

TRANSCRIPTION EXCERPTS (VARIOUS):
CITY OF SULTAN COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 9, 2007
(Including Discussion & Vote on Ord. 954-07, 2007 Budget Amendment, 1st reading)

Selected Council Member Comments:

C/M Blair: Well, thank you for those of you who are here for attending our meeting, and getting out and *[unintelligible]*. I appreciate that. I did notice some of the date variances on the Transportation Plan and had some questions about that myself. And my understanding about coordinating with other agencies is it's not always possible to do it at the same time they're doing it. We have our timeline, they have their timeline, we make ours, they make theirs; we've been trying to coordinate and work together. It is a plan. It's not written in stone. When it comes to certain types of reports of our plan, on our comprehensive plan, my fellow councilmembers have decided to approve development that's not in compliance with our comp plan. I have chosen not to, to try and...impress upon how important for the last two-plus years, it is to fix the plan, not just to approve development. However, I get the feeling, too, if we fix the Plan, there's still going to be those who aren't satisfied and who are going to fight it, because there's har—there aren't many cities out there that have a perfect plan. And there seems to be a lot of energy put—put into pointing out the problems once it's done, instead of putting the time and effort and comment into the process itself, working with the City to try and make it a workable plan. They have so much angst, and if all that energy could be put into helping the City [to] make it a better place, that would be great. I know we're entering into a larger comprehensive planning process. I have proposed engaging the community to do something much like what we did with the Downtown 2020 Visioning statement, doing that for the community. The last one that we did was 10 years ago¹. I think the demographics for our community's changed significantly in 10 years. And the idea of what the city would look like, or what the residents—the current residents would like to see it look like – in the whole of the city, not just Main Street – needs to be addressed again, and not be a plan that's put on the shelf and not carried out. I want to see a plan that we have a workable plan that we can measure our progress and move along with it. And we are trying to move along with those things that we can currently.

C/M Slawson: I'd like to thank everyone for showing up tonight. And I think I'd really like to thank you for all your comments earlier. I only got one question about the stuff we've been talking about tonight: Do you want me to just sit here and do nothing for the next two and a half years, or so you want me to plow ahead and make some good decisions? But what I've been hearing is, don't do this, don't do that, don't do this, but every time we take a proactive approach to something you tell us, "Don't do that." Well, what do you want us to do? So you tell me, and I'll do what you want. But I'm going to go ahead with this—this program and get 'em started. Because exactly what happened with that other—other studies where we said, 'No, we don't want to do it this year *[unintelligible]* pass, and we're doing to do it next year.' Well guess what? Now it's come to this *[unintelligible]*. So you guys tell me what you want and I'll do it. Okay? Thanks.

Re Whereabouts of Mayor Tolson:

Mayor Pro-tem John Seehuus: As to the question about where the mayor is, it's my understanding he is on vacation. Am I correct, Ms. Knight?

City Admin. D. Knight: Yes. Uh, the mayor is on vacation and he will be back in Septem—August 17th. He is currently in Alaska. And prior to that he was visiting family in Spokane.

Res. 07-14 Transportation Improvement Plan – FD #5 Property/330th-Cascade View Drive future intersection

City Admin. KnightThe planning Board had held their public hearing at its last meeting on July 31st. And at that time the Planning Board made a recommendation. And you can see that recommendation reflected on Page D-4, the legal attachment. And it was in relation to the Fire Department's concerns regarding the extension of 330th from U. S. 2 to the Fire District property to Cascade View Drive. So if you take a look on Page 4, Attachment D-4, the second project – "new 330th arterial" – [unintelligible] D-3, excuse me. You told me D-4 the first time we talked, right? I have the start on it. It's the Cascade View Drive Realignment on Page D-3. And the way that that project description reads now is that the roadway alignment will not bisect the county – or excuse me, Snohomish County Fire District 5's property. So it still leaves it on the list as a policy decision for the council to extend 330th to Cascade View Drive, but leaves that alignment open for a future decision.

Clarification question from C/M Blair: There's something I would like to add, if we're going to vote on that first resolution, uh...is that there is a – the first amendment that we've seen coming back from the Planning—uh—from the Planning Board on Page 3, D-3, the very first subject that we've addressed? And, uh...[it's] talking about the Snohomish County Fire District 5, I've no—I've not issue with that. But I—I would like to have some wording added that, uh...uh...regarding....during the time that the Fire District owns that property.

D. Knight: Well it says "Fire District property." So if they don't own it, it won't be the fire district property.

C/M Blair: As long as you're confident and comfortable with that.

D. Knight: I am.

C/M Blair: Okay.

D. Knight: Thank you.

**Re Ord. 954-07 2007 Budget Amendment, 1st Reading
(Reduction of Sultan re Police staffing to four officers)**

City Admin. Knight: I'm sorry to say I don't have a management plan to share with council this evening. I certainly am prepared to bring something back to the council between now and second reading for the council to review, but I would recommend at this point that you continue to move this forward with the four officers and with the staff recommendation, and if you decide to change that, you do it at second reading.

C/M Flower: Thank you, Ms. Knight. And I do appreciate that we not reveal patrol strategy to the general public and have that a headline in the newspaper. I would appreciate if you could, uh, when you do have this information, you could relay that to me. I'd feel a lot more comfortable in at least knowing how that's going to happen. I just don't see it right now. I do understand the math. I do understand we're up against some of the toughest choices that we'll probably ever have sitting here. I just wanted to know that we have a plan that will work. As far as – if it gets out there that we are not having 24x7 service, then I can only imagine that part of that plan is going to have to be a –literally a clamshell game as to when that gap is. This is going to be a tough one. We have heard from our residents over and over this year about the complaints with rising crime in the city. And I am not kidding about arming our citizens. There is a city in Idaho that actually passed an ordinance encouraging all citizens to have firearms in their homes. And it was on national news. And their reasoning was we can only afford so much police, and we're advising you to take care of yourself. Again, we're up against some very tough choices. I don't have any other input on this, but thank you.

Re Using Volunteer Workers for City Tasks:

C/M Slawson: Ms. Knight, um, with the, uh, police [*unintelligible*] issue, are we looking into extra block watches, volunteers.... Is there anything like that going on right now to help, you know [*unintelligible*] volunteers? We have vehicles. They could drive around, show a presence...

City Admin. Knight: We actually are working as a staff right now on an entire volunteer program. So it wouldn't just be necessarily for police, but it would also include park maintenance, street maintenance, block watch, help assistance at city hall. So there are a number of opportunities for people to volunteer. And what I've heard from the community over the last couple of weeks really is a, kind of a rising interest in—in support. It's – the Sultan community has something special here. And people come together. And they are beginning to come together to say, "We have a problem as a community. And it's time for us to begin to solve this problem together as a community." And we've gotten dozens and dozens of phone calls from people who are saying, "How can we help? What can we do to help?" And so I think the real opportunity for us is going to be over the next several months, really gathering that strength together and channeling that—that---that will and that desire to—to make the Sultan community as best as it can be under the circumstances. And I agree with you completely. I think that volunteer opportunities in the police department and other areas where we provide city services that are going to be cut as a result of this, is something that the council – and the community – is going to need to focus on over the next several months. So it's not as if suddenly we're—we're going to have less support. I think we're actually going to have more support. That's my growing feeling.

Cpl. Berg Statement re reducing SPD staff levels

Sultan Police Corporal Scott Berg: The only thing that I'd like to...bring up here is caution, uh....cutting the police department and four people at this time. I think that with

some of the unstable ground that's happening right now, I've got a sense that there's going to be some vacancies anyways. And to—to make a quick decision to remove people out of that position, is going to get us into some real hot water with less than four people, I think real quick, if some people decide to leave and take jobs elsewhere. It's the only thing I want to bring up is that, again, caution what decision you make at this time. We may have an opportunity where we don't have to get rid of somebody because that attrition will take over, we'd be [*sounds like he says, "out"*] of those four people by a certain time, maybe by the end of the year, and maybe a couple of months. But not to hastily make a decision to cut to four, and then have us down to two, if—if two people decide to leave, or down to three if one person decides to leave. It kind of puts us in a bind. And we're in a bind already. So, again, I just want to caution that -- that—that portion of that decision. And that's all I have to say.

¹ Sultan's Vision 2020 Plan was created via a May, 2005 citizen/community workshop effort and sent to council October, 2005. link: <http://www.ittakesgrit.org/Vision-2020-page.htm>