



# CITY OF EAST WENATCHEE

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Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 23, 2017, 5:30 PM  
Location: Council Chambers

Members attending included Mayor Steve Lacy, Councilmembers Jerrilea Crawford and Wayne Barnhart, and Finance Director Nick Gerde. Committee Member Councilman Harry Raab was absent. Also attending were Teresa Allen, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, City Engineer Greg Pezoldt and Community Development Director Lori Barnett.

The meeting began on time at 5:30 PM. A meeting agenda with attached discussion materials had been distributed prior to the meeting. Mayor Lacy welcomed new Councilmember and Committee Member Jerrilea Crawford. After some brief informal discussion, the following business was conducted.

City Engineer, Greg Pezoldt, had provided a Public Works Equipment Inventory, including the item, model year, mileage when applicable, and condition, with specific comments about problems or needs. In addition, a schedule of five equipment/vehicles for "Replacement Priority" with approximate replacement cost for each. Two pieces have been budgeted in 2017. This specific equipment and the overall need for replacement of much of the equipment in Public Works were discussed.

Committee Consensus:

Expand the funding of the EPM&R Fund to provide more sufficient annual access by all City Departments for replacement of vehicles and equipment to meet their department's needs. Preparation and planning would occur in 2017 for implementation for the 2018 budget.

City Engineer Pezoldt then introduced a discussion of the scaled down capital investment proposal for the Public Works replacement of facilities

on the City campus. In addition, he indicated that he had inquired about the possible availability of the Douglas County public works area on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Discussion followed.

Committee Consensus:

- A. Confirm the availability of the Douglas County property as soon as practicable, with the assumption that it may be the most favorable option for satisfying the City Public Works long-term needs.
- B. If so, plan for a Council Workshop to consider funding and fulfillment of the needs of Public Works.

City Engineer Pezoldt then introduced a discussion of the landscaping scheme and needs for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Roundabout Project. The nature of landscaping choices was discussed. The City's choice to enter into an agreement with WSDOT to enable the City to develop and maintain the landscaped areas was discussed.

Committee Consensus:

- A. Pursue the agreement with WSDOT on the understanding that City development and maintenance would be advantageous for the long term quality and appearance to that entrance to the City.
- B. One concern by the Mayor was to design with the goal of minimizing maintenance costs.
- C. An addition goal was to enable a city theme or identifier in the landscaped area or areas.
- D. Work towards developing a specific landscaping proposal for Council consideration.

City Engineer Pezoldt briefly discussed a sales tax issue/dispute with the construction company that built the VMP Parking Lot project. The dispute involves a contract stipulation that was not followed by the contractor, identified during a subsequent audit by the Department of Revenue. The City Attorney has provided guidance for discussions the City will have with Revenue to resolve this issue.

Councilmember Barnhart brought up the issue of the need for Council Workshops to discuss and consider the choices such as the Public Works facility needs and the landscaping issue. Mayor Lacy agreed that some of the issues discussed in Budget Committee meetings might be more efficiently dealt with in a workshop setting. Discussion of the concept and

how some other local jurisdictions schedule and use the Council Workshop alternative followed.

Committee Consensus:

- A. Discuss the workshop issue with Council for the purpose of reaching consensus on the need for regular workshops in addition to the current Council Meeting schedule.
- B. A ready alternative for 2017 may be to convert the current Budget Committee calendar and schedule for Council Workshops. Budget related issues could conveniently be integrated into either the Workshop or Council Meeting environment.

Mayor Lacy reviewed the current list of budget amendments and provided additional information as the basis for their need.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM. Respectively submitted.



Nick Gerde  
Finance Director