



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Study Session
Monday – May 12, 2014
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Perry called the special meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Perry, Councilmembers Whalen, Ott, Morton, Manley, and Zaroudny

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, Councilmember Jones

STAFF PRESENT

Interim City Administrator Langford, Public Works Director Neal, City Clerk Bolam, electric staff members Dick Bronson and Jarrod Lee

ACTION ITEMS

A. Meet with Electrical Staff

Director Neal introduced staff members Dick Bronson and Jarrod Lee. Mr. Bronson explained the handout showing systems upgrade schedule, and gave a brief history of Milton's electric utility. He shared the reasons that power seldom goes out in Milton, even when it does in surrounding communities. Mr. Lee thanked the city for the opportunity to enter the apprenticeship program; he finds it very interesting and fulfilling.

Future things for Council to be aware of include:

- Workforce demands – Estimates says that in the next 7-10 years, 50% of the workforce will be retiring. In Milton's utility, that is accurate. Maintain good training program and work for retention of good people as the market gets more competitive.
- Tacoma infrastructure rising and the time will come when they can't meet our needs. No real alternatives at this time.
 - Director Neal said that Council has already taken the first step by approving the update to the electric utility plan and rate study.

- Regarding the purchase of the substation – BPA is willing to sell because they want out of the distribution business.
- To avoid losing the utility, most important action is to watch the budget, maintain the equipment well, and look for ways to be cost-effective.

Mayor Perry announced that Item C will be next to allow audience members to leave.

7:55 – meeting recessed

8:00 – called back to order

B. Sterling Heights

Mayor Perry introduced Mike Rutter and Jim Reno, members of Sterling Heights' HOA. They explained the background of their request for the closure of Birch Court at 27th Ave, which includes a spike in criminal activity and the possibility of a drug house. They propose to close the street for one year after school ends this year as a test run.

Mayor Perry assured the neighborhood that Council cares, as evidenced by the Mayor and police attending the HOA meeting, putting the situation on the council's agenda, and considering this very drastic action. Council will need a petition from the full home ownership, with those against the idea including the reasons for being against.

Mr. Rutter and Mr. Reno exited the meeting.

Director Neal provided presentation information, explaining this would be a closure of a public street. Emergency responders are not opposed to the idea, but are concerned regarding overflow parking. Any approved closure, even as a test, would need to be more than just concrete blocks – it should be permanently closed, with curb/gutter/sidewalk extended. Traffic load and safety is a concern.

Interim Chief Langford spoke to the importance of reporting crimes. The police have offered to sit down with the HOA to consider actual crime load. There has been a much bigger police presence in the neighborhood lately. Experience with street closure in Tacoma; the problems cited are not something likely to be impacted by a street closure. Sergeant Hume spoke to arrests made in the neighborhood; it's not so much that the access off Birch is a concern – it's the criminal intent of friends of homeowners.

Council expressed concern over starting a precedent and attempting to create a gated community; they discussed the unlikelihood that this would solve the problem, on-street parking, possibility of removal of stop signs on 27th, speed bumps, neighborhood crime program, lighting.

Consensus is to not close the street, but to consider ways to help the residents.

C. Amending Access Tract Code

Planner Larson explained this item is to clarify a conflict within the Milton Municipal Code. He explained how maximum density and minimum lot size are equal, and the conflict lies within the definitions, giving opposite direction with regard to access

corridors. He explained the proposed actions to resolve the conflicts, and showed examples on a drawing board.

The ordinance is the structure of the 2012 Planning Commission, with one clarification noted.

Council expressed concern that it will increase density. Staff showed that it will not increase density when it relates to single family development in the single family zone.

D. Introduction to Information Technology (IT) Needs

Interim City Administrator Langford introduced this item – the packet item was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. This is only an introduction to the subject. Mayor Perry explained that staff's recommendation is for a full-time employee, and explained more thoroughly the various options. Sergeant Hume added information from the staff committee meeting and explained the police department side.

Council requested additional information for all the peripheral costs over and above a person or contract to fix and maintain the IT structure.

10:08 recess

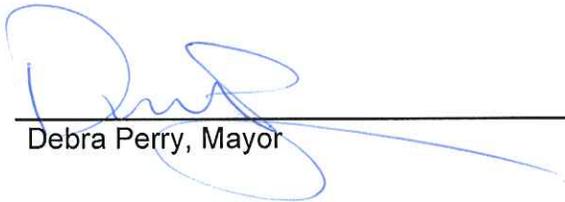
10:12 back to order

E. Comprehensive Plan & Uptown Design Standards

Director Neal asked council to clarify what prevented this action from going forward at the last meeting. Council identified the threat of lawsuit, clarification and validity of the Wallace points, and the misunderstanding regarding the summary document that was included. Mayor Perry asked for this to come back to the next Study Session for final understanding.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 10:30 p.m.



Debra Perry, Mayor

ATTEST:



Katie Bolam, City Clerk