

**CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS/STUDY SESSION MINUTES
February 8, 2011**

The Business/Study Session of the Monroe City Council was held on February 8, 2011, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robert Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Balk, Rodriguez, Cudaback, Tuttle, Stima, Williams, and Goering.

Staff present: Brazel, Feilberg, Quenzer, Nelson, Wright, Farrell, and Martinson.

City Attorney Zach Lell was not present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Zimmerman stated that the Jayme Biendl ceremony was very moving and encouraged people to try to watch the memorial on TV. Honor and sacrifice.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Adrian Taylor, 12621 Wagner Road, Monroe, thanked the mayor and Council for the Proclamation made last week for Janet Osborn. She couldn't have been more shocked and pleased. He asked Council to keep doing these kinds of things for citizens. Approximately 200 people had come to honor Janet on Saturday.

Mayor Zimmerman read into the record a letter from Scott Perry, owner of Canyon's. He and his employees support having a Walmart in Monroe to help jumpstart the economy. They invested in their restaurant here in 2003, believing that the new town center was imminent. He feels that, with Walmart investing in Monroe, other developers and investors will follow their lead. Walmart will bring thousands of new people to the community, who may have otherwise taken their business and dollars elsewhere.

Trevor Thompson, 15673 Lakeview Ave SE, Monroe, represents the Sky Valley Citizen's Alliance (SVCA). Their mission is to work with elected officials, developers and citizens to protect Monroe. They are opposed to a strip club in Monroe. Their intention is to let Council know they exist and propose an opportunity to work with the City to resolve some of the issues. They hope to hear from Council soon.

John Hobbs, 12318 108th Dr. SE, Monroe, has been a resident for 20 years and doesn't agree with the statement from Canyon's. He feels that many businesses will be driven under and the tax base will be lower. He is not in favor of having a Walmart in his home town.

Diane Elliott, 15550 174th Avenue SE, Monroe, read a letter into the record stating that she is against a Walmart in Monroe. She registers her displeasure with the elected officials and felt the citizens were being lied to about Walmart.

Rosie Tatel, 14969 174th Avenue SE, Monroe, is against Walmart and didn't like that Walmart spent money to get citizens' names. She is concerned with traffic and the new SR 522 off ramp and people trying to get to Walmart from there. Traffic concerns her, as her late husband was killed while riding his bicycle.

Harvey Tatel 14969 174th Avenue SE, Monroe, read a newspaper article from 4/28/1993. Barry (Rosie Tatel's late husband) wrote the article and was killed later that day riding his bike.

Rachel Tomlin, 21029 Calhoun Road, Monroe, is against Walmart. She doesn't like their low wages and businesses possibly being destroyed. She is concerned about the additional traffic it will bring.

Bridgett Edgar, 412 Anderson Lane, Gold Bar, urged Council to vote "No" on the site plan. Council had envisioned a town center. Those businesses are desperate for a town center, but won't be there if Walmart comes in.

Matt Bettilyon 18997 136th Place SE, Monroe, is with SVCA, and is against the sexually oriented business proposed in Monroe. He supports Council to make it harder for those types of businesses. They have reached out to many organizations and know there are at least 600 people who have signed petition against the strip club.

Susan Greene, 107 High Avenue, Sultan, is against Walmart and feels that it will destroy small businesses. She is concerned about the low wages and the factories that are used to produce Walmart's products.

Gilbert Chase and Stashka Lepera are representing MPAC (Monroe Preservation Action Committee) and are against having a Walmart in Monroe. There is still overwhelming support for the North Kelsey Sub-Area Plan. MPAC is still working on alternatives to preserve the vision and quality of life. They would like to present findings to Council in the next four weeks.

Dorothy Schroeder, 17193 Cambridge Street SE, Monroe, feels that the mailing from Walmart shows the inequity. She is concerned with the low pay and that Walmart had to put out a mailing to overcome citizen opposition.

Kerry Boone, 19921 Ravenwood Road SE, Monroe, is adding her support to the anti-strip club. She realizes Council is bound by laws and ordinances. She encouraged Council to tighten up those laws, to keep those businesses out of the community.

Belinda Barryhill, 13424 Prospector Ridge, Monroe, stated that they moved here because prices were lower. Then, they found out that Monroe DOC has one of the largest sex offender programs in the nation. She stated that strip clubs are known for causing problems for sex offenders and questioned whether the City could keep out strip clubs because of the impact on sex offender's recovery program.

Dawn Fiero, 16695 150th Street, loves Monroe and likes what she is seeing downtown. She doesn't feel that she is in tune with Council's vision any more. Walmart is giving her the idea that we are losing ourselves and losing our quality of life.

There were no Business and Action items on the agenda.

Mayor Zimmerman explained that there would be a five-minute break.

MEETING RECESSED FOR A FIVE-MINTUE BREAK: 7:55 p.m.
MEETING RECONVENED INTO STUDY SESSION: 8:03 p.m.

STUDY SESSION ITEMS

Comprehensive Plan Process

Associate Planner Wright gave an introduction explaining that Council had requested that staff bring back regulations that limit how frequently property owners or their representatives can request the same or substantially similar comprehensive plan amendments. Staff came back with recommendations and Council asked to check with City Attorney for ramifications. The savings in staff time and resources are key reasons to go forward. He explained the options and the additional changes the City Attorney had made.

After discussion, it was determined that this item would be pull from the February 15th Consent Agenda to discuss further at the March 1st meeting.

Amend 2011 Planning Program of Work

Associate Planner Wright gave a brief overview and explained that, with the reorganization of departments, it would be easier for planning staff to take on the Capital Facilities Element. The advantage is to look at them incrementally or annually and make small updates to expedite the completion of major revisions at the end of the plan's six-year cycle.

He explained the items that were added to the program of work, including Capital Facilities Plan Updates, North Kelsey Sign Code Amendment, and FEMA Model Ordinance.

After discussion, it was determined that staff should move forward with engineering and capital facilities. The capital facilities updates would need a public hearing with the Planning Commission; the sign code item requires further discussion and information.

Mixed-use Sign Regulations ZCA2010-03

Associate Planner Wright explained that Council had requested additional information on the proposed sign regulations for the proposed Mixed-use zones. There has been a cap on maximum signage. There are exceptions for highway-oriented signs in regards to sign height and surface area. He provided handouts to show examples of what a sign would look like with the proposed changes.

After discussion, it was determined that they would go forward with the process with the Planning Commission and a public hearing.

Amend MMC13.20/Utility Reimbursement Agreements

Operations Director Feilberg explained that the City of Monroe has a Utility Reimbursement Agreement available for homeowners to request reimbursement if they put in sewer and someone else hooks up to it. It currently goes out 10 years from completion of their sewer hook-up. Due to the economy, state law is allowing for 20 years. He also wants to clarify in the ordinance how the process is done and to clear up the language. He asked Council if they want to see all reimbursement requests, or have it handled administratively.

After Council discussion, there were no changes requested. The ordinance will come back for final action on March 1st.

Discussion: Rules & Procedures Related to Time Allowed/Citizen Comments

City Administrator Brazel explained that a lot of citizens have come to address council over the last few months. Council wished to discuss how much time to allow for citizen comments and options for handling timekeeping. Some cities use a timer to signal the end of a speaker's time.

There was no Council consensus for any changes at this time.

Department Reports

Finance Department: Finance Director Nelson explained that she included a paragraph about Real Estate Excise Tax and uses. She wants to include pertinent information for Council in her reports.

Parks Department: Parks & Recreation Director Farrell explained that there was another \$7,000 in damage during the January flood. The idea of using *Gateway to Adventure* for marketing Monroe was suggested by Mayor Zimmerman. Brochure dates will be corrected.

Engineering: Public Works Director Feilberg explained that the City had received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$126,000 for sidewalks on Kelsey Street and Powell Street.

Mayor Zimmerman stated that Fred Meyers management had appreciated working with the City on their gas station project; it was completed without any problems.

Information Technology Department: Dept. Manager Bremner stated that they are looking at ways to improve efficiencies throughout the departments. One is a water filling station project that helps them to bill the customers for water more quickly and reduces the incidence of errors. There is also fleet management software that will coordinate the maintenance of vehicle when needed, instead of being on a fixed schedule. They are looking at the Monroe Services Directory module, which lists businesses and various organizations in the City. They are still looking at options for outsourcing the Web site and have spoken to one vendor that caters to government. They are also working on the "New World" project for public safety.

Police Department: Chief Quenzer stated that they had gotten a grant for eight sector units (electronic ticketing), which scans license and registration and prints out the ticket.

It is transmitted electronically to courts, the Department of Licensing, and Olympia. It saves a lot of work for the courts and officers. The units cost \$700 per vehicles.

The investigation at the DOC includes the Snohomish County Sheriff's Department, Everett Police Department, the Washington State Patrol lab, and a photographer that specializes in alternate light source technology. They have received a lot of support from community, including meals provided by Cascade Community Church.

Council Legislative Committees: A. Rules and Procedures; B. Finance & HR Committee Minutes - 1/18/11 Meeting; C. Council Finance & Human Resource Committee Program of Work

City Administrator Brazel explained that he felt it was important to look at committee rules as they start the New Year. He brought to Council's attention Section A "Purpose" and items for committees to discuss. The Finance Committee has set a scope of work for Council review and will be scheduled for discussion later. He asked that Council schedule the committee meetings a week in advance, in order to post public notice.

Councilperson Balk asked Council to speak out about any concerns regarding their proposed agenda.

Council Consensus was to accept the Finance Committee's scope of work.

Draft Agenda/February 15, 2011 Council Business Meeting

City Administrator Brazel presented the agenda for February 15, 2011.

A date will be set later for the public hearing on the Site Plan for the North Kelsey/North parcel.

City Administrator Brazel would like to use the fourth Tuesday of the month to discuss Council goals and priorities.

Councilperson Cudaback stated that, before approving the site plan, she would like to see what the vision is for North Kelsey to see how Walmart will affect the South portion.

Mayor Zimmerman clarified that they would be discussing goals and priorities for 2012. As they work as an organization, it's important for staff to understand goals for 2012, to assure the budget is prepared appropriately.

Councilperson Stima stated that Wendy Becker had told him that there are funds available and that they need to file in October for next year. Director Farrell explained further, stating that the funds are from the County lodging tax. Their funds have been accumulating and they are working on a three- to five-year plan. Ms. Becker had explained some possible projects, including the flower pots on Main Street.

Mayor Zimmerman questioned Council about the date and format they would like for the goals discussion. The sooner it's finalized, the better for preparations for next year.

Councilperson Williams suggested that they review the North Kelsey plan on February 22nd.

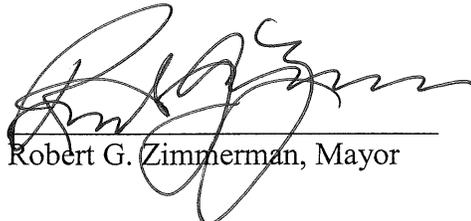
Mayor Zimmerman stated that Director Feilberg would print maps and materials with the North Kelsey plan detail and bullet points. Council needs to determine the format, function, and who should facilitate for goals planning on March 22nd. There are legal questions on goals and priorities that will be discussed in executive session.

Councilperson Williams would like to find out if the City could do a moratorium on strip clubs.

Councilperson Cudaback extended her congratulations to *Landa's Grill*, a restaurant in Monroe on 227th, which received the Snohomish County Health District's 2010 *Excellence Award* for following the health code.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:22 p.m.


Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk


Robert G. Zimmerman, Mayor