



**City of  
Wenatchee**

**WENATCHEE CITY COUNCIL  
Special MEETING**

**August 5, 2010**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance:**

<b>Mayor Dennis Johnson</b>	Executive Services Director Allison Williams
<b>Councilmember Jim Bailey</b>	City Attorney Steve Smith
<b>Councilmember Tony Veeder</b>	IS Support Tim McCord
<b>Councilmember Karen Rutherford</b>	Public Works Director (Engineering) Steve King
<b>Councilmember Doug Miller</b>	Fire Chief Stan Smoke
<b>Councilmember Mark Kulaas</b>	Public Works Director (Operations) Dan Frazier
<b>Councilmember Don Gurnard</b>	Finance Director Mark Calhoun
<b>Councilmember Carolyn Case</b>	Police Chief Tom Robbins

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**5:15 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance** led by Councilmember Don Gurnard

**Presentation:**

Presentation regarding the July 28, 2010 storm by Steve King, Public Works Director (Engineering) and Stan Smoke, Fire Chief.

**Citizen Comments: (3 minute presentation)**

Lisa Stone, 1905 Aspen Creek Lane, Wenatchee, spoke of her concerns regarding the flooding on her property and the adjoining school property and how it was developed. The drainage issue needs to be addressed to prevent further flooding onto her property.

Jack Michael, 1345 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Wenatchee, spoke as a representative of eight people who had flooding in his neighborhood. He provided pictures of neighborhood yards. He believes the City needs more oversight of canyon drainage and perhaps something with teeth.

Kurt Grossarth, 1719 Brandi Terrace, Wenatchee, spoke and would like to know who to speak to about how to maintain the creek bed behind his house. His covenants require it not be touched.

Leanna Handschke, 327 Michael Place, Wenatchee, spoke about the flooding, and her concern with the maintenance of the ditch by her neighbor at 323 Michael Place, which caused considerable damage to her property.

**Action Items:**

**A. Motion** for Council approval of the Criminal Justice Strategy.

Executive Services Director Allison Williams and Police Chief Tom Robbins presented the staff report. Council asked questions of staff.

**Motion to approve by Councilmember Tony Veeder. Councilmember Jim Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**B. Motion** for Council authorization for staff to proceed, in partnership with the Public Facilities District, with contract negotiations for food and beverage service at the Wenatchee Convention Center and Town Toyota Center.

Executive Services Director Allison Williams presented the staff report.

Dan Vendura spoke as a representative of Unite Here Local 8, the union that represents the workers at the Convention Center here in Wenatchee and at the Coast Hotel. He urged the City Council to not move forward with the motion and to rethink the proposed merger of the food service, with what he believes is a very profitable Convention Center. He believes it will have negative consequences for the workers and the community at large.

Ken Howard with the International Association of Aerospace Workers spoke of his support of the union and the relationship that the union has with the community.

Debbie Gillins, a Coast Hotel employee for 17 years, spoke of her concern with "if the wheel's not broken why break the wheel?" She indicates the Coast does a great job of selling the area and they have a dedicated staff. She is concerned about her workers being out of jobs.

Bill Duplaga, an employee of the Convention Center, spoke and indicated he was worried about his job and pay.

Eric Ercanbrack, Business Agent for Plumbers and Pipe Fitters, spoke and indicated the United Association would like to pledge its support to Unite Here Local 8 and set a tone for the future for organized labor and its relationship with the City of Wenatchee.

Judy Cunningham, of the Wenatchee Labor Temple and Wenatchee Labor Council spoke and indicated the union presence is critical. Without it she does not believe their conventions will be in Wenatchee anymore.

Freyda Stephens, representative for the Wenatchee Center Coast Hotel, spoke that the Coast Hotel is committed to whatever happens to making sure that there is a seamless transition, if there needs to be a transition. They want to remain long-term partners.

Brett Robertson of Amacore, who is the company who currently holds the food service contract at the Town Toyota Center, spoke of his concerns with changing the food service contracts.

Council asked questions of staff.

The Mayor asked if anyone had any more comments.

Freyda Stephens, Coast Hotels, spoke to clarify that in the RFP there was the request to manage the center. They provided an answer to that and a dollar amount which would then allow all the revenues, after expenses, to go back to the City. They did not put a dollar amount in the RFP for kitchen equipment because they accepted the responsibility that they would fix the equipment if it falls apart.

Brett Robertson, Amacore, spoke and indicated there were some inherent deficiencies that the Town Toyota Center has, i.e. logistical challenges, etc., and wanted to clarify that will be a problem for whoever is there.

Ken Boyle, of the Wenatchee Convention Center, indicated he was not asked once to give input on the model. He indicated he spent three years in Yakima which is the model that the City is looking at. He stated he would offer his support in the transition, but he felt there may be a risk in the model that could be fragmented. He stated he would make himself available for the transition but would ask that the City take a look at what the Coast has done efficiently for 30 years.

Elizabeth Freeman, President of Unite Here Local 8, spoke of her concern about Savor coming to the table to talk to the union about wages and benefits of the workers. She indicated that would not be a guarantee unless the City would make it part of a requirement of giving them the contract. She stated Savor would not be obligated.

Danielle Johnston, employee of the Wenatchee Convention Center and Town Toyota Center, spoke of her concern for the labor costs.

Eric Granstrom spoke on behalf of the Wenatchee Valley Visitors Bureau and Roger Clute, Executive Director of the Wenatchee Valley Visitors Bureau, who was not present. He indicated how important unions are. The union market has really kept them afloat. He said that was on the forefront of discussions in-house at the Wenatchee Valley Visitor's Bureau, that there has to be some component that deals with the unions. He indicated Roger is very much akin to that conversation, and whatever they can do to maintain those relationships is important.

Further discussion ensued.

**Motion to approve by Councilmember Tony Veeder. Councilmember Don Gurnard seconded the motion. Mayor Johnson called for the vote by position. Motion carried 4-3 with Councilmembers Jim Bailey, Karen Rutherford and Doug Miller voting nay.**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Stanger Dennis Johnson  
City Clerk Mayor