

**City of Puyallup
City Council Special Meeting
December 6, 2013
3:00 p.m.**

(These minutes are not verbatim. The meeting was recorded, and copies of the recording are retained for a period of six years from the date of the meeting and are available upon request.)

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Hansen, Deputy Mayor Knutsen, Councilmember Door, Councilmember Hopkins, Councilmember Palmer, Councilmember Swanson, Councilmember Vermillion

GUESTS PRESENT: Doug Levy, Outcomes by Levy

2014 Legislative Priorities

City Manager Bill McDonald introduced Doug Levy from Outcomes by Levy, who provides lobbying services for the City at the local, regional and state levels.

Mr. Levy presented the City's draft 2014 legislative agenda, beginning with the priority issues which Puyallup considers extremely important and on which the City will focus most of its advocacy time and energy. The priority issues are as follows:

1. Enact a transportation package/complete the SR-167 corridor.
2. Submit and promote a 2014 supplemental capital budget request for frontage and site improvements at the WSU Extension-Puyallup property.
3. Protect and restore state revenues critical to the operating and capital needs of local government.
4. Pursue cost recovery for public records requests which are for commercial sale/resale purposes.

Mr. Levy relayed that the legislature may hold a special session the first week of January preceding the regular session for the purpose of addressing a transportation package.

Regarding the frontage and site improvements at WSU Extension-Puyallup, Mr. Levy expected that capital budget assistance will be sought from the state for this project. He saw 2014 as a period for promoting awareness of this need as funds will likely not be available until after 2014. Responding to comments, Mr. Levy agreed that this request will best be framed as more of a regional ask with WSU-Extension serving as a primary partner rather than a request solely from Puyallup.

Continuing, Mr. Levy referred to liquor revenue distributions to local governments and explained how and why these distributions were cut and capped in recent years. Councilmember Swanson suggested that the City support legislation that would allow it to capture fees, taxes or other revenue from facilities licensed by the Liquor Control Board.

Mr. Levy referred to changes made to the Public Works Assistance Account which is an important source of low-interest loans for public works infrastructure. He explained that \$277 million of the PWAA, approximately 30% of its total, was transferred from the capital budget to the operating budget.

Mr. Levy also commented on attempts to secure a cost-recovery mechanism for public records requests, particularly those which are sought for commercial purposes.

Turning to items on the City's "support/oppose" list, discussion ensued as to whether the changes to water-sewer district "assumption" laws should be changed from "Oppose" to "Concerns." Council directed that the item opposing pension enhancements that add new costs be amended to support the full funding of pension programs while opposing rate spikes.

Councilmember Swanson suggested that with respect to I-502, the City should seek the explicit granting of local zoning authority in such matters. He referred to the current planning for a new public safety building and advised that the City oppose any requirement to undergo a "certificate of need" process for such a facility. He concluded that the City should also oppose any pressure which larger jails and prisons might place on smaller jails; for example, in the form of a new requirement to provide mental health services to inmates.

Councilmember Vermillion suggested considering societal responsibilities inherent in providing health care to prisoners, including the ethics of organ transplants and whether certain operations can be deemed to be "medically necessary." He commented on the City's commitment to clean up Clarks Creek, noted his intention to work towards facilitating the extraction of silt from that waterway, and advised that the City support Pierce Transit's efforts to recoup non-medical shuttle fees.

Deputy Mayor Knutsen agreed that work should continue to address the needs of the Puyallup River and Clarks Creek, particularly in the area of flood prevention.

City Manager McDonald reminded Council that if an item is on its legislative priority list, he and the mayor may write correspondence, testify before the legislature, etc. in support of it.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:15 p.m.