



City Council Workshop Minutes

<http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/agendas/council>
University of Washington – Tacoma, Tacoma Room, 1900 Commerce Street,
Tacoma, Washington 98402

March 31, 2000

Mayor Ebersole called the Workshop to order at 2:41 p.m. (Day 1)

Council Members Present: 6 ~ Crowley, McGavick, Miller, Moss, Phelps and Mayor Ebersole.

Council Members Absent: 3 ~ De Forrest, Evans, and Kirby.

Mayor Ebersole reviewed the agenda for the day and made introductory remarks.

Mr. Ray E. Corpuz, Jr., City Manager, gave a session overview and reviewed the expectations of the Workshop.

Council Members, in turn, discussed their issues and concerns regarding the Strategic Plan Workshop.

Council Member Moss made comments regarding the relationship with Pierce County and surrounding jurisdictions. She indicated that there was an opportunity to do more together in the future on regional issues such as the Zoo.

Council Member Crowley agreed with the need for better relations with Pierce County and surrounding cities. He stated there should be a joint participation on funding of social services that are used by their citizens.

Mayor Ebersole stated there should be more Joint Study Sessions scheduled with the County and other jurisdictions.

Council Member Phelps concurred with the need for additional Study Sessions.

Mayor Ebersole suggested there could be regular joint meetings with other jurisdictions on Thursdays.

Council Member Miller expressed the concern that Council be informed about issues so that they can be brought up in conjunction with surrounding jurisdictions.

Council Member Phelps stated that the City could assign key staff to major groups to get consistency in staff support on issues of Council concern.

Mayor Ebersole stated there was a need for more staff support on major issues. He indicated there should be more coordination and discussion of the City's position on regional issues. He stated an option could be an item on the Study Sessions for reports from Council Members for committee work. Mayor Ebersole stated there should be more Council involvement in decisions on Study Session topics so Council hears information on the subjects of concern.

Mr. Corpuz made introductory remarks regarding the Strategic Plan review. Mr. James Walton, Deputy City Manager, gave a historic overview of the Strategic Plan. He reviewed how the Strategic Plan began and changed over the years and its link to the City budget. He indicated the Strategic Plan had helped the organization look at the long term and provide a foundation for quality performance.

Next, there was a video presentation that showed the success of others in the four strategic focus areas.

Fire Chief Eileen Lewis reviewed the Strategic Plan successes of 1995 through 1997.

Mr. Peter Luttrupp, Finance Director, reviewed the successes for 1998 through 1999.

Ms. Robin Jenkinson, City Attorney, presented several trends affecting City government related to balancing a healthy economy with a healthy community.

Ms. Juli Wilkerson, Tacoma Economic Development Department Director, presented the trends affecting "The New Economy." She stated this was a global economy versus the traditional economy.

Mr. Bill Pugh, Public Works Department Director, presented the trends affecting City government related to keeping pace with the demands of technology.

Mayor Ebersole stated the Council would take a short recess.

Mayor Ebersole reconvened the Workshop and introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Jerry Abramson, former Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Abramson reviewed the trends that are facing cities today. He spoke regarding how to maintain the best of what cities have while still continuing to grow. He stated that planning for the future is important. He stated that there was a need to draw citizens in to help with the process.

Mr. Abramson reviewed some of the major trends of regionalism where cities must be concerned about fragmenting the economic development effort. He stated that there should be citizen participation in all levels. He stated that the government's need to connect to people via internet and various cutting edge technological approaches. He stated the cities should build an economy based on consolidation. He indicated cities should think strategically and know the kind of companies they want to attract. He further indicated that many cities and counties are merging in a consolidation effort.

41

Mr. Abramson stated that education should be relevant to the needs of businesses and the community. Mr. Abramson then concluded with remarks regarding City quality of life issues.

Council recessed for dinner at 5:35 p.m.

Mayor Ebersole reconvened the Workshop at 6:19 p.m.

Mr. Abramson continued his discussion regarding the successes in the City of Louisville. He then discussed some of the problems still facing the City of Louisville. Mr. Abramson then concluded the discussion on strategies to accomplish objectives.

The Friday portion of Day 1 of the Workshop ended at 6:28 p.m.

* * * * *

April 1, 2000

Mayor Ebersole called the Workshop to order at 8:35 a.m. (Day 2)

Council Members Present: 8 ~ Crowley, De Forrest, Kirby, McGavick, Miller, Moss, Phelps and Mayor Ebersole.

Council Members Absent: 1 ~ Evans.

Mayor Ebersole gave an overview of the day's agenda and made brief remarks on regionalism and issues from the previous day's presentation.

Mr. Corpuz recapped the presentations of the Quality Council from the previous day and reviewed the key trend points presented on Friday.

Discussions by Council Members followed regarding the reflections on the trend information presented.

Mayor Ebersole raised issues regarding regionalism and how we can move toward that over the next 20 years.

Council Member McGavick stated she would like to see Town Hall meetings restored as a means of better connecting with the citizens.

Council Member Moss stated that many of the trends described by Mr. Abramson were already being addressed by Tacoma.

42

Council Member Crowley stated that the City Council Members should discuss among themselves about regionalism and what they would like out of it before talking to others in the region.

Council Member Phelps agreed and stated the need to discuss regionalism further. He stated that Tacoma should take the lead role and not Pierce County.

Council Member Moss stated the responsibility of the County was changing due to an increase in city incorporations.

Council Member Phelps stated that if the City were to take a regional approach, we would need to level the playing field with taxes and services.

Council Member Crowley indicated that regionalism was a two-way street. He stated Tacoma could not just give up things without getting something in return.

Council Member Miller stated there would be an overlap in County and City utilities, parks, libraries, election costs, fire districts, water services, and schools.

Mr. Corpuz stated there would be a forthcoming test in September with the public vote on Zoo and Park funding. He indicated this could move regionalism forward.

Council Member Moss stated there could be a potential conflict between Zoo tax and Police facilities on the ballot at the same time.

Council Member Kirby stated the need to keep in mind that the public wants independence and their own factions, rather than a regional government approach. He stated that the goal of regionalism would have to be to deliver better service to the doorstep if it were to have any chance to succeed.

Council Member Phelps stated that regionalism applies only to issues that don't have boundaries and not all services.

Mayor Ebersole stated that the City was going to be involved in regionalism whether we liked it or not. He stated the issues of salmon, transportation, water, and power cause this approach to happen.

Council Member McGavick indicated this was not a quick-fix issue. She stated in the long term we can have more dialogue and move towards some form of regionalism.

Council Member Phelps stated the City should keep it simple by starting to build relationships with other jurisdictions.

Council Member Crowley stated that many of these issues revolve around money.

43

Council Member Phelps stated that e-commerce would have an effect on our sales tax revenue and retail infrastructure. He stated also that high tech companies can be very mobile and move out. He raised the issue of how to retain these companies.

Council Member Moss stated there was a problem in the perception of Tacoma as a crime-ridden city. She stated we needed to stay vigilant so we don't backslide on the issue of crime.

Mayor Ebersole called for a brief recess at 9:15 a.m. and reconvened at 9:37 a.m.

Mayor Ebersole stated that the Council would not discuss the strategic focus areas.

Council Member Moss stated there should be a change in goals and objectives to create a safe community and to focus more on youth services in cooperation with other agencies.

Discussion followed on this objective.

Mayor Ebersole summarized the discussion and stated it should be included in some form as an objective or strategy.

Council Member Phelps stated Council should add an objective to focus on youth crime and safety in the Public Safety area.

Council Member Moss suggested adding an objective to focus on neighborhood mobilization as a way to enhance community safety.

Deputy Mayor De Forrest stated that this approach would fit in with the Community Oriented Policing program.

Police Chief James Hairston stated the proposed objective, fits with the Community Oriented Policing philosophy of the City. He indicated the youth focus was also good, but stated that the City should not forget that we have an aging population and we need to pay attention to safety for senior citizens.

Council Member McGavick discussed the changes in the areas of the highly-skilled workforce to meet the needs of business in the Tacoma area.

Discussion followed on the various topics.

Mayor Ebersole stated the Council would next look at Neighborhood Enhancement.

There were no suggested changes to the Strategic Plan for this area.

Council next discussed the area of Government Performance.

44

Council Member Phelps stated there was a need to establish more financial stability for the organization.

Discussion followed on this issue.

Mayor Ebersole directed staff to create an objective to match the discussion that transpired.

Deputy Mayor De Forrest stated he would like to see a "fiscal impact statement" added to all ordinances so that the Council could understand how their decisions would affect the budget.

Mayor Ebersole stated there should be an objective to show the City also focuses on capital budgets and projects.

Mr. Walton stated there was a trend to pay attention to demographic changes. He discussed the areas of the aging population, younger population, growing diversity, and low-income households.

Discussion followed on this trend.

Deputy Mayor De Forrest stated Council should add a focus area of Human Services.

Discussion followed on this topic.

Mayor Ebersole directed the staff to come back with an objective that encompasses the discussions.

Mr. Corpuz raised the issue of the organization facing difficulty of attracting the high quality work force.

Discussion followed on this topic.

Council Member McGavick stated that there was a need to look at the residency requirement for employees.

Discussion followed on the residency requirement.

Mayor Ebersole then discussed the City's vision and mission.

Council Member Miller proposed changes to the vision and mission.

Council next discussed the proposed changes.

Mayor Ebersole stated that there was no consensus and the vision and mission should remain as it is.

45

Council Member Miller then proposed a change to the mission.

Discussion followed on the proposed changes.

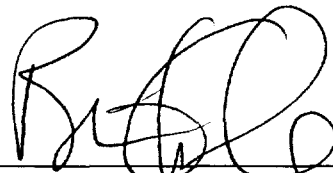
The mission for the City was revised to read, "We will provide high quality, innovative, and cost-effective municipal services that enhance the lives and vitality of citizens, neighborhoods and businesses through teamwork, integrity, and by working in partnership with our community."

Mr. Corpuz then reviewed the Strategic Plan development process and schedule for the coming months.

Council Member Kirby praised the process of strategic planning and how it makes the Council more of a team.

Mayor Ebersole thanked everyone who made the Workshop a success.

There being no further business, the Workshop was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.



BRIAN EBERSOLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



RICK ROSENBLADT, CITY CLERK