

**REDMOND CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION**

March 23, 2010

Mayor

John Marchione

Members of the Council

Richard Cole, Council President
Pat Vache, Council Vice-president
Kim Allen
David Carson
Hank Margeson
Hank Myers
John Stilin

Staff

Jane Christenson, Deputy City Administrator
Mike Bailey, Finance and IS Director
Malisa Files, Financial Planning Manager
Ron Grant, Deputy Public Works Director
Kristi Wilson, Police Commander
Tom Norton, Deputy Fire Chief
Joe McGrath, Senior Financial Analyst
Anisha Hathiramani, Senior Financial Analyst
Kelley Cochran, Public Works Management Analyst
Scott Thomasson, Water/Wastewater Engineering
Manager
Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, City Clerk

MEETING SUMMARY

Convened: 7:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 10:31 p.m.

Council President Richard Cole opened the meeting and reviewed the items for discussion on the agenda, noting that the first item of business, “Legislative Update”, would be rescheduled to a future date, as the Legislature is still in session.

Water Rates, “Lane v. Seattle”

Ms. Kelley Cochran, Public Works Management Analyst, and Mr. Scott Thomasson, Water/Wastewater Engineering Manager, provided a report to the Mayor and Members of the Council regarding suggested action that the City of Redmond may take in order to respond to the recent legal requirements associated with “*Lane v. Seattle*” with regard to water rates. Mr. Ed Cebron, of the FCS Group, assisted staff in the presentation.

It was noted that the decision in “*Lane v. Seattle*” mandates that fire protection cannot be included in water rates. The courts have said that it is legal to offset the cost impact with an increase in utility tax. The State Auditor is reviewing entities to ensure they are responding in some manner to the court ruling in “*Lane v. Seattle*”.

Members of the Council:

- discussed policy approach questions with staff and the consultant;
- indicated that they would like to see data regarding the impact of private fire protection systems with the proposed billing changes; and
- supported staff’s recommendations to –

- use the 'most common' analytical approach to allocation fire protection costs to the general fund;
- implement the rate change with the 2011/12 biennial budget, with no prior-year adjustments; the primary interest is setting rates to prospectively comply with the decision;
- create a utility tax on the City's utility to respond to the cost of providing fire protection
- not impose separate charges for private fire protection systems at this time.

Staff noted that the next steps of the issue include:

- completing development of utility tax alternatives;
- developing 2011/12 water and wastewater operating budgets and 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Programs;
- completing Phase II of the rate study to update water and wastewater rates for the 2011/12 biennial budget.

Public Safety Overtime Report

Mr. Mike Bailey, Finance and Information Services Director, and Ms. Malisa Files, Financial Planning Manager, provided a presentation to the Mayor and Members of the Council regarding the status of overtime at the City of Redmond.

The summary of the overtime presented is as follows:

- 86 percent of citywide overtime expenditures are attributable to public safety;
- public safety overtime expenditures equals 93 percent of general overtime (includes levy funds);
- citywide overtime costs decreased 16 percent in 2009 from prior year;
- overtime hours have decreased by 26 percent since 2006 in Fire and 31 percent in Police;
- an overall reduction over four years = Fire, 35 percent; Police, 44 percent;
- major contributions to overtime include:
 - staffing model;
 - contractual issues;
 - Fire specific;
 - sick and family leave
 - off duty injury
 - Police specific;
 - case completion
 - field training
 - 911 communications center
- management efforts to reduce overtime;
 - Fire
 - instituted Fire Management Plan
 - union collaboration helping to create qualified depth
 - reviewed injuries and accidents to take corrective measures
 - continued use of personal protective equipment
 - Police
 - managed staffing shortages and leave time requests

- scrutinized training requests
- continued to work on dispatch overtime related to FLSA

Members of the Council thanked staff for the information presented and for their efforts in managing overtime.

Council Talk Time

Mayor Marchione and Members of the Council discussed:

- the Council group photo;
- the report of the March Public Administration and Finance Committee meeting (provided by Councilmember Margeson);
- the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses interested in sending a letter to the Sound Transit Board requesting the preferred alignment of light rail in the 151st corridor;
- a high level overview that will be given by the Cascadia Group and GNP Railway at the next Council study session and the current status of the BNSF corridor acquisition; and
- the status of the Council Chamber microphones.