

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

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

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

CALL TO ORDER: 5:59 p.m. by Mayor John Spencer

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Councilmembers Kim Daughtry, Gary Petershagen, Kurt Hilt, Rauchel McDaniel, Kathy Holder and Todd Welch

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Marcus Tageant

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Finance Director/City Clerk Barb Stevens, Community Development Director Russ Wright, Police Commander Jeff Beazizo, Ron Brooks, PW Director Eric Durpos, Economic Development Coordinator Jeanie Ashe, Deputy City Clerk Kathy Pugh

OTHERS: Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers and Lacy Harper, Manager of External Affairs

Mayor Spencer called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. and Councilmembers introduced themselves.

Executive Somers introduced himself and shared his background. Before becoming County Executive, he previously served on the County Council. Executive Somers shared an historical perspective of his experience with Highway 9 from his early career days, including commuting from Kirkland to the Verlot Ranger Station.

Executive Somers commented that Snohomish County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, and he does not expect growth to abate. This is a blessing, with some downsides, including traffic. Executive Somers has a long-term interest of doing the best we can with land use planning. He noted that he and Mayor Spencer are working together on land use planning with Snohomish County Tomorrow (SCT). Executive Somers commented on the County's comprehensive plan which was recently completed, and noted some areas are already hitting their growth targets.

Executive Somers believes it is important to begin conversation now between the cities and the county on how to handle the future population growth that is coming. He shared that he become president of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) in the spring of 2017, which is a regional council that also has a regional vision plan, Vision 2040. PSRC is going to be updating Vision 2040 over the next couple of years, and Executive Somers said there is a lot of interest in the region in taking a fresh look at this plan, and as a subset, he wants to talk about what Snohomish County wants to do and what it wants to see in the future.

Executive Somers said SCT held a workshop approximately two months ago that was very well attended where there was a lot of positive energy and interest in addressing the issues facing the county. SCT wants to begin now to look at Vision 2040, what the regional strategy is, and

how Snohomish County wants to handle growth. Snohomish County is expecting another 200,000 people in the next twenty years. The last time this plan was visited, Snohomish County followed the regional plan, but Snohomish County has higher than projected growth rates. Executive Somers believes it is important to plan now for the increased population, and the growth that is happening. He believes every City Council and every City Councilmember should be part of the conversation on planning for the future. PSRC will begin scoping the regional discussion of Vision 2040 in January, which will be a two-year process.

Executive Somers said he is going through his budget process and reviewed aspects of his budget proposal and what the County Council is considering. He noted the Long Range Planning Department was staffed at 48 people prior to the recession, and is currently staffed at 11 people. The criminal justice departments seem to absorb a lot of the budget, at 76% of the general fund budget.

Executive Somers commented on the U.S. 2 Trestle discussions and the creative discussions on finding relief and upgrades for the Trestle at a faster pace than the State may be able to provide. All of the options are conceptual at this time.

Executive Somers next commented on the opioid epidemic and said that it affects all parts of Snohomish County. He noted the vote on the criminal justice sales tax that would have provided some additional resources to assist with homelessness and opioid addiction issues failed by a small margin. He believes cities and the county will need to work collaboratively to align resources and address these issues, and explained a model for coordinating efforts.

Executive Somers reported that commercial air service at Paine Field is on track to begin in the summer of 2018. Construction is underway for the terminal and Alaska Airlines and United are queued up to provide service, with other airlines also interested in providing service. The terminal capacity will be 24 flights per day, with 12 flights in and 12 flights out.

Responding to Mayor Spencer's question regarding a buildable lands report, Executive Somers said the state has hired a consultant, and he anticipates there will be attempts at changing the state law. Everett has a zoned capacity to absorb population growth at 60,000, and there is a lot of pressure to expand the south county urban growth boundaries. Executive Somers noted the south county area is more suburban in nature, with no sidewalks and low-grade county service levels. Executive Somers commented that taxation of low density residential areas does not support services to those areas. He noted that cities rely on sales tax, but the county really does not have that, and the goal is to make sure that the county and cities accommodate growth as best as possible.

Executive Somers agreed with Councilmember Daughtry's comments that the SCT member cities need to be involved with the Vision 2040 process, and also reaching out to SCC as those councilmembers are active in regional issues. Executive Somers also agreed that a partnership between SCT and SCC would be beneficial.

Mayor Spencer suggested it would be interesting to find out from citizens what drives the concerns on growth vs. no growth. Mayor Spencer believes the driving force is the traffic, or the lack of parks, or other things that citizens value as community resources.

Councilmember Welch responded that as a commuter, he believes the commute traffic is the problem. He said it is not only the Trestle, but the main arterials are inadequate and not built to

current capacity needs. Councilmember Welch also commented there is not a plan in place for increasing arterial road capacity.

Executive Somers agreed with Councilmember Welch's comments, and noted there is no funding at the state level for road improvement of state-owned roadways in rural areas, such as SR 524 east of Lynnwood. SR 524 was previously owned by the county and taken over by the state; if the county took SR 524 back, the county could charge mitigation fees for roadway improvement that the state does not charge.

Councilmember Welch asked if Sound Transit fees and taxes are directed to one project and deter support of the voters for other projects, and suggested that people do not want to live in Everett.

Executive Somers responded that things change over time, and that if there are good job opportunities and residential development, there is the possibility of drawing people into cities such as Everett.

Councilmember Holder commented that Everett has so much potential with the waterfront, views and downtown area.

Councilmember Hilt asked about the estimated economic impact to the region with the opening of the regional airport at Paine Field, and how does that change estimated growth projections.

Executive Somers responded he does not know the answers, but that there was a "weak" economic analysis completed by the FAA when they did the federal environmental impact statement. Executive Somers does not believe the airport will change the growth trend significantly, but it will solidify the county's ability to hold and retain companies, and maybe bring in some new companies. It will be important to compare capacity vs. demand.

Commenting in Arlington's airport, in response to Councilmember Welch's question, Executive Somers said that there has not been investment in Arlington's airport in years. Concerns regarding the Arlington Airport for commercial use include the length and lack of quality of the runway.

Councilmember Welch is looking for ways to make this area a better area for businesses. He noted that businesses such as REI and Expedia are not relocating north. Executive Somers responded that the PSRC recently completed a process that will designate the Arlington Airport area as a manufacturing industrial center under the regional plan, making it eligible for federal dollars to assist with transportation infrastructure.

Turning to local issues, Mayor Spencer commented on Cavelero Park and said that the momentum to design and develop the park has faded. He noted the county will invest more funds than originally promised, and the City will be investing a lot more than originally promised, and the state money is still there. The City would like to see this project moved forward. Mayor Spencer commented that in the bigger picture the City would like to be viewed as an area for sporting events. Mayor Spencer commented on the Lake Stevens Community Park and said the City would like to work with the County to make that a bigger park. Mayor Spencer said the City wants to drive the idea that the Lake Stevens downtown area is really well suited for people to visit while using the Centennial Trail, to have bicycle events begin and end in Lake Stevens and to have more soccer and lacrosse fields. He noted that the City just acquired the park at

Frontier Heights, and this will benefit the neighborhood. Mayor Spencer said maybe there are partnerships with the county here.

Councilmember McDaniel said that promises have been made about Cavelero Park and there is a need to follow through.

Mayor Spencer then commented on the future annexation of the area between Snohomish and Lake Stevens at the U.S. 2 / Highway 9 intersection. He said there are a lot of ways to view how this intersection is developed, or not developed, but he does not believe a big box store, fast food or gas station should be sited at that intersection, and there is not a need to compete with neighboring cities' retail. Mayor Spencer believes this needs to be discussed. Executive Somers agreed that a conversation needs to take place.

Mayor Spencer added that Lake Stevens has a budding industrial area and that a discussion about industrial land needs to take place.

Executive Somers commented on the county's economic development office and said it has been restructured, with nine sectors identified. One of the sectors is Recreation and Tourism, and Tom Teigen is the lead for this sector. He noted that the regions beauty and recreational opportunities attract tourism and he will check with Mr. Teigen regarding Cavelero Park.

Mayor Spencer said that the city's Economic Development Coordinator, Jeanie Ashe, and Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Jim Haugen are the point people for the city for parks and tourism. He added that the park has a lot of community support, and that an indoor sporting facility at Cavelero Park would be great.

Councilmember Welch said it would be unfortunate to lose the community excitement for the Cavelero Park development.


Executive Somers suggested that next year it might be appropriate to have a joint meeting with the County, Lake Stevens and City of Snohomish.

Mayor Spencer commented on the opioid issue and said that the city formed a Veterans Commission to provide services to veterans in the community. One of their missions will be to create a center in the city that can provide services to veterans who need assistance, whether it is getting a job, counseling or addiction therapy.

Executive Somers said it would be helpful to know what the Snohomish Health District is doing, so that the city can determine what it needs to do, and to avoid duplication of efforts.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57. p.m.



John Spencer, Mayor



Kathy Pugh, Deputy City Clerk