



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION JANUARY 21-23, 2011

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jim Pearman called the meeting to order as follows in the Groveland Room at the Community Center at Mercer View (8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, Washington):

- January 21, 2011, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm, 7:45 pm - 9:00 pm
- January 22, 2011, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
- January 23, 2011, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers Bruce Bassett, Jane Brahm, Mike Cero, Mike Grady, Dan Grausz, Deputy Mayor El Jahncke and Mayor Jim Pearman were present.

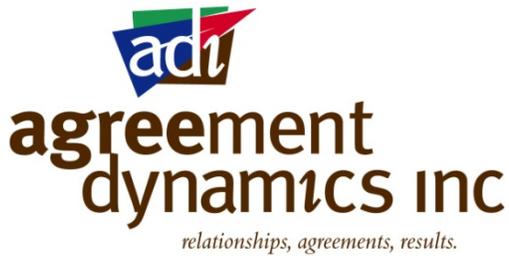
The attached memo, dated February 2, 2011, to the Mercer Island City Council from Ginny Ratliff with Agreement Dynamics, Inc is hereby incorporated by reference as the minutes of the 2011 Mercer Island City Council Annual Planning Session.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:00 pm, January 23, 2011.

Jim Pearman, Mayor

Attest:

Allison Spietz, City Clerk



TO: Members of the Mercer Island City Council
FROM: Ginny Ratliff, Agreement Dynamics, Inc.
RE: 2011 City Council Planning Session
DATE: February 2, 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to provide note-taking services for your January 22-23, 2011 planning session. It's always a pleasure to work with the City Council, staff and citizens of Mercer Island.

Friday, January 21, 2011

MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Pearman welcomed the Council to the 2011 Planning Session. He checked in with the group on the status of the agenda. There was agreement that any issues not on the agenda but needing discussion would be placed on the agenda on Sunday morning's "parking lot".

COUNCIL OPERATIONS

Working with Facilitator Stephanie Bell, the Councilmembers and Department Directors discussed understandings of protocols and "rules of engagement" between Council and staff and among Council members. After identifying key areas of issues, the group agreed to continue the discussion to Sunday morning at 11 am.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Council made its selection for Citizen of the Year and Distinguished Services Awards.

Saturday, January 22, 2011

POOL PLANNING

Mayor Jim Pearman called the planning session to order at 8:40 a.m. by welcoming the City Council, staff and community members to the meeting.

City Manager Rich Conrad provided an overview of the issues associated with Mary Wayte Pool. The Forward Thrust pool is near the end of its life expectancy, is the only public swimming pool on the Island, is owned by the school district and is housed on the high school grounds. It is operated by an outside vendor, through an interlocal agreement and its operational expenses are subsidized by the City. The KJ Design review of the pool's systems determined the pool worthy of short term investments.

Mayor Pearman and Deputy Mayor Jahncke informed the Council that the School Board has no interest or space for rebuilding a pool at the Mary Wayte site. They explained that, given the economic climate, the School Board is focused on funding their core mission and does not see a place for it on their high school campus in the long term. They said that the timeline for the school's continued pool operation is between two and five years. They said that the School Board is interested in being a tenant at another facility or building their own pool for the school's swim

team and water polo club, but is not interested in providing public swimming facilities on Mercer Island. The School Board sees the city as a natural convener of a collaborative decision-making process if there's any opportunity for joint facilities on the Island.

Next, the City Manager updated the Council on discussions the City has had with the Jewish Community Center (JCC). JCC is going to reinvest in their facility and are interested in discussing a partnership with the city for a bigger aquatics center. Under that scenario, he explained, the school would be a likely user. City Manager Conrad went on to say that both groups acknowledge the need for additional land, and, there might be available land between the JCC and the City Hall Maintenance site that could be purchased. City Manager Conrad explained their timeline is about the same as the City's. He said they are considering a multi-level parking structure and also described possibilities of shared parking between JCC and City Hall at each entity's off-peak times. The JCC Board is willing to take the initial step of looking at the possible opportunities a public-private partnership could achieve. After a productive meeting of brainstorming ideas and options, City Manager Conrad said that JCC Director Judy Neuman is crafting a draft vision statement to share with her Board and the City Council. Staff will review, revise and submit to the Council.

The Council discussed the advantages of a public-private partnership with the JCC. They also asked how many public-pool swimmers there were on Mercer Island. Councilmember Cero estimated that one-quarter of Islanders are members of private clubs that have pools. They also speculated whether a constituency broader than just public-pool users would vote for a public pool. They asked Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Fletcher to research resident pool user data.

In the spirit of PEAK, Councilmember Grausz suggested asking Youth Theater Northwest (YTN) to join the discussion with the JCC and the City (possibly as a tenant in the building). Despite the School Board's position about no pool at the high school, Councilmember Cero suggested keeping open an option of remodeling the existing pool since tight budgets may ultimately make that option more attractive to the schools and the City.

The City Manager spelled out the options for public swim on Mercer Island from least to most complicated:

1. Mary Wayte Pool closes and there's no public swim option;
2. Pool built by the School District at the middle school and no public swim on Mercer Island;
3. JCC and City public-private partnership on a yet-to-be determined facility;
4. Remodel the existing Mary Wayte Pool;
5. Demolish and build a new pool at the existing site;
6. Stand-alone public pool on different site;
7. Regional public pool off Island.

City Manager Conrad explained that a Bellevue group is proposing a regional pool for multiple school districts on a site in South Bellevue. While this might be one of the least expensive options, it could prove to be the most complicated, he said.

When asked about how best to engage the community in this discussion, Development Services Director Tim Stewart stated that good process results in good outcomes because it can serve as a vehicle for early issue resolution and for creating project champions who help move a project forward. He recommended having a preferred option to share with the community and focus discussions without precluding other options. The Council discussed community process as well as survey methodology.

In response to Council questions about other pools in the region Parks and Recreation Director Fletcher described the new \$17 million pool Lynnwood is building. Unlike when the swim team overtakes the entire Mary Wayte pool, Lynnwood has a number of components (hot tub, lazy river, cool pool, etc.) built into it that would allow for different users at the same time. He also stated this type of pool would help tremendously with revenue, too. He noted that energy-wise, new pools are more efficient.

The Council weighed in on the various options. Deputy Mayor Jahncke pointed out that the JCC option would solve the City's problem most expeditiously citing the benefits of a location and a ready partner. He stated that he preferred the JCC option to a longer, "Northwest process-type deliberation". Councilmember Bassett also stated that he liked the JCC option. Councilmember Grady stated that Island demographics have changed and more young families moving to the Island. He expressed concern about the school not supporting a pool and YTN. The Council also discussed the school's master planning process and how the pool fit into that timeline.

Agreements & Direction:

After deliberation, the Council agreed to leave all options open at this time, but to go forward with JCC discussions. City Manager Conrad asked for and gained Council permission to talk with the adjacent land owner as a first step in pursuing this option. The Council also agreed to include the YTN in those discussions. Finally, an Ad Hoc committee was suggested by Mayor Pearman to represent the City in discussions with the JCC and the Council concurred as long as the committee was kept small. Councilmember Brahm recommended it include a citizen public pool user and Blair Rasmussen's name was recommended by Councilmember Grausz.

TOWN CENTER

After a short break, City Manager Conrad updated the Council on the status of various building projects in the Town Center. He indicated that there are a number of new retail and restaurant start-ups as well as multiple inquiries about other development tracts signaling that the Town Center is perceived as a good place to invest.

He reminded the Council of last year's discussion about public-private partnerships to acquire more Island commuter parking. He explained that Deputy Mayor Jahncke and he met with four property owners who expressed interest in the possibility of such a partnership. They also interviewed three development consultants to represent Mercer Island in negotiations with these and/or other property owners. They chose Benjamin Pariser, a Mercer Island representative, for that role.

City Manager Conrad urged the Council to press forward because Sound Transit is willing to partner with the City to produce commuter parking (at their expense) yet decisions on East Link need to be concluded by the summer.

The Council, noting the early stage of such negotiations relative to Sound Transit's timeline, recommended presenting Sound Transit with a conceptual plan that has "a great deal of possibility." The plan, identifying a potential owner and location with costs/unit of parking, would include a proviso committing Sound Transit to a specific level of funding, even if the City changed or added sites later. Recalling the MOU, the City Manager explained that Sound Transit is still supportive of Mercer Island's goal for commuter parking. Council and staff discussed the number of parking spaces needed, site constraints, which owners are looking for additional height, the negotiation process, and even a litigation option.

Agreements & Direction:

After some discussion, the Council agreed to hire Mr. Pariser as their representative in negotiations with the owners. City Manager Conrad recommended paying for these services from the savings achieved from the Lake Line Sewer Project. A proposal and contract would be brought to the Council for approval.

IMPACT FEES

Development Services Director Stewart praised the City as a model for attracting development at the Town Center. He explained that one reason for this success was the City's commitment to pre-invest in infrastructure as a market-driven incentive to build.

At present, he said, the City uses SEPA to mitigate project impacts with staff negotiating on a project-by-project basis with each developer. The problem with this approach, he explained, is felt by both developers and the City. For the developer, there is uncertainty as to what mitigation will be required or how much it will cost. That information comes through the SEPA process once the project permit has been submitted. As for the City, the staff time to research, analyze and negotiate each project is enormous. He said there is always concern over equity when an individual project is analyzed separately but the impacts are cumulative.

Given the budget and staff cuts, Development Services Director Stewart posed to the Council moving to impact fees in the Town Center, which are authorized under the Growth Management Act. He explained that this fee would allow the city to analyze costs for all capital construction to support development (transportation, schools, parking, parks, police, fire, sewer, etc.) and then levy a fee accordingly. He said that there has to be a nexus between the fee, its impact and the benefit for the development, and that fees have to be spent within six years.

Deputy Mayor Jahncke asked if an impact fee will be an incentive or a disincentive for development and affordable housing. Development Services Director Stewart explained that this is an incentive for developers because they will know the fee up front, rather than waiting until the environmental review process.

The City Manager gave the history of the City's market driven strategy and now that City has made the investment in infrastructure the City can use impact fees to pay for the City's future needs. He also supported the concept that that impact fees will not be a disincentive to development.

The Council discussed options for funding City projects into the future and the variability of mitigation and land costs in construction. Councilmember Grady explained that because of concurrency, the mitigation costs under SEPA place a greater burden on developments that occur in later stages of municipal build-out.

Agreements & Direction:

When asked if they wished to include impact fee deliberation on their work plan for 2011, the Council said they did.

AWARD-WINING SEWER LAKE LINK PROJECT

Assistant City Engineer Anne Tonella-Howe presented an award the City won from the American Council of Engineering Companies for the Sewer Lake Link project. City Manager Conrad lauded the staff and Council on this achievement, noting their largest public works project is on time, under budget, and now, award winning.

TRANSPORTATION

Deputy City Manager James Mason cited a letter sent by Mayor Pearman to Sound Transit reiterating a 1976 Memorandum of Agreement and subsequent agreements permitting Mercer Island's single-occupant vehicles to use the HOV lanes on I-90. He said that Sound Transit and the State are in agreement with Mercer Island, but that the Federal Highway Administration disagrees. He said that the City will continue to press for this right and, if necessary, raise the issue to the next level(s) to enforce this agreement.

Next Deputy City Manager Mason talked about timing concerns related to Option R8A. While Sound Transit has not published their detailed construction schedule, there is preliminary information showing that in 2015 construction will begin on I-90 for the East Link light rail system with an estimated completion date of 2021. He said the concern is Sound Transit may start too early on the I-90 portion between the Island and Seattle. That would negatively impact 50,000 drivers per day. He said the City will hold firm to the position that construction on I-90 (west of Mercer Island) should not be started until all of the Bellevue construction is completed. City Manager Conrad said he would draft and send a letter to the Sound Transit Board explaining the importance of this approach to Mercer Island. When asked if the letter should include other entities, City Manager Conrad suggested including transit agencies and the County noting minimizing downtime on I-90 is in everyone's best interest.

Next the Council discussed tolling issues. City Manager Conrad explained that tolling on SR-520 will begin in the Spring of 2011 but that tolling on I-90 has not been approved by the state Legislature. He said that if traffic or revenue is found to be an issue in the SR-520 tolling studies, the Legislature may revisit the question of tolling I-90. He speculated on the future of regional tolling. He stated that the Council has agreed that they could open R8A as tolled or as hot-tolled lanes. Deputy Mayor Jahncke also pointed out the need to express opposition to tolling while there's no access to the center roadway.

Councilmember Cero stated that Mercer Islanders want free access or flat rate tolling on the I-90 bridges. Councilmembers Grausz and Grady stated that there's nothing to preclude Mercer Islanders from being tolled. Councilmember Grady suggested it is best to negotiate where the transponders are and to negotiate a fair price for the Islanders. City Manager Conrad said Mercer Island could try to negotiate a free toll, but that it would likely end up in litigation.

Councilmember Bassett asked about the off-ramps from the HOV lanes. City Manager Conrad said Sound Transit's preferred option is the same as what the City has suggested, the Island Crest Way option. However, FHWA regulations prohibit SOVs from using HOV exits. He illustrated that an SOV would have to exit the HOV lanes early,

cross several lanes of regular traffic and take the 77th street exit. The Deputy City Manager explained that this problem has been pointed out to the engineers. From the responses he has received, Deputy City Manager Mason suggested the need for policy-level intervention. Councilmember Bassett requested that staff sort this out and send a letter to Sound Transit to fix it.

The City Manager drew Council's attention to a City letter supporting METRO's regional Task Force recommendations. When asked why the City was involved in this, City Manager Conrad said that when METRO shrinks service hours it proposes to concentrate their hours of service where their ridership is the highest. He said based on that criterion, Route 302 will be preserved. That's important to the Island because when the schools cut bus service they channeled student riders to METRO Route 302.

On local transportation issues, Assistant City Engineer Tonella-Howe discussed a proposed timeline for Island Crest Way Resurfacing and signalized crossings at Island Crest Way and SE 42nd and SE 47th Streets. The crosswalks will be installed by June 2011 and the Island Crest overlay phase 1 (86th to 53rd) is proposed to be completed in 2012. Phase 2 work (40th to 86th) is proposed to be finished in 2014.

Agreements & Direction:

The City Manager asked Councilmembers to inform the staff on what project the Council wanted designed and to share their opinions on these projects. Councilmember Bassett suggested doing the resurfacing in two parts but striping all at once. Deputy Mayor Jahncke expressed concern about experimenting with one of the Island's main arterials, and Councilmember Cero concurred. Councilmember Grausz suggested getting all the project work done in one year to save money. Mayor Pearman asked the Council to support the timeline and approach proposed by the Deputy City Engineer. The Council concurred. Assistant City Engineer Tonella-Howe said that the Council will vote on bid authorization for the two signalized crossings at the February 7 Council meeting.

In response to an inquiry from the City Manager, Development Services Director Stewart said the designs for lighting at Town Center are moving through the Design Commission and he will provide a status report as soon as possible to the Council.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Cero, Maintenance Director Glenn Boettcher provided a map showing 2010 and 2011 pedestrian and bike plan projects. Ann described where signs have been installed. Councilmember Cero expressed his opinion that signs similar to those on 78th are not adding value to the road and Councilmember Grady agreed, saying that wayfinding signs are more effective and most cities are placing them now instead of share the road signs. Councilmember Grausz suggested the City commission a map of existing and proposed bike lanes and bike and pedestrian paths. Parks and Recreation Director Fletcher suggested that with a change of directors, it might be the right time to analyze the City's signage and consider other approaches for the future. Councilmember Grady volunteered to drive the Island and assess the signs, and encouraged other Councilmembers to do the same. Councilmember Grausz suggested directing staff to estimate the cost of the bike trail from 84th to Island Crest Way. The Council agreed to place that in the parking lot for review the next day.

COUNCIL TOPICS

- **Civil Infraction for Property Owners Where Underage Drinking Takes Place**

Councilmember Grausz received an email from one of his constituents explaining a Santa Cruz, California ordinance that levies a civil infraction on property owners where underage drinking takes place. He posed the question to City staff, "Can we do that?"

City Attorney Katie Knight explained the current State statute is a gross misdemeanor and the fine can be \$5,000 and punishable up to one year in jail. She said that a civil infraction, like the one in Santa Cruz, is often easier to prove in court (beyond a reasonable doubt). She cited examples of parents who used the common defense of not knowing the drinking was taking place in their home as a way to avoid penalty. She said a City ordinance can't conflict with RCWs protecting religious practices that allow minors to have alcohol. As for fines, City Attorney Knight recommended \$250-\$500.

Police Chief Ed Holmes explained that under current law you can't permit minors to drink on your property. But owners use the "we didn't permit this" defense to avoid punishment. He said a civil infraction is a tool for us to "deal down" to. He also opined that it would force a conversation between parents and teens about alcohol.

Youth and Family Services Director Cindy Goodwin supported this idea stating that kids believe their parents think its okay for them to drink. She went on to state that the city has made a commitment to address this issue and this is another useful tool.

The Council discussed underage drinking on Mercer Island, options used by other communities, and whether there is more drinking now than in the past. Cindy stated that drinking is different than in the past because teens are drinking to get drunk now and that alcoholism has become an 18-22 year-old binge drinkers disease.

Agreements & Direction:

Councilmember Grausz suggested putting this infraction and related research on the work plan and the Council concurred.

- **Solid Waste Services on Snow Days**

Deputy Mayor Jahncke asked what is the City's policy when snow days occur? He complained that, as a result of heavy snow on his recycling pickup day, service was cancelled and his recycling was not picked up for two weeks. City staff explained that the contract states if a collection is missed because of weather, they'll pick up on their next collection date (which, in the case of recyclables can be two weeks).

Councilmembers discussed language interpretations and contract vagueness. Maintenance Director Boettcher said that robo-calling was supposed to have taken place notifying residents when their garbage would be picked up but it appeared that it didn't happen.

Agreements & Direction:

The City Manager asked if the Council wanted to put this on their work plan and they said "no." However, the Council instructed Maintenance Director Boettcher to talk to Allied Waste and ensure they enforce the contract on snow days. They also asked for verification on the \$10 pick up fee for missed service. The Council also recommended that Allied communicate about service interruptions and alternate pickups on their website.

- **Island Crest Park Ball Field Turf**

Mayor Pearman described an offer from a group of Mercer Island residents to turf the in-field and outfields at Island Crest Field for the 2011 baseball season.

Councilmember Grady expressed concern about whether doing so would impact the impervious surface ordinances and the cost of having to replace the turf over time. Deputy Mayor Jahncke expressed budgetary concerns that this would divert time away from the Parks and Recreation Director's other obligations.

Mayor Pearman suggested putting this on a fast track and encouraged other Councilmembers to support this generous offer from local citizens, who were also PEAK donors.

Agreements & Direction:

Councilmember Grausz recommended that Parks and Recreation Director Fletcher meet with the group and explain that the City has no staff resources to devote to this project. He encouraged the group to make a proposal to the Council that includes hiring a consultant and developing a funding plan for long-term maintenance. The Council concurred.

- **Development Code Improvements**

The Development Services Director Stewart explained that the City's Design Commission has articulated 3 suggested changes to their mission:

1. That the City not send wireless telecommunication permits to the Design Commission. The Telecommunications Act restricts their authority and they suggested changing telecommunications permitting to an administrative process.
2. That minor design issues in the Town Center be handled administratively. Staff agreed with the Commission's assessment that the City is putting businesses through a great deal of process.
3. That they change their meeting start time from 7:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Agreements & Direction:

The Council agreed to consider the Design Commission's requests and added it to their work plan.

Next, Councilmember Bassett shared that in the course of redesigning his front yard, he found the city code does little to encourage homeowners to reduce the extent of impervious surface on their property. Director Tim Stewart noted that he sees room for improvement in the code. The Council was told that a change to this code would only affect existing housing and wouldn't allow for "mega houses." The Council agreed to add this issue to their work plan.

In response, Deputy Mayor Jahncke asked if the Council wanted examine housing scale on the work plan? The City Manager cautioned that this issue would involve a large process and that staff will be consumed with the shoreline master plan for the first half of the year. Mayor Pearman noted that since there is a lull in building this might be the right time to consider this issue. The Council agreed and it was added to their work plan.

- **Definition of Senior Citizen for Community Center Uses**

Deputy Mayor Jahncke stated that in the time of budget austerity, it doesn't make sense to subsidize adults ages 55-65. He stated that the City should concentrate and target senior dollars toward true senior users.

Agreements & Direction:

The Council agreed to add this issue to their work plan and the City Manager promised staff would research the issue and present their findings to the Senior Subcommittee before bringing it to the full council.

The planning session adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 23, 2011

FINANCIAL TOPICS

The Council session convened at 8:45 a.m. with Mayor Pearman welcoming everyone to the second day of the planning session.

Finance Director Chip Corder was introduced. He led the discussion of financial matters stating that there is a projected savings of \$1.2 million over what the City budgeted for the Sewer Lake Line Project. With that savings projected, he asked for Council guidance on how they wanted to fund the additional \$780,000 needed for the replacement of the First Hill Booster Pump Station. He suggested options like funding it through the savings, funding it through debt or some combination of scenarios. He noted that the decision needed to be made in February to keep the First Hill Water System project on track.

In response to Deputy Mayor Jahncke's request for information on the outstanding debt, Finance Director Corder said that at the end of 2010, the City had a \$15.7 million debt (the 10-year, \$6 million debt on Lake Line and a 20-year, \$9.7 million limited tax general bond). City Manager Conrad said the sewer rates will cover all Lake Line debt, and any rate increases will be driven by METRO and other CIP projects that need to be funded.

Finance Director Corder acknowledged the City's fiscally responsible approach of saving and paying for projects but that it was difficult to do that for projects over \$1 million. He also noted that bond rates are extremely low now, making it a good time to borrow if that's what the Council wanted to do to fund the First Hill Booster Pump Station and Water system. He also forecasted that those rates will likely rise before the end of the year.

The Council discussed options for the Lake Line project savings. Deputy Mayor Jahncke suggested putting that savings toward other utility projects. Councilmember Grausz noted that the interest rate on the debt for the Lake Line project is the lowest the City will probably ever receive. Mayor Pearman asked whether or not it was good policy to take sewer funds and put them into water projects.

Next, the Council and staff discussed budget practices, prioritizing repayment of the contingency fund, and their preferred percentage rates for the contingency fund, which ranged from 10-20% of the budget. Finance Director Corder defined the contingency fund as the “rainy day fund” and its use was for “unexpected major expenditures.”

Agreements & Direction:

Councilmember Grausz proposed allocating \$400,000 from the Lake Line savings to the First Hill Booster Pump Station and then borrowing \$380,000 for the additional cost. The Council concurred and recommended borrowing \$1.2 million for the First Hill Water System Improvement project as soon as possible to get lower interest rates.

City Manager Conrad inquired about a funding source for the \$35,000 parking and property consultant. Deputy Mayor Jahncke recommended using money from the contingency fund and the Council concurred. Councilmember Grady expressed concern about hiring consultants when the City is laying off in-house staff.

Finance Director Corder updated the Council on the status of the First Hill property sale. The LTGO Bond to construct the City’s emergency well was renegotiated and will mature in June 2013. While the City intends to sell the property at 2976 74th Avenue SE to pay off the bond, Finance Director Corder recommended putting off the sale until at least June of 2012 because of low real estate values. The Council concurred.

Finance Director Corder also briefed the Council on LEOFF 1 Retiree Costs. He said the City hasn’t paid a long-term care bill since 2005. There are presently 36 retired LEOFF 1 employees, and while the actuarial valuation of the liability is \$2.07 million, the City has accumulated \$913,108 toward funding this balance. He also said that the employees on LEOFF 1 are relatively young. The City is required to conduct an actuarial study.

Councilmember Grady expressed concern about the \$1.1 million shortfall and suggested the need to start a line-item component in the budget to replenish the shortage. Councilmember Cero concurred. Cero then recommended amending the 2012 budget to place a \$1,000 payment into the fund. The Council concurred.

After a break, the group reconvened to other Council Concerns.

OTHER COUNCIL CONCERNS

First, Councilmember Grausz described nine lots of undeveloped land adjacent to Pioneer Park that form the uplands of the Northstar Club. He said for another year and a half there are King County Futures matching grants available to preserve open space. While not suggesting any use of City money, Councilmember Grausz said private interests on the Island with the Trust for Public Lands might mount a campaign to purchase this land. *He recommended as a first step to talk to the Northstar Club to see if there is an interest in selling that portion of their property. The Council concurred.*

Councilmember Grady raised a concern that agendas are set at the end of each Council meeting and that the length of meetings are a problem, too. Mayor Pearman, after conferring with the City Attorney, stated that discussion items can be brought up, but action must be deferred to a future agenda. City Manager Conrad said he schedules four agenda items per meeting, and that everyone needs to help keep meetings on schedule. Mayor Pearman supported that and acknowledged that he didn’t like to cut off discussions but also encouraged the Council to help tighten up meetings and to stay on task and on time.

On the electric vehicle charging stations, the Deputy City Manager Mason updated the Council as follows: There are bids out for three locations on the Island (community center, PEAK parking lot, and at City Hall). He estimated that by late spring they will be installed. He went on and said there has been no word from Sound Transit about park and ride charging stations. Also, some charging station providers have approached commercial entities on the Island including QFC, Starbucks and U.S. Bank.

Regarding ordinances for electric vehicle charging stations, Development Services Director Stewart said the City allows Levels 1 and 2 charging stations under existing ordinances. The City wants to streamline these permits to an over the counter process. Level 3 permits are only allowed at commercial enterprises like gas stations. He said there would be a handout as well as information on the website about this form of permitting. Development Services Director Stewart also promised to inform the Council when the first charging station is permitted.

Councilmember Bassett updated the Council on sustainability activities. He said that the Carbon Challenge between the School Board and the City Council will be tallied in March and the winner will be announced. He said the Green Ribbon Committee will attend an upcoming Council meeting to launch a larger challenge after Earth Day inviting city, church/synagogue, school, and club participation on the Island.

Next, Councilmember Bassett raised the idea of allowing the school facilities meetings to be recorded and broadcast on MI-TV. The City Manager explained that the Council Chambers has the only recording/broadcast equipment, but the City policy prohibits other users of the Council Chambers. Mayor Pearman suggested the school district record with its own equipment and be allowed to broadcast it on MI-TV.

2011 WORK PLAN

As a result of discussions during the planning session, City Manager Conrad added new tasks to the work plan for 2011. The year's work areas include: I-90 (WSDOT/Sound Transit briefings and mitigation for mobility loss), Town Center (partnership opportunities and financing future public improvements), updating shoreline master program, Island Crest Way /Merrimount implementation, underage home drinking ordinance, Communities That Care, performance measures (dashboard report), Board/commission work plan review, First Hill booster pump project financing, Island Crest Ball Field turf project, City Code amendments (design commission, impervious surfaces, and mega house ordinance), Senior Citizen definition for programs/services, North Star open space acquisition program, and sustainability update.

In addition, with thumbs up, the Council agreed to add two parking lot items to this year's discussions: Port Kendal Apartment in Renton and ambulance sunset metrics.

The Mayor adjourned the planning session at 12:00 p.m.