



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 2011

7:00 p.m.

400 SW 152nd Street, 1st Floor
Burien, Washington 98166

To hear Council's full discussion of a specific topic or the complete meeting, the following resources are available:

- Watch the video-stream available on the City website, www.burienwa.gov
- Check out a DVD of the Council Meeting from the Burien Library

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Bennett called the Special Meeting of the Burien City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Mayor Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Acting Mayor Brian Bennett, Councilmembers Rose Clark, Lucy Krakowiak, Gerald F. Robison, and Gordon Shaw. Mayor Joan McGilton and Councilmember Jack Block, Jr. were excused.

Administrative staff present: Mike Martin, City Manager; Craig Knutson, City Attorney; and Monica Lusk, City Clerk.

BUSINESS AGENDA

General Annexation Discussion Including Crime Comparison

Captain Carl Cole compared the crime statistics, calls for service, and crime rates based on population for the city of Burien and the North Highline Unincorporated Area. Crime Center Comparison maps for Part 1 and 2 crimes were also reviewed.

Deputy Joshua Langdon spoke about the individuals committing the crimes in both areas, shoplifting rings and the number of unreported dispatched calls by police.

Gil Loring, 10009 20th Avenue SW, Seattle

Mr. Loring asked about the amount of gang graffiti. Captain Cole said he would provide the information.

Mr. Loring asked business owners to call the police regarding their concerns of fighting in the street.

Chestine Edgar, 1811 SW 152nd Street, Burien

Ms. Edgar said the 2009-10 report shows an increase in crime activity in Burien, domestic violence and adults charged with a crime. Captain Cole stated that you can expect an increase in crime with an increase in population.

Ms. Edgar stated that the King County report showed that the Park Lake Homes site was staffed with 1 to .9 police officers. In Burien, staffing was 1 to 1,000 population. Captain Cole stated that the King County Housing Authority (KCHA) staffs the officer(s). He did not know if the KCHA or the city of Burien would be responsible on staffing if the area was annexed by the City.

Phillip Levine, 430 South 124th Street, Burien

Mr. Levine asked about his perception that the general crime rate has decreased in the last 10 years. Captain Cole stated that the decreased crime rate is due to the grants received through the City with the money focused in specific areas.

Michael Noakes, 16409 Maplewild Avenue SW, Burien

Mr. Noakes confirmed that the North Highline area is staffed with fewer officers than the City.

Responding to Mr. Noakes, Jay Rogers, Finance and Policy Associate with Berk Associates, stated the current contract, dispatched calls for services as well as other matrices that King County has used to extrapolate the estimates were used for the police staffing assumptions. City Manager Mike Martin stated that the idea was to transport the level of service which would include the level of staffing to the North Highline area.

Liz Giba, 10230 10th Avenue SW, Seattle

Ms. Giba said the KCHA operates independently of King County much like the Library Board that also operates independently of King County.

Sandy Hopp, 12620 9th Avenue South, Burien

Ms. Hopp confirmed that the gang members reside outside the areas where gang activity occurs.

Marlene Albright, 11816 Occidental Avenue South, Seattle

Ms. Albright noted that she has witnessed crimes being committed at Bernie and Boys since they closed. Captain Cole recommended that she call 911 to report crimes.

Barbara Dobkin, 10020 20th Avenue SW, Seattle

Ms. Dobkin asked if crimes in North Highline are committed by those living outside of the area because we have a lower number of sheriffs on duty. Captain Cole stated he did not know.

Chestine Edgar, 1811 SW 152nd Street, Burien

Ms. Edgar stated that the KCHA 2009 Environmental Assessment implies that a higher crime rate will result in the Park Lake Homes area if the police officer(s) are removed.

Follow-up

Staff will provide the expiration date of the KCHA grant that provides police officers at Park Lake Homes.

Mr. Rogers reviewed the key finds from the Fiscal Analysis of a North Highline Annexation: expected costs and revenues; effects of the sales tax credit; and if the annexation would make it more or less challenging for the City to balance its budget overtime.

Follow-up

Staff will provide information on if the City would become an entitlement City if it annexed, and a worst case scenario if King County Human Services funding ceased.

Questions and Comments from the Public

Chestine Edgar, 1811 SW 152nd Street, Burien

Ms. Edgar noted that the Berk Report states that the City would remain neutral financially, which does not appear to be the case. The North Highline deficit needs to be explored. The City cannot afford the surface water and stormwater management for North Highline.

Mr. Rogers said the statement that the annexation poses a neutral proposition for the Council is from comparing expenditures for general fund and street fund costs compared to general fund and street fund resources.

Robbie Howell, 15240 25th Avenue SW, Burien

Ms. Howell stated the public has seen neither the real cost breakouts for North Highline nor the plan on how to fund the area long term. She asked what where the structural defects for Burien, what they are a result of, and what criteria was used.

Mr. Rogers stated that the structural deficit is caused by I-747, which limited the property tax increases. It is both the decreases in tax revenue collections associated with sales tax and so forth as well as the increase in property taxes that limits the City.

Responding to Ms. Howell, Mr. Rogers stated that the City is allowed to assume an initial bump of assessed value associated with the annexation area in terms of how it would treat new construction. Normally a city is limited to 1 percent growth in assessed valuation. The City, by annexing, is allowed to assume that full bump in assessed valuation in terms of how it normally views new construction in the city.

Sandy Hopp, 12620 9th Avenue South, Burien

Ms. Hopp stated that when you invest in a depressed area, it gives the people pride.

R. Arnold, 13611 2nd Avenue SW, Burien

Mr. Arnold asked if road construction could be covered by sales tax credit.

City Manager Mike Martin stated maintenance would be funded but it is unclear what is considered new construction, which would be unfunded.

Michael Noakes, 16409 Maplewild Avenue SW, Burien

Regarding the structural deficit, Mr. Noakes asked why, when looking at the expenditures per person, the North Highline gap is three times larger but it is not shown when the sales tax goes away.

Mr. Martin stated there would be additional costs in 2013, such as staffing.

Chestine Edgar, 1811 SW 152nd Street, Burien

Ms. Edgar stated that the structural deficit should be addressed now, not in 11 years. Annexation is not revenue neutral because the infrastructure issues have not been addressed.

Mr. Rogers noted that the infrastructure is a separate analysis.

Joey Martinez, 429 South 189th Street, Burien

Mr. Martinez spoke to the impacts of I-747 on cities. He asked what would happen to the fire districts.

Mr. Martin stated that the districts would continue to provide the same services and would be unaffected by an annexation. Should Fire District Fire No. 2 subsume Fire District No. 11, interlocal agreements spelling out mutual aid agreements would be needed. There is an issue of retirement for existing firefighters. There would not be any change in the school district; nothing would change in the delivery of sewer or water.

Gil Loring, 10009 20th Avenue SW, Seattle

Mr. Loring stated that the people in North Highline are the same as people everywhere else. He stated he prefers Burien because he wants to be represented and have a say.

Follow-up

Staff will schedule a Special Meeting on September 12 that will include presentations from the special districts showing the plusses and minuses of a potential annexation, and a designated public comment period during future Council discussions on annexation.

ADJOURNMENT

Direction/Action

MOTION was made by Councilmember Krakowiak, seconded by Councilmember Shaw and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

/s/ Brian Bennett, Acting Mayor

/s/ Monica Lusk, City Clerk