



City of Longview

1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632
www.ci.longview.wa.us

Minutes - Final

City Council

Mayor Don Jensen
Council Member Ken Botero
Council Member Chet Makinster
Council Member Mary Jane Melink
Council Member Steve Moon
Council Member Scott Vydra
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wallin

Thursday, July 9, 2015

6:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.30, that the City Council of the City of Longview, Washington, will conduct a workshop session in the Longview City Hall Training Room, 1525 Broadway, Longview, on Thursday, July 9th, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. The topics of discussion follow. Final disposition shall be taken on no other matter.

The City Hall is accessible for persons with disabilities. Special equipment to assist the hearing impaired is also available. Please contact the City Executive Offices at 360.442.5004 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was convened at 6:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Don Jensen, Council Member Botero, Council Member Makinster, Council Member Melink and Council Member Moon

Late Arrival: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Wallin

STAFF PRESENT

City Manager David Campbell and City Attorney James McNamara.

Also present: Kurt Sacha, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director; Jim Duscha, Police Chief; Chris Smith, Human Resources Director.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

4. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

[15-3909](#)**SCHOOL ZONE IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE****COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:**

Improve Transportation Systems

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

Council directed staff to install upgrades to all school zones in the city and ensure consistency between all school zones. However, as detailed plans for each zone are being developed, staff would like Council to reconsider and clarify the need for each school zone regulatory sign assembly to be identical. Staff recommends two different installations for school speed zone assemblies: one assembly for arterials and collectors, and a different assembly for local streets. Arterial and collector streets will have solar powered assemblies consisting of LED flashers, school speed limit signs, and speed feedback displays. Local streets will have solar powered assemblies consisting of LED flashers and school speed limit sign; the speed feedback display will be omitted on local streets.

Staff will present recommended improvements for each school zone, including material, labor and equipment cost estimates, and a tentative schedule for implementing the improvements. Attached for your review is a graphic depicting the recommended St. Helens Elementary school zones to highlight the arterial street and local street school zone speed sign assembly locations. Similar graphics will be provided at the workshop for each school zone. Staff will request direction from Council regarding installation of two types of school zone speed assemblies.

At the May 24, 2015 joint workshop with the Longview School District Board, members of the board requested, and Council directed staff to evaluate safe walking routes to schools. Staff would like clarification on the scope and expected outcome of this evaluation.

Additionally, staff will also discuss the status of the in-ground warning lights at the pedestrian crossing at 15th Avenue and Commerce Avenue near Lower Columbia College. As staff has experienced at all of the City's installations of in-ground warning lights, the system is difficult and costly to maintain, with lights failing, wiring short-circuiting, and parts difficult to acquire. Recent heat expansion of the concrete street panels caused further damage and repairing the existing in-ground lighting is no longer an option - it must be replaced. Staff recommends against replacing the in-ground lighting, and instead will recommend installation of additional above ground warning lights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direction to staff.

Attachments: [St Helens School Zone Graphic](#)

Mayor Jensen asked City Manager David Campbell to introduce the topic of School Zone Improvements Update. Public Works Director Jeff Cameron turned presentation

over to Manuel Abarca, Traffic Engineer.

Following presentation, Councilmember Makinster suggested adding flashers to 8th Avenue in front of Broadway. School feedback signs are not required on local access streets at Kessler School.

Councilmember Melink stated that two grants were received, one of which is for the Mark Morris High School.

The total amount of the grant is \$294,000; the total project cost is \$327,000. A grant for flashers and rapid rectangular beacons is \$90,000; the total cost of the project is \$100,000. The City funding for the flashers and beacon project is \$285,920.

Steve Moon asked if there is painting at all points, the answer was yes.

Manuel reminded Council that there are already school zone notification signs in place that will remain.

Councilmember Melink stated her comfort with the staff recommendations presented.

Councilmember Makinster motioned to approve the staff recommendations, seconded by Ken Botero.

Councilmember Moon stated his opposition to Council approval, suggested that there should be five school zone flashing notifications at RA Long High School at an additional cost of \$4,000. Also, there are no need for flashing beacons when cars are approaching a stop sign. Councilmember Moon suggested adding supplemental signs at Mark Morris and Mt. Solo.

Manuel informed the Council that there is a volume discount for purchases of 40 or more.

There was no conversation about 15th Ave and Commerce.

The workshop recessed at 6:57 p.m. until after the regular Council meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Chet Makinster, seconded by Council Member Ken Botero, that the staff recommendation be accepted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Mayor Don Jensen, Council Member Botero, Council Member Makinster and Council Member Melink

Nays: 1 - Council Member Moon

[15-3908](#)

POTENTIAL THREE RIVERS REGIONAL WASTEWATER AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE CHANGE

COUNCIL INITIATIVES ADDRESSED:

Provide sustainable water quality & environmental infrastructure

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

In 1972, the City of Longview, Cowlitz County, City of Kelso, and Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District, entered into a contract to provide regional sewer

treatment services, and created the Cowlitz Sewer Operating Board to manage the treatment operations. Since 1972, the contract has been amended a number of times and the name was changed to the Three Rivers Regional Wastewater Authority (TRRWA). The TRRWA currently operates under the authority of the 2005 Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement Among City of Kelso, City of Longview, Beacon Hill Sewer District, and Cowlitz County For Wastewater Treatment & Disposal.

The TRRWA has historically operated as an independent entity and governing board, although there have been constraints on its ability to issue debt and its purchasing authority. Recently, the governance structure, legal authority, and independence of the TRRWA have been questioned. Because the TRRWA was created by interlocal agreement under RCW Chapter 39.34, opinions have been expressed that the TRRWA is not a municipality or corporation of the state, and must be considered to be a department of Cowlitz County. If the TRRWA is not independent and is instead a part of Cowlitz County, a number of issues are raised that seriously complicate TRRWA operations.

Similar issues arose previously for other joint operating agencies formed by interlocal agreement, and in 2011, the state legislature created RCW Chapter 39.106 authorizing a new type of governmental municipal corporation known as a joint municipal utility services authority. RCW Chapter 39.106 allows municipalities and districts to create wholesale utility service providers that are legally separate from each of the member entities.

After considering the issues and options regarding the status of the TRRWA, the TRRWA board decided to begin the process to convert the TRRWA to a joint municipal utility services authority. Information will be provided during the workshop regarding some of the issues and the process to form an authority under RCW Chapter 39.106.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information and discussion only.

The workshop resumed at 8:45 p.m. after being recessed for the regular Council meeting.

Public Works Director Jeff Cameran introduced the issue of the governance model for the TRRWA to Council. TRRWA board approved entering into the agreement with Foster Pepper to move forward with establishing a new authority. Joint authority requires the appointment of elected officials as governance officials. The operating authority may continue and consist of staff.

The current TRRWA capacity for Longview is 62%; for Kelso 30%; for Beacon Hill Sewer District 9%; and for Cowlitz County less than 1%.

Longview's level of approval authority should be increased. The hope is to have a new entity in place by January 1, 2016. Hugh Spitzer is working on accomplishing this. Hugh Spitzer will draft a proposed document by September, hopefully.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next scheduled workshop is July 23, 2015.