

Selah City Council Retreat

Friday, April 20, 2012

9:00am — 12:30pm

Selah Civic Center

1. Call to Order & Roll

Members Present: Mayor Gawlik; Keith Larson; John Tierney; Paul Overby; Kevin Jorgensen; Dave Smeback; Brooke Finch

Members Excused: Allen Schmid

Staff Present: Dale Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer; Jerry Davis, Fire Chief; Rick Hayes, Police Chief; Joe Henne, Public Works Director; Jeff Hagler, Parks, Recreation & Tourism Director; Monica Lake, Executive Assistant

Guests: Randy Beehler, Community Relations Manager for City of Yakima

2. Introduction of Facilitator Randy Beehler

Mayor Gawlik introduced Mr. Beehler and stated that he will be facilitating the meeting.

Mr. Beehler thanked the Council for inviting him and asked that each Council Member briefly speak about him or herself, including something that people would be surprised to know.

Mr. Beehler started by giving a brief background on himself, which included the fact that he is a first degree black belt and he was the first chair violinist in an all state orchestra while in high school.

Mayor Gawlik spoke briefly about his background, noting that he is a second degree brown belt and has always wanted to fly an airplane

Councilman Overby spoke briefly about himself, noting that he has a double major in history and archaeology as he wanted to be an archaeologist.

Councilman Smeback gave a brief background on himself, noting that he loves to build houses and restore cars.

Councilman Larson spoke briefly about himself, noting that he likes to fly fish, play tennis and grow bonsai trees.

Councilwoman Finch gave a brief background on herself, noting that she owns a Harley, likes to race cars on road courses, and is saving up to purchase a '57 fastback to restore.

Councilman Jorgensen spoke briefly about himself, noting that his dad held the world record for top field racing for 6 months, and that he and his brother built a stock car and won 3 races at the Yakima speedway.

Councilman Tierney gave a brief background on himself, noting that he took ride on the SS Salmon, the last diesel-powered sub in the Navy, while at Bremerton, and was able to go on a tiger cruise from Hawaii to San Diego while his son was in the Navy.

Executive Assistant Lake spoke briefly about her background, noting that she is an avid crafter.

3. Boards & Commissions

- **Council Member Assignments**
- **What Works & What Doesn't**
- **Study Sessions vs. Committees**

Council discussed the various boards and committees that the City currently has. The decision was made to change the majority of them to Study Sessions, with the exception of the Tourism Promotion Area Board, Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, Community Relations, the Finance Committee, and the Parks & Recreation Board. Any additional committees, such as Public Safety, will meet on an ad hoc basis. Councilman Jorgensen resigned from the Finance Committee and Councilwoman Finch was appointed in his place. The Council opted to keep a presence in outside boards such as the Yakima Valley Visitors & Convention Bureau Board, the Selah Chamber of Commerce, the Selah Parks & Recreation Service Area Board, and the Selah School District Board. It was also decided to have each Board meet with the full Council once a year, and to look into forming a committee to further communications between the Selah Chamber and the City Council.

****5 minute break 10:40 -10: 45****

4. Property

- **Former Public Works property**
- **City Hall – remodel or relocate**
- **Crusher Canyon property**

Community Planner Davison joined the meeting.

Mayor Gawlik spoke about his desire to remodel City Hall rather than build a new structure and his intent to sell off the City's surplus properties. Discussion followed, with the suggestion of building a combination City Hall, Municipal Court and Police Department with additional parking, the need for an urban renewal program along South First Street to clean up the South end of town, the desire to entice businesses to Selah, doing a five year strategy for a new City Hall and the possible remodel of the existing building in the interim.

Community Planner Davison left the meeting.

****Agenda change****

6. Personnel

- **Promotion of Todd LaRoche**

Mayor Gawlik gave a brief explanation of this item and tabled the issue for the time being.

- **City Administrator Hiring Process**

Mayor Gawlik gave a brief summary, saying that there are currently 32 applications for the position, first interviews will start next week, and that they will be narrowed down to the top three candidates who will have a second interview with the full Council.

5. Tax Retail Rate & its effect on the Community

Councilman Smeback spoke about this topic, referencing information provided by the Clerk/Treasurer, and suggested the formation of a committee to bring new business into town. Discussion followed, touching on creating tax incentives for new businesses, a possible reduction of 3/10% transit tax and the need to fully utilize the funds that are collected for Transit.

7. Round Table Discussion

Councilman Tierney gave a brief update on the Walk of Honor, noting that he did a walk around town, with Public Works Director Henne and Mayor Gawlik, to identify where to place initial monuments.

Mayor Gawlik asked the Council for their thoughts on the frequency of holding a retreat. Discussion followed, with the decision being to hold them twice a year, and to formulate the City's strategy for the next five to ten years at the next Retreat.

R. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:32pm.