

COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting June 17, 2003

Mayor Kenneth J. Kilroy called the regular meeting of the Sammamish City Council to order at 7:30 pm.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Kenneth J. Kilroy, Deputy Mayor Ron Haworth, Councilmembers Jack Barry, Don Gerend, Kathleen Huckabay, Michele Petitti and Troy Romero.

Staff present: City Manager Ben Yazici, Director of Administrative Services/Assistant City Manager Pete Butkus, Director of Public Works/Assistant City Manager John Cunningham, Director of Community Development Ray Gilmore, Parks Manager Jeff Watling, City Attorney Bruce Disend, Administrative Assistant Stacy Herman and Clerk Melonie Anderson.

Roll Call/Pledge

Roll was called. Cub Scout Troop #695 led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Huckabay moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Petitti seconded. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Presentations/Proclamations

➤ **Sammi Awards**

Dawn Sanders, Chairperson of the Sammi Awards gave a short presentation covering the history of the Sammi Awards and plans for the future. She thanked the City Council for their financial support. The presentation of awards will occur on the 1st or 2nd weekend in March at Skyline High School.

➤ **Survey of Community Opinion**

Dr. Gary L. Peterson made the presentation. The goal of the survey was to gauge community opinion on a broad range of current topics. The survey was conducted on May 13 and 14th 2003. Every neighborhood in the city was included in the survey. 1,400 calls were made, of which 429 valid surveys were completed. This is a very good ratio. The complete report is available upon request or by visiting the City's website. He highlighted some of the results:

- 80% of residents feel Sammamish is a better place to live since incorporation
- 75% of residents believe the city is headed on the right track
- 68% of residents agree that good progress is being made on improving our roads
- 75% of residents agree the city is making good progress in acquiring open space

80% agree that the city needs to build more ball fields.
90% of residents support the moratorium on growth
73% of residents are satisfied with the City leadership

Overall the positive results of this survey are unusually high, showing that most residents are quite happy with the City and way it is being run. Two areas that need improvement are traffic and trails. City Manager Ben Yazici said the next survey would concentrate on safety and retail development within the City.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Public Safety Committee (Councilmember Gerend):* King County made a presentation to Suburban Cities to explain proposed increase in rates for garbage haulers. City Manager Ben Yazici said he does not feel that the County will be able to use the increase to add to the general fund balance. He also attended an Eastside Transportation Partnership meeting. King County Councilmembers Rob McKenna and David Irons gave an update on transportation issues.
- *Finance Committee (Councilmember Barry):* The committee met tonight. They were introduced to the new Finance Analyst, Aaron Antin. They discussed the proposed amendments to the 2003 Salary Schedule and recommend approval. The Financial Report for May is good. There is \$47 million in the City's investment portfolio.
- *Community Development Committee (Councilmember Huckabay):* No Report.
- *Public Works Committee (Councilmember Petitti):* No Report.
- *Legislative Committee (Councilmember Romero):* No Report.
- *Mayor Report:* No Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Corinna D. Harn, King County Judge, Southwest District, 601 SW 149th Street, Burien, She spoke regarding court services and on behalf of the District Court, they really want to continue to provide court services. She encouraged the city to continue negotiating with the County to develop a long-term court services contract.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Claims for period ending June 17, 2003 in the amount of \$693,589.75 for Check No 7977 through Check No. 8089

Payroll for pay period ending May 30, 2003 for pay date June 5, 2003 in the amount of \$136,864.57.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Haworth moved to approve the consent calendar. Councilmember Gerend seconded. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Public Hearing

Relating To Land Use And Zoning, Amending Ordinance No. 2003-120, To Extend A Moratorium On The Filing Of Applications For Development Permits And Approvals, Within The Corporate Limits Of The City Of Sammamish.

Community Development Director Ray Gilmore gave the staff report. This ordinance will extend the moratorium until February 2003.

Mayor Kilroy declared the public hearing opened at 8:20 pm.

Public Comment

James Jordan, No address given. He spoke in favor of extending the moratorium. He thanked the Councilmembers for all the work they have done. He also was grateful for the bus service. He advised Council that the continued extension of the moratorium would help the City to plan for development before it happens.

Public Hearing Closed at 8:30 pm.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Ordinance: First Reading relating to land use and zoning, amending Ordinance No.2003-120, to extend a moratorium on the filing of Applications for development permits and approvals, within the corporate limits of the City of Sammamish

Mr. Gilmore gave the staff report. No action is requested. This is the first reading of the ordinance. The current schedule for the comprehensive plan calls for adoption before the end of this extension. The second reading is scheduled for July 1.

Deputy Mayor Haworth pointed out that appeals to the comprehensive plan would delay the adoption of the plan past the February date.

Resolution: New Salary Schedule

Administrative Services Director/Assistant City Manager Pete Butkus gave the staff report. In an effort to retain competent staff, it is important to have competitive wages. A salary study was conducted using the surrounding cities of Bellevue, Redmond and Issaquah. Only positions that were 5% below surrounding cities were recommended for increase. As a result of the study, 12 positions are being recommended for an increase. The financial impact would be less \$24,000 for this year and less than \$56,000 for 2004.

Councilmember Romero questioned whether other cities are freezing wages and/or laying off employees. In this time of recession, is it necessary to increase wages? Mr. Butkus said none of the surrounding cities are laying off employees.

Councilmember Gerend pointed out that the overall financial impact is small and projected revenue is up. He is in support of the resolution.

Mr. Yazici reminded Council that Sammamish has the lowest employee to population ratio in the state. He urged Council to adopt the resolution.

Councilmember Huckabay pointed out that this is a reclassification of employees, not pay raises.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Haworth moved to approve the resolution amending the 2003/2004 salary schedule. Councilmember Gerend seconded. Motioned passed unanimously 7-0 (R2003-145).

City Manager Report

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax – Sammamish received \$400,000 thanks to efforts of the Council and Senator Dino Rossi. This is the second largest award. This is a tax equity issue and Mr. Yazici will continue to push for the City's share of the sales tax. Since Sammamish is a sales tax equalization city, we will have a member on the negotiating team.

On July 3 Mr. Yazici will meet with the Secretary of Transportation along with the Redmond Mayor regarding the schedule for improvements to the SR202. The funds are in place. A start date of 2006 is not acceptable. He has some solutions to offer to accelerate the process. Redmond is very supportive of this effort. Sammamish is making headway in gaining regional influence. Mayor Kilroy has been a driving force behind funding this project.

On Wednesday June 25, 2003 the Council will hold a joint meeting with Redmond City Council.

The Sammamish Commons Open House was held on June 14. Most attending supported the development concept for the park chosen by the City Council. The hope is that the lower park can be completed before the beginning of construction for City Hall. There were some suggestions that this might be a good place for ball fields. Staff will study this idea and present more information to Council. He asked direction from Council on the location of the skateboard park. After some discussion it was agreed that the skate park would be located between City Hall and 228th Avenue SE as far north as possible. The site would also include a climbing wall and a half basketball court.

Councilmember Romero advocated for locating the skate park somewhere on the upper portion of the Sammamish Commons where it will be easily accessible and easy to supervise. He would, however, support the skate in any location that everyone could agree on.

Deputy Mayor Haworth thought the skate park should be located to the west of the City Hall and not on 228th Avenue.

Councilmember Gerend thinks the skate park should be located as far from Arbor school as possible, along 228th Avenue so it will be open and well lit.

Councilmember Petitti wants it as far from the Arbor School as possible.

Councilmember Huckabay concurred with locating it away from the Arbor School but along 228th Avenue.

Mayor Kilroy thinks a skateboard park located near the City Hall will detract from the professional atmosphere of the City Hall.

The final decision was to build a skate board park, climbing wall and half court basketball court as far as possible from Arbors School, closer to 228th Avenue between the City Hall and 228th Avenue SE.

District Court issues currently have no financial impact to the city. If the city is required to run its own municipal court it will be a very expensive undertaking. Current law does not allow a court outside of city boundaries. None of the surrounding cities have enough court cases to justify their own court. Legislative action will be needed before Sammamish could join with surrounding cities for municipal services. Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager John Cunningham gave a report on the negotiations currently underway with King County. Our contract for courts services will expire at the end of 2004. All affected cities are meeting to develop alternatives, options, extension of contract, and several other topics. The biggest obstacle to negotiating a new contract with King County is that every city has the right to invoke binding arbitration once negotiations begin. The County would be willing to negotiate if the cities temporarily agree to waive the right to invoke binding arbitration. Mr. Cunningham was seeking Council approval to agree to these terms so negotiation can begin. Mr. Cunningham explained the reason the City has not already invoked binding arbitration is because both sides would probably lose some control of the situation to the mediator.

MOTION: Councilmember Huckabay moved to authorize the City Manager to sign a letter waiving the right to invoke binding arbitration for a specified period of time during negotiations with King County for court services and extending the time period for the current contract for continued court services agreement. Councilmember Petitti seconded. Motioned carried unanimously 7-0.

The comprehensive plan schedule will be discussed at the next study session.

The Sammamish Rotary wants to have a banner with their logo on it. It is very similar to the City logo. Mr. Yazici wanted to make sure it was acceptable to the Council if they use this logo.

Deputy Mayor Haworth attended the Sammamish Commons Open House. He said that many people who attended the open house express the desire to retain the homes currently on the property. Mr. Yazici said that the homes would be expensive to retrofit for public use. Mr. Yazici said staff would look at options for preserving the homes.

Adjournment – Mayor Kilroy adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.

Melonie Anderson, City Clerk

Kenneth J. Kilroy, Mayor