

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call	5:30 p.m.
Approval of the Agenda	Approved
Committee Reports	
Audience Participation	
New Business	
Consider Fire Services Option	Approved
Legal	
Mayor's Business	
Staff Business	
Call on Councilmembers	
Adjournment	6:08 p.m.
Executive Session	6:18 p.m.
Reconvene	6:33 p.m.
Real Estate – Three items	No action
Adjournment	6:33 p.m.



Special Meeting
August 3, 2016

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nehring called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was led by Pastor Greg Kanehan, and Mayor Nehring 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: Steve Muller, Kamille Norton, Jeff Seibert, Michael Stevens, Rob Toyer, Jeff Vaughan, and Donna Wright

Absent: None

Also Present: Chief Administrative Officer Gloria Hirashima, Finance Director Sandy Langdon, Police Chief Rick Smith, Deputy City Attorney Colin Olivers, Public Works Director Kevin Nielsen, Asst. Director Parks, Culture, and Recreation Tara Mizell, Fire Chief Martin McFalls, and Recording Secretary Laurie Hugdahl.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Stevens, seconded by Councilmember Muller to approve the agenda. **Motion** passed unanimously (7-0).

Audience Participation

Barb Tolbert, Mayor of the City of Arlington, and Paul Ellis, City Administrator for the City of Arlington, 238 N. Olympic Avenue, Arlington, WA 98223, stated they have been working on a similar question of ensuring how Arlington will have a sustainable fire and EMS system. They spent about eight months last year working on this as a committee. Mayor Tolbert explained that 12 years ago there were shared services between the City

of Arlington and the City of Marysville. Since that time, there has been a lot of growth, especially in the Smokey Point area, which challenges both cities' service levels. Arlington recently unanimously passed a resolution to engage in a conversation with the City of Marysville to explore what the future might look like. They hope that Marysville will join them in that conversation.

New Business

1. Consider Fire Services Options

CAO Hirashima made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Fire Services Discussion. She explained that the Council has been discussing options for fire services for the past several years. Currently they operate under an Interlocal Agreement with a contract with District 12. That agreement has been in place since January of 1992. Since that time there have been several attempts to look at variations of the service agreement, and those efforts have intensified over the last few years. Alternatives considered include changes to the current contract, annexing to the Fire District, a city fire department, and a Regional Fire Authority (RFA). Alternatives 1 and 2 did not appear to meet the requested needs of the Council so there was not an overly extensive analysis done on those options. Most of the discussion has centered on Alternatives 3 and 4, the city fire department and the RFA.

She explained the different options that were considered for those two alternatives. The options varied in terms of potential revenue sources such as an EMS levy, Public Safety Measure voted bonds for new facilities, 1% General Fund Property Tax, contract revenues (retention and non-retention), and other options as shown in her PowerPoint presentation. The overall property tax impacts for the various alternatives were reviewed.

The City looked at the potential of an RFA with Arlington as another option as discussed by Mayor Tolbert and City Administrator Ellis from Arlington. Arlington's City Council is also interested in pursuing discussions related to this. A very quick initial analysis indicated there are some opportunities for cooperative efforts in terms of a Medical Service Officer, a Training Officer, the potential consolidation of services between Arlington's Station 48 and Marysville's station 63, fleet maintenance, and ladder truck staffing. There is still a lot to research that needs to be done.

Council Questions:

Councilmember Seibert asked CAO Hirashima to explain how many years before the City would go into a negative budget for each of the options.

Option 1: City Fire Department – This would never go into a negative budget, but in 2025, the City would come under the 10% reserve, and the Council would need to consider employing other revenue options.

CAO Hirashima commented that it appears that any of the scenarios could function with the exception of the option with the RFA utilizing reserves to build a station.

Option 2: City Fire Department which assumes the loss of contract with District 12 and retention of staffing – The City budget would go negative in about 2024. Prior to that occurring the Council would need to look at employing different revenue options.

Councilmember Seibert asked how long before a bond could be done. Finance Director Langdon said they need to have at least one year of financial reporting under their belt.

Councilmember Muller asked about the timeline for an RFA with Arlington and the Interlocal Agreement. CAO Hirashima thought some of those cost savings could be employed as soon as a contract was worked out as long as our staff has the capacity.

Councilmember Muller thanked staff and all members of the public who have participated in this discussion. He appreciates all the comments he has received. He likes the RFA model because it actually puts a line item on taxes for fire services. He likes the efficiencies that come with it. He thinks this is the future for fire in our area. He spoke in support of moving forward with this option.

Motion made by Councilmember Muller, seconded by Councilmember Toyer, to establish an RFA planning committee and begin discussions with the City of Arlington for the creation of a Regional Fire Authority to provide effective and sustainable fire and EMS services to the member communities of said RFA. Governance of said RFA shall be by seated councilmen/commissioners and allocated/indexed in proportion to the participants' associated population or assessed valuation. In addition, Fire District 12 shall be invited to join in the creation of said RFA under the proposed governance model. Should they choose to do so, the existing Interlocal Agreement between the City of Marysville and Fire District 12 shall be extended to cover the RFA formation period. Should they choose not to participate, the existing Interlocal Agreement would terminate on December 31, 2016 and the City would extend an option for contracted services if they so desired. Due to the time provisions of the standing Interlocal Agreement and the desire to move forward with the RFA, Fire District must respond in writing to the City of Marysville no later than September 16, 2016 as to their desire to join in the creation of the RFA under the terms put forward in this motion.

Councilmember Seibert asked Councilmember Muller what the model would be going forward in the event that Fire District 12 does not want to participate. Councilmember Muller stated that under the current Interlocal Agreement, it would terminate on December 31 if they don't come to an agreement to extend. He is not sure what would happen at that point.

Councilmember Seibert expressed concern about what would happen if this is not accepted by Fire District 12. He stated he would rather move forward in forming the City Fire Department and try to work out the RFA after that.

Councilmember Muller said he would prefer to wait until the end of September to see where we stand. He noted that the City has already committed in this agreement to extend the Interlocal Agreement with them. He doesn't think the Council should say they are going to start a city fire department if they aren't going to do that. He spoke in support of waiting to see how this works out since he has heard that people want to enter into an RFA. This will also take care of the deadline at the end of September.

Councilmember Stevens stated there is also a provision in the ILA that allows for an extension of the timeline per mutual agreement by District 12 and the City of Marysville. If progress is being made in the next few weeks leading up to September 16 it would be his preference that they could mutually agree to extend the December 31 timeline. That way they could avoid creating a city department as a stepping stone when the ultimate goal is to create an RFA.

Councilmember Vaughan asked for confirmation that the motion doesn't address what would happen if District 12 declines to participate. Councilmember Muller stated that it only references the fact that the ILA would terminate on 12/31/16. If Fire District 12 doesn't want to participate, that would have to be dealt with later.

Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

There was applause from the audience.

Legal

Mayor's Business

Staff Business

Deputy City Attorney Colin Olivers stated the need for an Executive Session expected to last ten minutes to consider two matters related to selection of a site or acquisition of real property and one matter regarding the purchase of real estate with no action expected.

Call on Councilmembers

Steve Muller said he was disappointed because it looks like Proposition 1 isn't going to pass.

Kamille Norton thanked staff, especially CAO Hirashima and Finance Director Sandy Langdon, for getting the information that the Council needed to make this decision. She also thanked her fellow councilmembers for the thorough and thoughtful response to this issue. All of the Council came at this with a desire to serve the citizens well. They have taken public safety seriously and recognize it as a top priority. She is looking forward to exploring the possibilities.

Adjournment

Council recessed from 6:08 p.m. until 6:18 p.m. and then reconvened for ten minutes in Executive Session minutes to consider two matters related to selection of a site or acquisition of real property and one matter regarding the purchase of real estate with no action expected.

Executive Session

- A. Litigation
- B. Personnel
- C. Real Estate – three items, RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(c)

Executive session extended five minutes.

Executive session ended and public meeting reconvened at 6:33 p.m.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business Mayor Nehring adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Mayor
Jon Nehring

April O'Brien
Deputy City Clerk