

POULSBO CITY COUNCIL RETREAT OF AUGUST 31, 2011

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Erickson, Berry-Maraist, Bauman, Henry, Lord, McGinty, Musgrove, Stern
Councilmember-elect Nystul

Staff: Boltz, Booher, Kingery, Loveless, McCluskey, Stephens, Treacher

Facilitator: Donna Zajonc, Bainbridge Leadership Center

MAJOR BUSINESS ITEMS

- * * * Budget Overview
- * * * 2011 Goals Review
- * * * 2012 Goals Discussion

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Erickson called the retreat to order in the Council Chambers at 4:08 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Erickson thanked City staff and Donna Zajonc, facilitator, for coordinating the Council Retreat. Zajonc introduced herself and outlined the retreat agenda and concepts discussed at the February retreat. The Council discussed the difference between management and leadership, Problem vs. Outcome Orientations, the mindset that guides the Council's decision making style and listening styles.

2. BUDGET OVERVIEW

Mayor Erickson presented a budget overview and history over the last several years, the current budget shortfall, revenue stabilization balance going forward and need to review level of service by department.

** * Break at 5:45 PM; retreat reconvened at 6:00 PM * **

Zajonc had the Council list the items where Council and Mayor are on the same page, and the items that they are not.

"Same Page" items:

- The need to balance revenues and expenditures, without going below the policy of a certain percentage in reserves
- Potential budget problem
- Its not a rainy day any longer; its a reset
- Employee benefits need to be reviewed
- Investigate a different budget review process, than what we currently have
- Facing a continuing recession for an undetermined amount of time
- Maintaining lid on taxes
- Council/Mayor willing to listen/work together for the town
- Look at the long term sustainable future; not just balanced budgets
- Better understanding of the problems to discover solutions
- Council of the whole to review level of service; not in individual committees
- Prioritize City services; create a vision
- Big policy and trends; dialog first in full Council meeting
- Significant discussions in open meeting, transparent and involve the public
- Retrain attitude, behaviors and decision making, both public and private; for increased team work and efficiency

“Not on the same page” items:

- Transportation priorities
- Level of service solutions
- Priorities and process
- Understand the causes and how we get there
- Use of the committee system
- Solutions; different viewpoints to possible solutions; and what would qualify as a solution
- Creative solutions and realistic solutions

** * Break at 7:20 PM; retreat reconvened at 7:36 PM * **

The Council agreed to hold a full day retreat/workshop within the next 45 days, to review the preliminary budget. The Council requested staff to present information on basic department services that are currently provided, brief historical reports and cost benefits ratios. Mayor Erickson will review her recommendations with Council, individually prior to the retreat.

3. 2011 GOALS REVIEW/2012 GOALS DISCUSSION

Mayor Erickson questioned what a Legislative goal is vs. individual goals and what role she plays in the goals; Council expressed the Mayors role in some of the goals would be staff involvement.

The Council discussed the current goals, Council involvement, setting new goals, next steps, and policy direction for continued forward action, monitor progress and how to determine when a goal is complete. Council agreed to provide monthly reports/updates on the progress of the goals during Council meetings.

The Council reflected upon the retreat discussion and the upcoming retreat topics and goals.

Mayor Erickson thanked City staff, the Council and Zajonc for the hard work put in preparing for and during the retreat discussion.

4.ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn at 9:07 PM.

Rebecca Erickson, Mayor
ATTEST:

Jill A. Boltz, City Clerk, CMC