AB 4476 Fire Station 92 Building Assessment Report

Fire Chief Chris Tubbs and Bryan Harris from TCA Architecture • Planning, presented a building assessment report and timeline for Fire Station 92 which detailed the assessment and analysis of the current station site relative to current zoning and the conditions of the existing building.

Discussion followed regarding the purpose of the station, potential increase in size, and associated costs. City Manager Conrad reminded Council that this item was originally planned for the Council's 2010 calendar, but was moved forward at their request, and that no conclusions or assumptions about size or building cost have been made.

It was moved by Councilmember Litzow; seconded by Councilmember Bassett to: Accept the findings and recommendations in this report, approve the preliminary project timeline and direct staff to return with a financing plan for 2010 design phases.

It was moved by Councilmember Cero; seconded by Deputy Mayor Jahncke to: Amend the main motion to read: Accept the findings and recommendations in this report, approve the preliminary project timeline and direct staff to return with a financing plan for 2010 building program phase. Motion passed 5-1 (Councilmember Litzow dissented).

Main motion passed 6-0.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Jahncke; seconded by Councilmember Cero to: Planning for a new south-end fire station be at the existing site. Motion passed 6-0.

AB 4478 Sewer Lake Line Construction Update

Deputy City Manager James Mason and Assistant City Engineer Anne Tonella-Howe provided an update on the Sewer Lake Line Project. They presented photos of dredging and trenching activities in Lake Washington as well as construction of a new Pump Station 4. Assistant City Engineer Tonella-Howe answered questions regarding the Pump Station No. 4 being built under I-90, when it will be completed and when the existing Pump Station No. 4 will be de-commissioned and removed. She explained that the control building is almost completed including a back-up generator. And as of October 1st, the Sewer Lake Line Project was 3 months ahead of schedule, and on budget. She also explained that the permit does not allow work in Lake Washington during the winter months, so the contractor will be focusing on work under the I-90 bridge. The remainder of the project will resume in July of 2010 with completion scheduled for October 2010.

AB 4480 Funding Fire Protection Costs in Water Utility (1st Reading)

Finance Director Chip Corder explained that a water utility tax needs to be implemented in order to fund about $70,000 in fire hydrant and suppression related costs that have been funded by water utility rates for decades. This funding change is a direct result of a recent State Supreme Court ruling (Lane vs. City of Seattle) which determined that fire hydrant and suppression related costs is a general government responsibility. This ruling impacts all municipal water utilities in the state. As a result, all such costs need to be funded by taxpayers in the General Fund rather than by ratepayers (via water utility rates) in the Water Utility Fund. In addition, a Utility Rate resolution will also be presented for Council approval at the November 16 meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Bassett; seconded by Councilmember Litzow to: Conduct first reading of proposed Ordinance No. 09C-13 and set it to November 16, 2009 for second reading and adoption. Motion passed 6-0.