

**CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2011**

The Business Meeting of the Monroe City Council was held on February 15, 2011, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robert Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

It was noted that Councilpersons Goering and Stima would both be arriving late.

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

City Attorney Zach Lell was also present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Zimmerman explained that he would be changing the agenda, to hold the joint meeting between Council and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and DREAM first.

JOINT MEETING

Joint Meeting with Monroe Chamber of Commerce and DREAM

Mayor Zimmerman explained the purpose of the joint meeting was to bring attention to downtown. Newer Council members will have a better understanding of where we've been and the Chamber's and DREAM's perspective and how Council might move forward to help.

Attending the joint meeting were Kim Probst, Monroe Chamber of Commerce General Operations Manager, Lynn Gose, President of DREAM (and owner of Christy's Vintage Vault), and Vickie Mullen, former Board member of DREAM.

Vickie Mullen explained about the DREAM organization and their goals, including implementation of the Sub-area Plan as soon as possible. They would like to see the "way-finding" signs put back up, which were removed for construction of SR522. She would like Council to review the Sub-area Plan, which shows traffic issues and flow from North Kelsey, and would like the parking issues to be addressed.

Mayor Zimmerman explained that council would be discussing goals and priorities session in the next few weeks and encouraged them to let Council know what their concerns and wishes were.

Ms. Probst stated that parking has been at the top of the list, as there are daily problems with parking.

Ms. Mullen explained that they need a paid director to go to the next tier. Usually, it would be paid one-third by the City, one-third by others, and also a possible B&O tax. A downtown director would work as the focal point for downtown, the facade, etc. Volunteers can't accomplish what a director could accomplish.

Ms. Grose explained some events that they are working on, including the Farmers' Market and "Spring Into Monroe". Additional events that might come to Monroe are the Monster Truck show, and NASCAR has an interest if Lewis Street lights can be coordinated. They have also worked on the Tri-Monroe and Pro Wakeboard programs. A new restaurant is going in where the Sailfish was located and the Hitching Post has been sold. They have had 45 visitors from Australia (high school program) who want to know about day trips. There have also been visitors from England and Scotland.

There was an exchange of ideas for the parking problem and getting more people to come downtown. Concern was expressed about the flowers and plants along Main Street. Mayor Zimmerman assured them that there would be flowers and that the inmates at the DOC were working on new a crop.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mayor Zimmerman noted that there would be a review of the North Kelsey plan the following week.

Scott Perry, Canyon's Restaurant, is pro-Walmart and pro business. He is disappointed that the town center was never developed. Business suffered from economy and lack of development. He is very pro-Walmart and feels it will bring business into town.

Louis Whilden, 11517 36th Ave NE, Seattle, distributed a handout from the Angeles Commission, pushing for national banking reforms. They would like to set up meetings with Council, to fight Washington and break from lobbyists.

Councilperson Goering arrived at 7:52 p.m.

Ken Morikawa, 11517 36th Ave E., Seattle, also spoke about the banking system and problems budget cuts are creating for cities. They are recruiting people for a fight to give Americans options and to take a historical stand on this issue.

Carolyn Hoeker, 13807 250th Ave SE, Monroe, supports a Walmart in Monroe. Selections are becoming limited and she has to go out of town to shop. As a resident and consumer in Monroe, she wants to see Walmart come to Monroe.

Jane Kelly, 864 Village Way, Monroe, supports Walmart because of their prices. She showed the lower prices on several products from Walmart compared to the higher prices at Fred Meyer. Walmart carries many American-made products. Other stores carry brands not made in the USA, too. With a Walmart in town, she wouldn't have to go out of town to shop.

Beth Bretthaver, 19930 SR2 #20, approves of Walmart, as she is unemployed and they would provide jobs.

Terry Norwood, 323 S. Madison Monroe, supports Walmart in Monroe, she is retired and on Social Security. Fred Meyer needs the competition and Monroe needs the revenue for police. Please vote for Walmart.

Sherry Dougherty Blansett, 326 Lewis Avenue, Gold Bar, WA, supports Walmart in Monroe. Cars going through town now are going elsewhere to be able to shop at Walmart.

Jim Kamp 17507 155th Street SE, Monroe, read a letter into the record for Donna Harvey, 117 Stone Ridge Drive, Snohomish, who had to leave the meeting. She is in support of Walmart and feels that Walmart will provide employment opportunities. They hire many kinds of people, even older people. People need to be able to purchase affordable prescriptions. Walmart also donates to food banks, schools, and local charities.

Mayor Zimmerman explained that he isn't reading letters into the record, in order to eliminate any appearance of bias.

After Council discussion of the pros and cons of reading letters into the record, it was determined that further discussion would occur at time of reviewing Council's Rules and Procedures at another meeting.

Allen Stewart, 8211 186th Dr. SE, had to leave, but left a letter for the record. He supports Walmart, as it will increase Monroe's tax base. They will hire 300 people, giving citizens out of work a chance at a local job. It will act as a magnet and bring shoppers to Monroe. Loyal shoppers will still support the local small businesses.

Glenn Eaton, 13910 Kellogg Lake Road, Sultan, doesn't understand all the vitriolic feelings about Walmart. It's the American dream for a little guy to build a big business. He knows someone who works there and likes his job; it's a good company to work for. Walmart is a legal business and there is no reason that they shouldn't be allowed in town to compete with other stores.

Diane Elliott, 15550 174th Avenue, SE, Monroe, is against Walmart. Their stock was downgraded and a South African company is buying shares. She wondered how many employees will be full-time. She questioned all of the restrictions made by Lowe's. She feels that the City should renegotiate the CC&Rs with Lowe's, to allow more businesses in North Kelsey.

Rosie Tatel, 14969 174th Ave SE, Monroe, questions whether the 300 jobs Walmart would bring are part-time or full-time. She is concerned that they will eventually turn it into a Superstore. She is concerned about traffic getting worse and home values going down.

David Damkaer, 21318 195th Avenue SE, Monroe, stated that he is against Walmart and feels that they have destroyed one historic town after another. He doesn't like their low pay and benefits and the state having to cover healthcare costs of Walmart employees. He also doesn't like that they buy goods from China.

Sandy Beasley, 324 S. Madison, supports Walmart, and has family members who work there. Her sister has health care, medical, dental, 401k, and sick leave. Part-time employees get benefits on pro-rated basis. Walmart will be a positive for the town and supply revenue. She would rather spend her Walmart dollars in town. She stated that she also supports red light cameras.

Wayne Stafford, 22004 149th Place SE, Monroe, is a capitalist and in favor of a company that comes and jumps through hoops. His brother's wife works for Walmart and it's a good job. He is in favor of Walmart.

Vicki Mullen, 10312 210th St. SE Snohomish, supports the approval of the Walmart Site Plan and Development Agreement. She feels they will be a positive impact to city. Council needs to honor the contract and to treat them like any other business. Downtown can succeed with Walmart. Businesses have left North Kelsey because of vacant land. Council should support commerce, support the economy and jobs; even part-time is fine.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda item #7 was pulled.

The motion was made by Councilperson Rodriguez and seconded by Councilperson Goering to approve Consent Agenda items #1-#6.

Motion Carried 6/0.

Councilperson Stima arrived at 9:03 p.m.

After discussion about Consent Agenda #7 (Ordinance Amending Business License Regulations), the motion was made by Councilperson Rodriguez and seconded by Councilperson Goering, to approve the ordinance amending business license regulation, to include changing the second reference to "administer" in the "Administration" section to "manage". On vote,

Motion carried 6/1.

Councilperson Cudaback was opposed.

Items approved: 1A) December 7, 2010 Business Meeting Minutes; 1B) December 14, 2010 Study Session Minutes; 1C) January 11, 2011 Study Session Minutes; 2) Bills (Vouchers #078736 – 078855, in the amount of \$524,781.33; 3) Accept Public Works Project/DOC and Reservoir #1 Painting and Begin the 45-Day Lien Period; 4) Adopt Resolution #2011/005 Declaring Wedeco and Resolution #2011/006 Declaring Huber as the Sole Source Suppliers for the WWTP Phase III Project; 5) Authorize Mayor to Sign Supplier Agreement/Wedeco/UV Disinfection Equipment System/WWTP Phase III

Improvements; 6) Authorization to Solicit Bids/Hill Street Reconstruction; 7) Ordinance Amending Business License Regulations.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilperson Balk reported that the Library Board met and that Library use is up, as well as more items being checked out. There are concerns about the community park being reserved in North Kelsey and when it would be built. They want to know what events are occurring, so they can take advantage.

The Finance Committee met, with only Councilperson Balk in attendance along with staff. Staff will prepare an ordinance to be reviewed about reserves.

Councilperson Cudaback reported that the Health District passed an ordinance to encourage cities to have developers of multi-family housing implement no smoking laws. Tobacco use is still a leading cause of death. It is also cheaper to clean units with no smoking.

Councilperson Stima asked if there was any way to preemptively state that we don't want a ban on plastic bags, as it infringes on our rights. City Attorney Lell stated that it depends on the wording of the law and if they want to pre-empt and no local jurisdiction can adopt something to the contrary.

Mayor Zimmerman suggested that Council could come to a consensus and send a letter of support or non-support.

Councilperson Goering stated that the Legislative Affairs Committee would discuss it at their next meeting.

MAYOR/ ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORTS

Draft Agenda/February 22, 2011/Council Study Session

City Administrator Brazel presented the draft agenda for February 22, 2011.

Mayor Zimmerman explained that there was a need to go into executive session for approximately 10 minutes for purposes of discussing potential litigation. City Attorney Lell referenced RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and stated that there would be no action following the executive session.

MEETING RECESSED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:16 p.m.

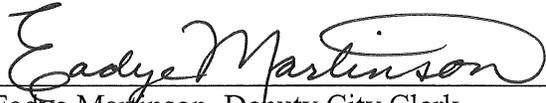
EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS EXTENDED

MEETING RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION: 9:34 p.m.

There being no further business, the motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Cudaback to adjourn the meeting. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:35 p.m.


Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk


Robert G. Zimmerman, Mayor