



Joint Marysville City Council / Tulalip Tribes Meeting

December 12, 2011

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nehring called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Mayor:** Jon Nehring
- Council:** Lee Phillips, Carmen Rasmussen, Jeff Seibert, John Soriano, Michael Stevens, and Jeff Vaughan
- Absent:** Donna Wright
- Other:** Incoming Marysville Councilmember Rob Toyer; City Attorney Grant Weed; Public Works Director Kevin Nielsen, Chief Administrative Officer Gloria Hirashima, Finance Director Sandy Langdon
- Tulalip Tribes:** Mel Sheldon, Chairman of the Tulalip Tribes; Glen Gobin, Vice Chairman of Tulalip Tribes; Martin Napeahi, Deputy General Manager at Quil Ceda Village; and Steven Gobin, General Manager at Quil Ceda Village

The attendees recessed for dinner from 5:35 until 5:44 p.m.

I. Greetings and Introductions

Mayor Nehring welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He expressed appreciation for the positive relationship the City has with the Tribes. After introductions, Mayor Nehring presented Chair Sheldon with a Marysville flag as a symbol of good will.

II. **Resolution on Boeing and Industrial Support as Follow up to Economic Summit - Action Item**

Mayor Nehring discussed the importance of this matter to keep the momentum going from the economic summit. He noted that the City of Arlington and the Tribes had already passed this Resolution.

CAO Hirashima thanked the planning commissions of Arlington and Marysville for coming up with the idea for this resolution.

Tulalip Tribes Chair Sheldon also thanked the City of Arlington for their participation in this.

Motion made by Councilmember Seibert, seconded by Councilmember Soriano, to adopt Joint Resolution No. 2011-001. **Motion** passed unanimously (6-0).

III. **Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Annual Roadway Striping of Bridge Decks - Action Item**

Marysville Public Works Director Kevin Nielsen reviewed this item and explained that they have been doing this already, but this just formalizes the details.

Steven Gobin thanked Marysville for their commitment to getting this done. He commented that these two overpasses are critical to economic development for both the tribes and Marysville.

Tulalip Tribes Chair Sheldon thanked the staff for coming together in a collaborative fashion to work on this.

Tulalip Tribes Vice Chair Glen Gobin concurred and spoke to the importance of memorializing this.

Mayor Nehring stated that the Tribes already took action on this this morning.

Motion made by Councilmember Rasmussen, seconded by Councilmember Seibert, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Annual Roadway Striping of Bridge Decks. **Motion** passed unanimously (6-0).

IV. **Memorandum of Understanding on 116th Street Pedestrian Bridge Maintenance - Action Item**

Marysville Parks and Recreation Director Jim Ballew reviewed this item. He discussed the challenge of keeping graffiti off the bridge. This Memorandum of Understanding would create a barrier at both ends that hopefully will be impassable with costs to be shared by the Tribes and Marysville. Martin Napeahi added that they have been working in conjunction with WSDOT to coordinate this

work. Once the weather starts clearing up they intend to clean it up and install the barrier.

Quil Ceda Village Manager Steve Gobin added that this is just the tip of the iceberg for a larger cooperative effort between the City and the Tribes to impede the expansion of any gang activity. Removing the markers sends a positive message from the leadership. He thanked the city for making this a priority.

Mayor Nehring also expressed appreciation for the partnership. He commended Councilmember Vaughan for his work on this matter.

Tulalip Tribes Vice Chair Gobin commented on the danger that this presents to those who do the tagging as well as the fact that it advertises for gangs. He concurred that cleaning this up sends an important message.

Councilmember Vaughan stated that the Tribes and the City have both done a lot to address this problem in other ways. He reviewed some of those actions taken by them.

Motion made by Councilmember Vaughan, seconded by Councilmember Stevens, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on 116th Street Pedestrian Bridge Maintenance. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Councilmember Seibert said he looks forward to a time when economic conditions are such that development of the bridge would result in enough foot traffic that people wouldn't be trying to get on it to paint it and the wire could perhaps be taken down. Tulalip Tribes Chair Sheldon and Vice Chair Gobin stated that they shared that vision.

V. Transportation Partnerships Discussions

Mayor Nehring discussed need for a SPUI (Single Point Urban Interchange) at 116th Street. He noted that this particular area backs up onto the freeway and is a safety issue on the freeway. The City has applied for the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant as well as others. We all need to keep trying to attract the money that is out there. This project is important to both Marysville and the Tribes.

Chairman Sheldon thanked Marysville staff for their brainstorming about grant money. He also acknowledged Debbie Bray who has been instrumental on a number of projects. He concurred with Mayor Nehring that getting funding for this project would be to the betterment of both of the communities. He suggested perhaps formalizing a joint transportation group to see if that gives them a little more clout.

Vice Chair Gobin thanked the City for stepping forward and putting together the application for the TIGER grant. He appreciated the creative thinking of breaking

this project up into smaller sections while still keeping it moving forward. He spoke in support of working together, but also reaching out to other benefactors of the interchange from "ridge to ridge". Obvious benefactors are Marysville and Tulalip, but all of the north county will benefit.

Debbie Brady discussed the importance of constantly championing the transportation needs for areas such as 4th, 88th, and 116th. 116th is a very important immediate need, but there are many other needs that also need to be kept in the forefront of the discussion.

Councilmember Seibert commented that this is a benefit to north Snohomish County and Skagit County residents as well as residents from "ridge to ridge" because everybody who commutes from the north to the south is slowed down by the congestion.

Mayor Nehring emphasized that there is a substantial amount of tax revenue that is going to the county and the state from this area that is not coming back. Some of that money needs to come back to the region and could take care of a big chunk of the money needed for this particular project.

Councilmember Seibert asked if there was a plan to formalize a transportation cooperation group. Mayor Nehring spoke in support of Chairman Sheldon's idea of formalizing a joint task force or committee which could look at some of those ideas. Right now they are just going after any grant money that is available. Collectively over the past four or five months they have applied for three grants. CAO Hirashima stated that there has been some discussion of other ideas that could be possibilities.

Ms. Brady stated that it is important to note that it is not just for motorized vehicles, but for non-motorized vehicles. The intent is to unify these all together in a unified system.

Director Nielsen also commended Arlington's participation in these discussions.

VI. Coal Train Discussion - Impacts to Marysville and Tulalip Tribes

Mayor Nehring introduced this topic. There is a proposal to put a coal export facility up near Ferndale at Cherry Point. It would bring 8 to 16 very lengthy trains through Marysville every day. While he was in support of creating jobs 60 miles to the north, those jobs will not benefit either community. Both Marysville and Tulalip will be left with the impacts of severe traffic situations throughout the day as well as many other impacts to residents. The City's position is that an alternate site in Longview could be used and would have significantly less impact to many cities. If this is not a possibility he believes there should be some significant mitigation dollars to communities like ours that are negatively impacted to help us with some solutions to get around the tracks. He stated that they have gotten heavily involved with the Governor's office. We have succeeded

in delaying the process to the point where it will have a thorough review process and we will be heard much more than we were going to be in the original process. He commented on the importance of being heard.

Chair Sheldon also stated that they support anything that creates jobs, but it appears that this will negatively impact the area. He referred to the tremendous amount of work they are putting into their communities and stressed that this needs a thorough analysis of all of the impacts of these trains in many different communities. He expressed concern about the potential impacts of this.

Councilmember Rasmussen did not think the environmental issues of coal dust had been thoroughly vetted.

Vice Chair Gobin commented that they anticipate the traffic impact will be two to three times the impact of the current trains. He discussed the enormous impact the trains already have. He suggested that they need to be very vocal on those impacts. He spoke in support of economic growth, but commented that this might actually be a deterrent because of the enormous traffic impacts.

Director Nielsen commented on the potential impacts of the coal trains. This also brings a safety concern with WSDOT because it affects the I-5 corridor in a large way.

Councilmember Stevens asked if Troy McClelland and communities to the south of here have weighed in on this. He noted that many communities on the I-5 corridor would have significant impacts. Ferry traffic would also be impacted with these mile-long trains. He noted that Troy McClelland is a big proponent of working together. He thought it would be worth contacting those leaders.

Councilmember Rasmussen commented that interruption of ferry traffic would be another WSDOT issue.

VII. Cedar Grove Continuing Discussion - Impacts to Marysville and Tulalip Tribes

Mayor Nehring stated that they generally appreciate the cooperation with the Tulalip Tribes on this quality of life issue. Marysville is very concerned about this issue. He looks forward to continuing to work on this in 2012 and hopefully find a solution where the business can stay open and do what they do well.

Chair Sheldon reiterated that they also hope the business can find a way to make it work in a responsible manner.

Grant Weed stated that the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has declared the application of Cedar Grove to be complete so the application for permits will begin moving forward through the City of Everett and other agencies that have to grant permits. The City is preparing to comment on this matter.

Steve Gobin added that the review process will be primarily based on the scientific reports. He wondered where the quality of life issues fit into this. Grant Weed stated that there will be multiple public hearings and a citizens group in and around Marysville has become fairly well organized. He agreed that there is a fair amount of science involved in this, but it would behoove them to understand how real people have been impacted by the operation. He expressed the importance of those people speaking up about their concerns.

CAO Hirashima commented that the current project that we are already having problems with was approved and permitted in 2003. We've raised issues for three years about the existing problems and impacts and there doesn't seem to be anything that can be done. That is part of the concern by the City. Once approved, the agencies say that there is nothing they can do about it. The best avenue seems to be by inputting on a yet-to-be approved expansion and modification.

Vice Chair Gobin concurred with her comments and agreed that it is highly frustrating. He discussed issues with the costs associated with the required scientific testing. In order to protect ourselves with scientific data we have to spend money to validate what we are already sensing. There are a lot of concerns about the process as it goes forward. He spoke in support of business, but stated that it needs to be done in a responsible manner. He commented that the proposal is to expand it to six times what it is today even though there are serious issues with the odor now.

Chair Sheldon discussed issues related to the integrity of the information on this case. He spoke of the importance of sticking together on this matter. He stated that Tulalip is willing to take the lead on this issue in order to help further our common cause.

VIII. Comments by Marysville City Council or Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors

Councilmember Stevens commented on the importance of working together to support the positive growth of the corridor.

Councilmember Jeff Vaughan stated that he appreciates the opportunity to get together. He appreciates the work they have been able to do together and he looks forward to more of this in the future.

Carmen Rasmussen stated that she appreciates the partnership and friendship with the Tribes. Our work is so much more effective when we have each other's needs at heart.

Lee Phillips thanked everyone for coming together. He is glad to have this opportunity to meet together. He hopes they will continue to meet together and work together.

John Soriano commented on the philosophy of “ridge to ridge”. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to get together. He will miss working with them.

Jeff Seibert thanked the Tribes for coming and for what they do on behalf of the City.

Vice Chair Gobin thanked the City for hosting the meeting and bringing both sides together to discuss issues that we all share in common. He commented on the bumpy road that has happened in the relationship with the Tribes and Marysville. He was grateful for the improved relationship and the positive working relationship that they now have. He thanked the two outgoing councilmembers, especially John Soriano, for a good relationship, their time, and their commitment.


Chair Sheldon thanked everyone for the opportunity to be together. He also thanked John Soriano and Lee Phillips for their service to Marysville. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work together on so many issues. He commended the leadership in Marysville and the opportunity to work together on common goals. He encouraged them to communicate any issues that might come up and not to see I-5 as a barrier.

Mayor Nehring concurred that doing this more often would be a real benefit. He commented that the work that was continued here would continue through the Governmental Affairs Committee on a quarterly basis. He suggested that they should look at putting 116th on the agenda for the next governmental affairs meeting. He then recognized the members of the Diversity Advisory Commission who were present in the meeting - Kindy Vonhoss, Lynda Robinson, Terri Morse, and Mark Austin. He stated that he appreciates the opportunity to meet together and he also appreciates their friendship. He particularly enjoyed the Marysville-Tulalip Relay for Life last June. He acknowledged Dennis Kendall’s efforts in blazing the trail for improved relationships with the Tribes.


IX. Adjournment

Seeing no further business Mayor Nehring adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Approved this 9th day of January, 2017.



Mayor
Jon Nehring



April O'Brien
Deputy City Clerk