

**CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
October 9, 2012**

The Study Session of the Monroe City Council was held on October 9, 2012, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Pro-Tempore Goering called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Goering, Cudaback, Kamp, Davis, Gamble, and Hanford.

Mayor Robert Zimmerman was absent (ill).

Councilperson Williams was absent (ill).

Staff present: Brazel, Feilberg, Warthan, Nelson, Quenzer, Farrell, Sax, Popelka, and Martinson.

City Attorney Zach Lell was not present.

City Attorney Scott Snyder was present for the Executive Session (pertaining to collective bargaining).

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

Tod Johnson, PO Box 549, Carnation, WA, requested a water evaporation allowance for the Monroe Laundromat. He cited facts about water evaporation for Laundromats. They are asking for a 5% allowance for the projected water evaporation. (This matter is on the agenda for Council discussion later tonight).

**BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. Executive Session: Pertaining to Collective Bargaining**

Mayor Pro-Tempore Goering explained that there was a need for an executive session related to collective bargaining (pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a)). City Attorney Snyder explained that collective bargaining discussions are not considered a public meeting. The executive session was expected to last approximately 30 minutes.

MEETING RECESSED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:06 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS EXTENDED

MEETING RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION: 7:55 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. Public Hearing on Revenue Sources for 2013, Including Consideration of Possible Property Tax Increases**

Finance Director Nelson explained that this is a housekeeping item allowing the

citizens to give input to the Council regarding revenue sources for 2013.

Mayor Zimmerman opened the public testimony portion of the public hearing.

No citizens wished to testify on this topic.

The motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback and seconded by Councilperson Hanford, to close the citizen testimony portion of the public hearing. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

The motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback and seconded by Councilperson Gamble, to close the public hearing. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

## **STUDY SESSION**

### **1. Preliminary 2013 Budget Presentation**

Finance Director Nelson explained that this is just the formal announcement that the 2013 Preliminary Budget is available for review. A presentation and discussions will take place in November.

After a question, Economic Development Manager Sax explained about the City's participation in the Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ).

### **2. Presentation on Property Tax Levy Information**

Finance Director Nelson gave a brief overview explaining how the Property Tax Levy for 2013 will work for the City. The levy is the total amount of taxes received by the City each year. This amount is set by Council annually via an ordinance. She explained property tax levy formula and gave examples.

Director Nelson asked Council to determine whether or not they will adopt the 1% property tax increase. Council requested that she bring back two ordinances; one with the property tax increase and one without.

### **3. Introduction: ZCA 2012-01 North Kelsey Design Guidelines Update**

Planning & Permit Manager Popelka gave an overview of the changes to the North Kelsey Design Guidelines, explaining that the 2003 guidelines for North Kelsey no longer fit that area. The proposed changes disconnect the parts that are no longer relevant. Architectural and landscape standards will remain in the guidelines.

Economic Development Manager Sax recommended moving forward as scheduled, due to a large project was coming into Monroe that may be affected by a delay in the ordinance.

After discussion, it was determined that the first reading would be pushed out to October 23, 2012. Since the public hearing is on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Planning Commission meeting, there wouldn't be enough time for Council review.

#### **4. Discussion: Sewer Rates for Laundromats**

Public Works Director Feilberg explained that he had received a request from the owner of the Monroe Laundromat to consider a reduction in his sewer rate, due to the water that evaporates in the dryers. The savings to the owner would be approximately \$600 per year. The question is whether to set up a different rate class for laundromats. The owners received a special rate for their laundromat in Carnation. The Department of Corrections is the only other account in the City with a separately calculated sewer rate.

After discussion, Council consensus was to have staff look into this matter further.

#### **5. Introduction: Transfer of Franchise from Black Rock Cable to Wave Division Holdings**

City Administrator Brazel explained that Wave Division Holdings was acquiring Black Rock Cable and would be looking to either transfer the current Cable Franchise Agreement or to apply for a new Telecom Franchise Agreement. Their preference is to apply for a Telecom Franchise Agreement.

Councilperson Gamble commented that a change from a local video franchise to a telecom franchise could have implications to the City from a revenue perspective.

#### **6. Department/Councilmember Reports**

Public Works Director Feilberg reported that they are working on the US 2/Main Street/Old Owens project and that the traffic signal cycles will be affected for a while, with traffic back-ups resulting.

Parks & Recreation Director Farrell noted that the members of the Church of the Latter Day Saints were a tremendous help in cleaning up the landscaping on Tjerne Place during the National Day of Service. A "Thank You" letter from Mayor Zimmerman was sent to them in acknowledgement.

Councilperson Kamp reported that there may be a quorum of Councilmembers at the Planning Commission meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Deputy Clerk will send a notice to the newspapers.

Councilperson Gamble reported that the Sky Valley Advisory Board has increased visibility of the Everett Community College Campus in Monroe.

Councilperson Goering reported on the *Citizen Academy*; it is well-worth the time.

**7. Draft Agenda for October 16, 2012**

City Administrator Brazel presented the draft agenda for October 16, 2012.

The ordinance for North Kelsey Guidelines was moved from the October 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

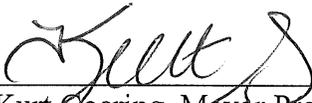
Councilperson Cudaback asked what the specific complaint was for New Business item #2 on the October 16<sup>th</sup> Council agenda (*To Receive & Evaluate Complaints or Charges Brought Against a Public Officer or Employee*). City Administrator Brazel explained that it was potentially for confidential information and information from an executive session that she had divulged through her Facebook page.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried 7/0.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:58 p.m.

  
Kurt Goering, Mayor Pro-Tempore

  
Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk