



## CITY COUNCIL

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**Mayor's Roundtable**  
**September 10, 2007**  
**Monday, 6:30 P.M.**

**Special Meeting/Study Session**  
**Monday, 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Asay called the special meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilmembers Beaudry, Borek, Heddlesten, Neal, and Whalen. Councilmembers Drotz and Sirack were absent.

### **SPECIAL MEETING:**

#### **AB07-105 Consultant Contract for Design Standards – Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings:**

The City seeks to engage its on-call planning consultant to assist Citizen Advisory Committees with the creation of local design standards.

Councilmember Whalen asked who the "Makers" are, as stated in the Scope of Work. Director Terrell answered that "Makers" is a consulting firm who specializes specifically in design standards. Director Terrell will provide information on a similar, like-type city from which this firm assisted in design standards.

Councilmember Heddlesten asked a question regarding the Citizen Advisory Committee meetings. Mayor Asay clarified that there will be 5-6 meetings held with the contractors and there will be 3 groups that will be meeting during each meeting. Mayor Asay stated that everyone will meet together in council chambers and then disperse into their 3 groups. Councilmember Heddlesten also commented, when the concept was originally brought to council, he thought it meant design standards Citywide. Mayor Asay answered that it was staff's understanding that specific areas need to be discussed. It will be a listening time: listening to citizens comment on what they want neighborhoods to look like in the City.

Councilmember Beaudry stated that these meetings are what the citizens asked for – to get ideas and involvement from the citizens in regards to what they want the City to look like.

Councilmember Whalen asked a clarifying question regarding the anticipation for renegotiation in 2008. Mayor Asay stated that this agreement is the City's standard

consultant agreement; if the City comes up with design standards, in order to make the standards code, we would have to contract with them to help move from the vision to the law.

Councilmember Borek moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the consultant contract with BHC Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$28,000 for consultant services. Councilmember Beaudry seconded.

Councilmember Whalen asked if this item had been budgeted for in the 2007 Budget. Director Terrell stated that it had been.

*Leonard Sanderson, 1201 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ct.*, asked what the concept is of the Citizen Advisory Committee meetings and how they relate to the meetings that were held last fall. Interim City Administrator Carter answered by saying that there were 5 areas that were originally considered – Meridian, Surprise Lake, the tip of Triangle Park, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and environmentally sensitive areas – one of the concepts taken from the fall meetings is that design standards are needed.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Asay called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilmember Beaudry moved to adjourn the special meeting at 7:14 P.M. Councilmember Borek seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **STUDY ITEMS:**

Mayor Asay called the Study Session to order at 7:14 P.M.; the same five councilmembers were present.

#### **AB07-106 Planning Commission – Term of Office:**

Councilmembers discussed changing the term of office for Planning Commission members.

Councilmember Heddlesten shared that he thinks 3 years is too short and not an adequate amount of time for a commissioner to get up to speed; he wouldn't be apposed to a 5 year term.

Mayor Asay stated that Staff did some research and Planning Commissioner terms in 22 nearby cities is 3-5 years.

Councilmember Whalen asked if anyone has had a discussion with past or present Planning Commissioners. He stated that he has had conversations with a couple Planning Commissioners and has found that, in order for them to get up to speed, it would take more than 3 years. He shared that he values history with people. He also stated that a comment was made at a previous council meeting that there are Planning Commissioners that don't have the best interest of the City.

Mayor Asay clarified that the discussion is regarding the length of office and not specific people.

Councilmember Borek shared that he thinks it would be advantageous for the citizens to have the terms shortened. Mayor Asay stated that Councilmember Whalen can talk with Councilmember Borek at another time to receive clarification.

Councilmember Neal clarified how staggering the terms would work.

Councilmember Whalen continued by talking about disbanding the current commission on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Asay stated that she would be appointing by November 1<sup>st</sup>; it would be her hope that council would approve the positions at the beginning of November so that the commission could continue business at the regularly scheduled meeting. It would also be her hope that those currently on the Planning Commission would reapply.

Mayor Asay stated that several people have talked to her about the Planning Commission terms, but they're not willing to commit to a six year term.

Councilmember Beaudry stated that this discussion is only to talk about the length of the terms – not to talk about who will or won't be reappointed. He agrees that it takes a while to get up to speed, however, he thinks a 6-year term is too long.

Councilmember Heddlesten asked if the City has ever had a shortage of commissioners. He's not in favor of disbanding the current Planning Commission. He stated that every commissioner needs to be evaluated: how long they've served, how much longer they have left in their term, and stagger them. He reiterated that he doesn't support the idea of changing the 6-year term to 3-years. Heddlesten stated that we should only be compared to cities that are comparable to Milton's size.

Mayor Asay opened the floor for public comment:

*Cyndi Baker, 401 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. Pl.*, former Planning Commission member, shared that the councilmember behind this issue has never served on the Planning Commission – that's why it's very important to hear from past and present Planning Commissioners. A 3 year term is not long enough. She clarified that appointments would still come before council. She disagrees with disbanding the commission.

*Dean Hersee, 1708 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.*, he directed his question to Ms. Baker: how many hours a month are we talking about? Ms. Baker commented that it's once a month, approximately 3 hour meetings, and approximately 3 hours of research a month.

*Ed Weinbrecht, 1508 Hemlock St.*, was on the Planning Commission for over 30 years; a Planning Commission member has the right to recommend different things and different feelings. A person can resign at any time.

*Diane Tomaso, 1709 Milton Way*, former Planning Commissioner of the City of Orting, stated council needs to listen to the citizen's views on this issue.

*Leonard Sanderson, 1201 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ct.*, spent 10 years on the Planning Commission – it does take a considerable time to get up to speed – quite a bit to learn and apply. He doesn't see a benefit to shortening the length of the term. He strongly opposed a 3-year term.

*Sally Wasmund, 1804 13<sup>th</sup> Ave.*, shared that she is against changes in Milton. She thinks there is dishonesty and that people have hidden agendas.

*David Chapman, 1200 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ct.*, stated he hasn't heard one good reason why this proposal should be considered – it's not going to work. The Planning Commission is sometimes easier to talk to than the City Council.

**AB07-107 Jovita Realignment Interlocal Agreement:**

Director Neal stated that the City had received a grant for the realignment of Jovita Blvd. As previously reported to Council, the Cities of Edgewood and Milton were awarded a Transportation Improvement Board grant to design and construct the Jovita Blvd. Realignment project.

In preparation for the cooperative effort of this large project, Dave Lorenzen, Edgewood's Public Works Director, and Director Neal thought it advisable to have an interlocal agreement. The agreement that was presented to Council was prepared by Edgewood's city attorney and has been reviewed and approved by Milton's city attorney.

Councilmember Beaudry asked if Director Neal agreed with the agreement. Director Neal stated that she agrees with the interlocal agreement; it protects Milton's interests and she sees no reason to change any items of it significantly.

Council did not express any objection in regards to this agreement coming back to Council at a regular meeting for approval.

**AB07-108 Mayor Asay's Items for Discussion:**

Mayor Asay requested discussion on the following items: Council Committees and how the Council wishes to proceed, Director's Reports, and Finance Director Gayla Gjertsen's comments at the August Study Session.

**Council Committees:**

Councilmember Borek stated that he's in favor of them.

Councilmember Heddlesten is in favor of the committees as long as they don't rotate. Having standing committees will be more beneficial.

Councilmember Beaudry stated that there has to be a commitment by all councilmembers to attend their assigned committees.

Councilmember Neal stated that he's in favor of having committees and enjoyed rotating – it was beneficial learning about every department.

Councilmember Whalen stated that he's in favor of Council Committees. He would rather see standing committees; he insisted on having committee reports. Each committee needs to share the information they've obtained with the entire council. He commented that there needs to be enough time for councilmembers to settle in and figure out what's going on in the departments. He thinks six months is about the minimum needed to get up to speed.

Councilmember Borek stated that six months or one year is too long to be on a standing committee.

Councilmembers continued to discuss their expectations for Council Committees.

Mayor Asay recessed the meeting for approximately 5 minutes at 8:07 P.M.  
Mayor Asay reconvened the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Councilmember Beaudry stated that committees should be used for gaining information, not for making decisions.

Council had no comments regarding Director's Reports, and Finance Director Gayla Gjertsen's comments at the August Study Session.

**AB07-109 Provisional Police Officer Position:**

Chief Rhoads stated that, in the 2007 Budget, there were 12 authorized positions: Police Chief, Administrative Assistant, and 10 Officers. Currently, due to short staffing, the Police Department is filling a full time slot with an 11<sup>th</sup> provisional Officer. Officer Gregory Dahm was hired in July and was mandated to attend the Academy. The Department was able to get Officer Dahm into the Academy at an early date. He has been and will be at the Academy until November 1, 2007, after which he'll be assigned to a FTO/PTO. The period of FTO is approximately 14 weeks.

While Officer Dahm is unavailable for normal duty shifts, the Department has been using the services of a provisional officer. The shift that is being filled by that officer is one of the 7 mandatory coverage shifts. If the provisional officer is laid off, due to being over the allowed FTE's included in the Budget, then the shift would have to be filled by overtime of existing employees. The current overtime budget is overspent and, with staffing for vacation time factored in, there would be on the average 52 hours a week to be filled by overtime.

Councilmember Beaudry asked if this would be budgeted for in next year's budget. He stated that, when we put someone through the Academy, as soon as they're out, they leave the City. He's looking for some kind of obligation on their part that says they will stay with the City after going through the Academy. Chief Rhoads agreed. Chief stated that currently there is a real shortage of qualified candidates applying for Police Officer positions.

Councilmember Whalen asked about the status of the Police Department budget. Chief Rhoads stated that the budget, excluding the overtime portion, is in good standing and no adjustments are needed at this time.

Councilmember Heddlesten asked clarifying questions regarding overtime and benefits. Chief Rhoads addressed his questions.

Councilmember Neal asked how long the Academy lasts; Chief Rhoads stated that the Academy is a 19 week course.

Chief Rhoads stated that the Police Department has longevity pay through the guild.

**AB07-110 Development Standards:**

Council was asked to consider amending the Planning Commission's Work Plan – to have them study more flexible development standards for properties desiring to develop.

Interim City Administrator Carter stated that this is just a concept. It would authorize the Planning Commission to start working on development standards – different from design standards.

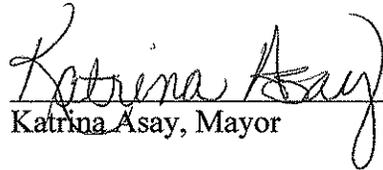
Councilmember Beaudry stated that, if the council sends this back to the Planning Commission, it will give them the opportunity to share their opinion regarding this issue.

Councilmember Whalen requested a new Planning Commission Work Plan schedule.

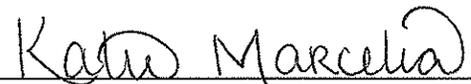
Mayor Asay reminded council of the Trijurisdictional meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

  
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Katrina Asay, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Katie Marcelia, Deputy City Clerk