

January 30, 1979 - Work Meeting

The regular meeting of the Edmonds City Council was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mayor Harve Harrison in the Council Chambers of the Edmonds Civic Center. All present joined in the flag salute.

PRESENT

Harve Harrison, Mayor
Mike Herb
Katherine Allen
John Nordquist
Ray Gould
Tom Carns
Larry Naughten
Phil Clement

STAFF PRESENT

Charles Dibble, M.A.A.
Leif Larson, Public Works Director
John LaTourelle, Community Development Director
Irene Varney Moran, City Clerk
Lila Crosby, Administrative Services Director
Marlo Foster, Police Chief
Fred Herzberg, City Engineer
Jim Jessel, Parks & Recreation Manager
John Wallace, City Attorney
Jackie Parrett, Deputy City Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA

Item (C) was removed from the Consent Agenda. COUNCILMAN CARNS MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GOULD, TO APPROVE THE BALANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED. The balance of the Consent Agenda included the following:

- (A) Roll call.
- (B) Approval of Minutes of January 23, 1979.
- (D) Acceptance of Quit Claim Deed in conjunction with short subdivision - Holt (File S-53-78).
- (E) Approval of increase in reimbursement rate for use of personal vehicle to 17¢ per mile.
- (F) Authorization to concur in participation modifications to agreement for Lake Ballinger rehabilitation.

REPORT ON BIDS OPENED JANUARY 19, 1979 FOR SENIOR CENTER REROOFING

[Item (C) on Consent Agenda]

Public Works Director Leif Larson had recommended rejecting all bids and reworking the specifications to reduce cost, as two bidders exceeded the estimate by 50% and the low bidder did not bid on the specified work and did not include removing the existing decaying roofing material. He was asked how the specifications could be reworked, and he responded that they will be for a hot roof instead of a cold roof. This was briefly discussed, after which COUNCILMAN CARNS MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN ALLEN, TO APPROVE ITEM (C) ON THE CONSENT AGENDA, REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR THE SENIOR CENTER REROOFING. MOTION CARRIED.

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COUNCIL

Councilman Carns announced that Medic 1 will begin operation on Thursday morning, February 1.

Councilman Carns said he had invited Bob Pantley to address the Council regarding some waterfront property and a possible dedication to the City. COUNCILMAN CARNS MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN NAUGHTEN, THAT THE COUNCIL HEAR FROM BOB PANTLEY AT THIS TIME. There was some discussion as to the propriety of his addressing the Council on this matter at this time. It was pointed out to Councilman Carns that he recently had advised someone who spoke from the audience that it was the Council's policy not to take action on matters brought to the Council from the audience without first being referred to the Staff. Community Development Director John LaTourelle was asked if he was familiar with Mr. Pantley's proposal. He responded that Mr. Pantley had discussed it with him today and it fell within the parameters of the CW zone but it was complex and would take time to process through the necessary hearings. THE VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION, WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS CARNS AND NAUGHTEN VOTING YES, AND WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS CLEMENT, ALLEN, AND GOULD VOTING NO. (Council members Nordquist and Herb were not present.) THE MOTION FAILED.

Councilman Clement advised that he probably would not be present next week. He noted that the Council had been furnished this evening with the Revenue Analysis Report and Expenditure Analysis Report for last year and it appeared that interfund payments in terms of revenue to the General Fund were consistently less than budgeted. He requested that the Mayor ask the Staff to check this, as well as two other items: the total external revenue budgeted versus the actual, and the actual cash carryover versus the budgeted amount of cash carryover. He requested the report in two weeks.

Councilwoman Allen advised that she would not be present next week.

Councilman Naughten proposed changing the name of the Edmonds Elementary School to something like the Edmonds Community Center or the Edmonds Cultural Center. He suggested there be some discussion on this. COUNCILMAN NAUGHTEN THEN MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CLEMENT, TO PLACE ON THE FEBRUARY 20 AGENDA A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RENAMING OF THE EDMONDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR

Mayor Harrison asked for confirmation of his appointment of Ann Wermus to the Library Board. The Council had interviewed Mrs. Wermus prior to this evening's meeting. COUNCILMAN CARNS MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GOULD, TO CONFIRM THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ANN WERMUS TO POSITION 4 ON THE LIBRARY BOARD, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 1982. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Harrison asked for confirmation of two appointments to the MEBT Committee. COUNCILMAN NORDQUIST MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CARNS, TO CONFIRM THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ART HOUSLER TO THE MEBT COMMITTEE, REPLACING JUDIE GILBO. MOTION CARRIED. COUNCILMAN NORDQUIST MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GOULD, TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF GEORGIA LABELLE TO THE MEBT COMMITTEE, REPLACING LILA CROSBY. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORT FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Written reports had been submitted from various Boards and Commissions. Lyle Krueger, Chairman of the Edmonds Arts Commission discussed his report which included proposed Operating Procedures for the Public Arts Plan, and he asked for the Council's feeling about the plan. Regarding their goals for Art in Public Places, he said the first piece of art they propose to place will be at the Edmonds Elementary School. Councilman Carns stated that the only thing he would question in their public arts plan was in paragraph 6.4.5.(g) which states: "Jury reviews shall be open to the public, but the jury may choose to cast votes in closed sessions." He felt there should be no closed sessions, that it should be entirely public. Mr. Krueger responded that this point had been discussed but it was determined that it would facilitate the judging if the jurors were permitted to vote in private. The Council was in general agreement that this was a fine document with commendable goals. COUNCILWOMAN ALLEN MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CLEMENT, TO ADOPT THE OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE PUBLIC ARTS PLAN AS OUTLINED IN THE ARTS COMMISSION REPORT. Councilman Carns said he would vote in favor of the motion, although he was not in agreement with paragraph 6.4.5.(g) as he discussed earlier. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Karen Columbro, Chairman of the Park Board, briefly discussed her report. She said the Park Board would be touring the Snohomish County Park on February 13 and she invited interested parties to join them. Regarding the report from the Architectural Design Board, it was noted that Chairman Chauncy Wight had suggested dinner meetings prior to their regular meetings and he inquired as to whether the City could provide funds for such dinner meetings. It was quickly noted that the Board could not discuss items going before it at such meetings, but policy could be discussed. Community Development Director John LaTourelle said boards and commissions do not have time to discuss anything at their meetings except the applications before them and, in order to discuss policy, agendas have to be rearranged. He thought it would be beneficial if an hour could be set aside for policy discussions and he said it is difficult to get people to come out for special meetings. He thought a dinner meeting would be a good time for policy discussions, but he was not recommending that the City provide the funds. He had suggested that the reports from boards and commissions be made twice a year instead of quarterly as several members had suggested that there was little to report on such a frequent basis. He suggested that a dinner meeting a month before the semi-annual report is made would be advantageous. There was general agreement that semi-annual reports would be adequate, but no action was taken regarding the funding of dinner meetings.

It was noted from the review of the Board of Adjustment report that no variances or Conditional Use Permit applications had been denied during the period covered, and possible reasons for this were discussed. It was suggested that this may speak to the fact that the ordinances are too strict, or that it may indicate that the staff work was so good that it weeded out those applications that were not likely to be approved. Councilman Gould commented that Board of Adjustment meetings he had

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attended had been very "fiery," drawing people's attention and getting citizen input, so he was surprised that there may be some mechanism to get the troublesome ones withdrawn. He also noted from the minutes that there is a lot of compromising. Councilman Herb commented that on Conditional Use Permits they impose a lot of conditions and he felt that was important, rather than if the application is approved or not.

Regarding the Planning Commission, Councilman Nordquist had been the recent ex-officio member and he reported that they still are discouraged at having the number of members reduced. He said they also are disappointed that many of the things they send forward are changed by the Council. Several Council members who previously had served on the Planning Commission recalled this feeling when they had been on the Planning Commission, but one of them commented that you have a different perspective when you are serving on the Planning Commission from that when you are serving on the Council. Regarding the number of members, the comment was made that five is a quorum for nine members and four is a quorum for seven, and if you cannot get four people together, how are you going to get five. The discussion concluded, at which time Councilman Nordquist left the meeting.

REVIEW OF WHAT MAKES A POLICY DECISION, AS TYPIFIED BY THE 7TH AND ELM SITUATION

Councilman Clement reviewed the situation which caused this to be scheduled for discussion. It had come to the Council's attention that there was to be some construction at the 7th and Elm site at a cost of approximately \$2,700 which had not been budgeted, but there were funds available in the Water/Sewer Fund to do it and the Staff felt it should be done and that the amount involved was not something that was a policy decision. A woman in the audience had inquired as to how such construction was going to occur without the City knowing it. It had been suggested that possibly a dollar limit should be set for specific review by the Council. As it happened, this was in relation to the Water/Sewer Fund which would have money to do such things, but other funds would not. Also, in this particular case there was a problem of the cutting of some trees. Community Development Director John LaTourelle said that the decision in this case had been made by the Public Works Director, the City Engineer, and himself, and they decided to grade some of the area, removing blackberry bushes, and plant some grass there and some low-growing bushes--nothing more. Their landscape designer had proposed firepits and shelters and had drawn up a plan for such, but the plan had never been accepted, and Mr. LaTourelle stressed that it was never intended to proceed with that plan. He added that this was a cleanup project; the site was being used for dumping and the neighbors were complaining. Councilman Carns felt this kind of thing was administrative policy and not legislative. Councilman Naughten said he would like to know about capital improvement projects just because they are visible and people call Council members about them. Mr. LaTourelle added that any plans for construction have to go to the ADB. Mr. Larson agreed that any outside construction would go to the ADB, but he noted that improvements inside a structure would not. A specific example was given of a project in which the estimates would come back in an amount higher than that budgeted, and the project therefore could not be accomplished. Mr. Larson was asked if he would then decide to do something else with the money and he responded that if the "something else" was not an item specifically covered in the narrative of the budget they would go back to the Council with it. Mayor Harrison pointed out that part of this incident related to the cutting of trees, and he asked how much the Council wanted to be in on that kind of decision. He said the decision was made by the administration to help some people with their views by trimming trees without taking them out or damaging their roots and without damaging the flow of a stream involved. He said he could see no problem with trimming the tops of the trees so the people could have a view, and he asked if the Council wanted to be burdened with that kind of decision. The general feeling was that the Council did not. Councilman Naughten said he did not feel the Council should be involved. Councilman Clement said it was not an issue the Council should be involved in, but it would be different if it was a matter of taking out the trees. Councilwoman Allen saw no reason why that should be something to go to the Council, and she felt the Park Department should be able to make those kind of decisions. Councilman Gould commented that the Council was still a court of last resort and a citizen has the right to go before the Council with a problem he does not feel has been taken care of satisfactorily. There was no further discussion.

It was noted that a memorandum had been received from the Public Works Director regarding the undergrounding of SR 524 and the high assessment to property owners, and asking for advice before proceeding with an LID. It was decided to place this matter on the February 13 agenda.

There was no further business to come before the Council, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.


IRENE VARNEY MORAN, City Clerk


HARVE H. HARRISON, Mayor