

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
COUNCIL RETREAT  
Saturday, January 25, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL**

The Council Retreat for 2014 was called to order by Mayor Nichols at 9:05 a.m. at 505 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S., Suite 102 in Edmonds. Councilmembers William Anderson, Elizabeth Mitchell, Kent Saltonstall, Mike Quinn, and Tom Whitson were present. Town Administrator Eric Faison also was present.

**TOWN LEADERSHIP**

Council discussed Town leadership. The Mayor and Council identified several residents to approach related to present and future opportunities for participation in Town government.

**INVESTMENT POLICY**

Council Member Whitson encouraged the Council to consider investment options in addition to the Town's current investments in the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) and bank certificate of deposits. He suggested we look at the legally available types of investments, such as taxable municipal bonds. He offered to investigate options and bring some ideas back to Council.

Council Member Quinn asked for additional education on types of investments and types of returns historically generated by those investments.

Council Member Anderson indicated that the municipal bond market generates competitive returns right now compared to various other types of investments due to existing market conditions.

Council Member Saltonstall encouraged the Council to keep emphasizing diversity in our portfolio.

Town Administrator explained why we have limitations on continuing our investments in CDs.

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC GARDENS**

Council Member Mitchell expressed concerns about the burden on Public Works staff to maintain the Town's existing gardens, as well as the new Town Hall gardens, and future Twin Maples rain gardens. She emphasized the need for additional training and standardized policies. She suggested the Town retain a qualified person to provide advice on garden installation and maintenance.

The Mayor agreed that some policy guidance would help the staff.

There was a general discussion on Town maintenance of vegetation within the Town's rights-of-way. Council Member Anderson expressed concern that there are some areas

of the Town's rights-of-way where Town staff is taking care of vegetation planted by residents. Council Member Mitchell noted that Town policy allows residents plant vegetation within the rights-of-way if the resident maintains the vegetation. Council Member Whitson felt that, when we take out trees in the right-of-way, we should have a policy of replacing those trees, even if we replace it with a tree that might have to be taken down again in 10 years.

There was interest in hiring a horticultural expert to help draft new policies and to help staff as issues arise. There was general agreement that this cost should be addressed during a future budget amendment.

### **POINT WELLS DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS**

The Mayor noted that the County is at the beginning of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for Point Wells. She asked for direction on what the Town wants studied in the EIS. She identified traffic as an obvious area of interest.

Council Member Whitson asked that the County evaluate seismic, tsunami and global warming issues related to the site's location adjacent to the bluff and on Puget Sound.

Other issues identified include light/glare, public access to the water (particularly as it relates to parking), bluff stability and sound reflecting off of the buildings.

Council Member Quinn suggested we get ahead of the issues (particularly with traffic), even if we have to pay for analysis.

There was interest in getting estimates on what it would cost to do the analysis and some preliminary work on issues that are more likely to require mitigation.

### **MEETING WITH THE SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL**

The Mayor updated the Council on her latest discussions with the City of Shoreline.

Council Member Saltonstall stated that the Council needs to better understand the development potential of the area east of the railroad tracks. There was consensus that it would be productive to meet with the Shoreline Council so that both Councils could get to know each other. There was general agreement that the Council should identify a potential agenda before meeting.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None.

### **GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION - CHOICE OF SUBJECTS**

Council Member Anderson asked that a representative from Puget Sound Energy come to a future meeting to educate the Council and emergency procedures for turning off residential natural gas devices. He also indicated he would like a representative from the Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA) to provide an update at a Council meeting. Lastly, he talked about noise – is the City of Edmonds interested in reducing use of compression brakes on HWY 104.

Mayor Nichols suggested that these ideas should be introduced at a regular Council meeting so that an appropriate action plan can be agreed upon.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Councilmember Mitchell* moved to adjourn the meeting. *Councilmember Anderson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

**APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL**

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Joyce Bielefeld, Clerk Treasurer

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Carla A. Nichols, Mayor

(These minutes accurately reflect what was said at the Council Meeting. Publication does not vouch for the veracity of these statements.)