. Director Nielsen stated that they are aware and are supportive of the idea. Councilmember Seibert noted that this is similar to the concept of the Mother Nature's Window property. Councilmember Wright noted that there are unlimited educational opportunities in that park.

### **Staff Business**

Sandy Langdon had no comments.

Kevin Nielsen:

- He is still trying to get the number for what it costs Everett to get their water.
- He reported that the total cost for the last snow event was \$43,000. The budgeted amount for the year is \$70,000, but they still have October, November, and December left.
- Public Works Committee meeting was set for April 1.
- Boys and Girls Club's lights should be in next week.
- Library restrooms will be completed tomorrow.
- Staff is very busy with program implementation since they are not as busy with agenda items.

Jim Ballew reported that the irrigation project for Strawberry Fields came in \$8,000 under budget. Work will be starting on that in the next few weeks. He commended Mike who did a great job with the specs.

**Grant Weed:**

- Asked to add an agreement for legal services with Perkins Coie in the packet for next week.
- Next week will be a time to spend some time in Executive Session updating Council about a handful of real estate matters and about the hearing before the Pollution Control Hearings Board related to Cedar Grove.

**Gloria Hirashima:**

- She distributed to Council a copy of city priorities and legislative district maps that they handed out to legislators when they were in Olympia.
- This week staff has been busy preparing for labor arbitration which should be concluded this week.

**Call on Councilmembers**

**Carmen Rasmussen:**

- She commended Jim Ballew and Parks staff for the work they have done locating sponsors for different events and programs. She asked Director Ballew to pass on Council's appreciation to his staff for their hard work.
- Deering Wildflower Park is a wonderful asset to the community and she is excited about the trail. She loves to take out-of-town guests there when they are in town during the park's limited hours. She suggested that there might be a class at the high school that could make use of the research facility. Director Ballew explained that some of the local programs have used the facility.

Michael Stevens commented that on the Public Works tour when they drove north on Smokey Pt. Blvd. it was obvious when they drove out of Marysville because of the change in the cleanliness of the road following the snow event. He commended Public Works for their promptness in removing the sand.

Lee Phillips thanked Council for the excused absence last week.

Donna Wright thought that Chris Holland did an excellent job on the 88<sup>th</sup> Street open house. It was good to see the interest and the participation from the community.

John Soriano echoed Donna Wright's comments about the 88<sup>th</sup> Street open house. People who attended were very well informed and had good questions.

**Jeff Seibert:**

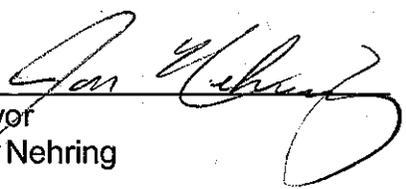
- He recalled Jennings Park in its earlier days when he and his family used to walk through the woods. It will be nice when they can use Deering Park and experience the deeper woods more often.
- He commented on an interesting report about coffee in the news. Due to climate change, Costa Rica has had to move their trees up 1000 feet because the older coffee trees are not able to survive with the climate that is now there. They expect that this will drive up the price of coffee.

- There was discussion about the high gas prices and the impact of that on the City's budgets.

**Adjournment**

Seeing no further business Mayor Nehring adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Approved this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor  
Jon Nehring

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
April O'Brien  
Deputy City Clerk