

**REDMOND CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION SUMMARY**

November 22, 2011

**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  
Jon Spangler, Natural Resources Engineering Manager  
Carolyn Hope, Senior Parks Planner  
Don Cairns, Transportation Engineering Manager  
Rob Odle, Planning and Community Development  
Director  
Deb Farris, Code Enforcement Officer  
Michelle M. McGehee, MMC, City Clerk

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Convened: 7:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:58 p.m.

**SESSION SUMMARY**

Councilmember Cole called the meeting to order and overviewed the agenda.

**Stormwater Infiltration Assessments**

Councilmember Vache hosted the discussion, noting that Deputy City Administrator, Jane Christenson, would be providing the staff report.

Ms. Christenson reported:

- a team of representatives are present this evening to provide an update on the status of the Wellhead Protection Program's stormwater infiltration assessment process; Mr. Doug Levy, facilitator; Mr. Jon Spangler, representing the City's Public Works Department; Ms. Judy Jewell and Mr. Chuck Mosier, representing the business community were all in attendance;
- during the process a series of concerns have been raised; and
- the group is still working toward addressing those concerns and discussing possible modifications to the program based on resolution of those concerns.

Mr. Jon Spangler, Natural Resources Engineering Manager, provided an update of the program efforts to-date.

Mr. Doug Levy, Facilitator, spoke regarding the recent discussions and meetings held with the stakeholders group to discuss concerns/modifications.

Ms. Judy Jewell and Mr. Chuck Mosier reported regarding the business community's perspective and concerns; main concerns related to what they believe to be overly stringent City regulations, unanswered scientific questions with regards to infiltration, and property vesting rights.

Ms. Christenson concluded the presentation by stating that all parties have negotiated in good faith and that any further discussions regarding potential modifications is premature at this time until the threshold questions are answered. She noted that City staff has been working with the business representatives' geologist to address questions the City had with respect to his report and findings. The parties are recommending a neutral third-party to review the questions of science at this time in order to identify steps to move forward with potential modifications to make a program that works for everyone.

Members of the Council discussed:

- the threshold questions at issue;
- securing a third-party scientist in order to secure a neutral opinion with regards to the science questions outstanding;
- whether or not the City has sufficient data to show the aquifers are in danger of contamination;
- having more information by the end of the year to further address the outstanding threshold questions or vested rights and treatment/modifications of facilities;
- continuing the conversation during the period of discovery with regards to risk to the water system and business impact;
- health and safety issues overriding vested rights;
- how infiltration levels are determined; and
- checking back with the Members of the Council as the process progresses.

*(The study session recessed at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:42 p.m.)*

### **Parks and Transportation Proposed Funding Measure/Survey and Public Outreach Approach**

Ms. Carolyn Hope, Senior Parks Planner, in conjunction with a representative from EMC Research, and Mr. Don Cairns, Public Works Transportation Engineering Manager, provided a report to the Mayor and Members of the Council regarding:

- the vision of Redmond;
- population trends;
- parks and transportation plans;
- parks outreach;
- community desires – parks;
- level of service needs - parks;
- key project priorities – parks;
- Transportation Master Plan (TMP) outreach;
- community desires – transportation;
- level of service needs – transportation;
- key priority projects – transportation;
- capital revenue sources;

- City revenues declining;
- unmet revenue needs;
- funding approach;
- potential new funding sources;
- steps to a voter approved ballot measure;
- 2011 Resident Focus Groups draft summary of findings;
- conducting a statistically valid survey to validate public support of a ballot measure and to identify community desires;
- Redmond taxes in comparison to other jurisdictions; and
- Next Steps – survey in January; preliminary recommendations in February; public outreach in March; final recommendations in April; and Council action in May or June 2012.

Discussion ensued regarding community needs and support of a bond measure; timing of holding an election on the issue; and the cost of conducting a statistically valid survey. Members of the Council agreed to move forward with securing a survey.

### **A-Frame Signs**

Councilmember Allen hosted the discussion, noting the issue was recently triggered by an ombudsman complaint received.

Mr. Rob Odle, Planning and Community Development Director, spoke regarding current sign regulations, alternatives to the current regulations, location and number of signs increasing in Redmond; and safety issues brought up as a result of these signs.

Ms. Deb Farris, Code Enforcement Officer, provided an overview of the sign ordinance in the City of Redmond and discussed possible alternatives to the regulations.

Members of the Council discussed:

- concerns of increased staff work if a permitting process or increased enforcement occurs;
- alternatives preferred by each member;
- signs serving the purposes of providing information;
- whether or not public space (rights-of-way) is an appropriate place for commercial advertising;
- enhanced enforcement;
- possible penalties in areas that are ADA accessible;
- permitting signs by use of a sticker; and
- the possible use of volunteers in the enforcement effort.

Mr. Odle stated that staff would come back to Council with a proposal for enhanced enforcement within the budget and after the first of the year. Six months after that, a report on the enhanced enforcement in order to gauge any change will be provided to the Council.

## **Council Talk Time**

Councilmember Cole noted that the City's swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected officials has been scheduled for December 20, 2011, and separately for Councilmember Myers on December 27, 2011.

Councilmember Cole also reminded members to register for the January Association of Washington Cities upcoming conference in Olympia.