

**CITY OF LAKE STEVENS  
CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Lake Stevens School District Educational Service Center (Admin. Bldg.)  
12309 22<sup>nd</sup> Street N.E. Lake Stevens

CALL TO ORDER: 6:33 p.m. by Mayor John Spencer

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Councilmembers Kim Daughtry, Kurt Hilt, Todd Welch, Rauchel McDaniel, Kathy Holder, Marcus Tageant

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Interim City Administrator Mary Swenson, Finance Director/City Clerk Barb Stevens, Community Development Director Russ Wright, Public Works Director Mick Monken, Police Chief John Dyer, Human Resources Director Steve Edin, Deputy City Clerk Kathy Pugh and City Attorney Grant Weed

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Mayor Spencer opened the Workshop meeting and said that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to begin a discussion on whether City Hall will stay in the downtown area or move to the Chapel Hill property.

Community Development Director Russ Wright commented that the City needs to make a decision on where to site the new city hall so other important decisions can be made. He reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of siting the new city hall in the vicinity of the current location, known as Downtown Lake Stevens vs. siting the new facility in the area of Chapel Hill, where the new library facilities and police department buildings are anticipated to be built.

The decision on siting of the new city hall affects how the City will move forward in establishing the new city hall and other municipal buildings and services. Director Wright reviewed a Decision Statement matrix that contains an analysis of suggested objectives in selecting a new site, together with a district-level analysis of the two proposed sites.

Discussion ensued with Councilmember McDaniel commenting that the City's Downtown Subarea consultant has consistently recommended that city hall should be located in the downtown and act as an anchor, and that there needs to be time for public input. She added that this recommendation is not reflected in the analysis in the staff report provided to Council and further, that the City did pay the consultant \$250,000 for their input and recommendations. Councilmember McDaniel also expressed concern that a decision to site City Hall at the Chapel Hill location is being encouraged in part to assist the Library with passage of its bonds in February. She strongly encouraged waiting to see if the Library bonds pass in February before making any decisions on where to site city hall and that a decision on siting should not be made this evening.

Mayor Spencer suggested there also needs to be a conversation about whether the City should be part of the subarea planning.

Councilmember Welch commented that transportation availability needs to be considered, and that most transportation goes to the Chapel Hill area now. He also suggested that City Hall is more available online, and that in-person visits are becoming less necessary.

Councilmember Holder said the city needs a good, functional community center, or a convention center. She added that people go downtown for recreation, and if there is a larger park area with amenities, more people will come to the downtown area.


Discussion ensued regarding possible uses for the current city property.

Councilmember Tageant would like to receive more public comment and to make sure that the Council is making a good decision.

Councilmember Hilt agreed with Councilmember McDaniel's concerns. He views the vision as moving the City's administrative function to Chapel Hill and developing the downtown area with cultural amenities.

Mayor Spencer commented that there can be more time for the decision, and also that the downtown plan does not hinge entirely on where City Hall is located.

The Workshop meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

  
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John Spencer, Mayor

  
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Kathy Pugh, Deputy City Clerk