

**TRANSCRIPTIONS:  
SULTAN MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS & ACTION  
RE COUNTY SHERIFF'S THREE-MONTH "FREE" CONTRACT  
FOR POLICE SERVICES IN SULTAN**

**January 24, 2008 Council Meeting – Unpublished Discussion Item added at the start of the council meeting by Mayor Eslick:**

**MAYOR ESLICK** I am going to have one quick discussion. And the item is regarding, um, help with our police department at the moment. We have been in conversation with some of our officers and with, um....with the sheriff's department. And they have offered, uh—uh a temporary relief for us to bring in an officer to take the chief's position until our new police chief is in place. And they have offered this for free, for up to three months. And I'm looking for, um....discussion on this.

**C/M Steve Slawson** What's going to happen to Larry?

**MAYOR ESLICK** Larry will be a police officer. And he will be, um...

**C/M Steve Slawson** He will step down until Charles [Dennis] starts. And they're going to do it for free?

**MAYOR ESLICK** And they're going to do it for free.

**C/M Steve Slawson** Okay. Hold on.

*[unintelligible comment, laughter]*

**C/M Dale Doornek** First of all, it wouldn't be a bad idea to [unintelligible] to reduce some of the overtime that the police force has in putting in, in the, in the last few months to cover the, uh...lack thereof [unintelligible] of, uh, the police force that—that we have. And if we brought somebody in that could – that was willing to-to do it for free because money is, uh, is obviously an object, uh, I think it would be—I believe a deal.

Simultaneous comments

**C/M Dale Doornek** Yes. To do it, yes. I'm stumbling on my words, but...

**MAYOR ESLICK** We all are tonight.

**C/M Kristina Blair** I think we should graciously accept –

**C/M Steve Slawson** Whoa—whoa—hold on. I have a question. Nothing's free. How much is it gonna cost for uniforms for the chief, a vehicle, you know. There's gotta be something that the chief has to have to represent the city of Sultan. So what is that?

**MAYOR ESLICK** Deborah, what did—what did their contract say?

**City Admin. Knight** There--there are two options for the council to consider. You can have the sheriff's office provide an officer and you can uniform him with your own uniforms. He will continue to wear his sheriff's office badge. You—you also have the option to have him continue to wear his sheriff's office uniform. Sheriff's officer's uniform. The same holds true with the vehicle. The sheriff's office can provide a vehicle. Or the City can provide a vehicle. What—what I would suggest is to consider having the interim chief provided by the sheriff's office, have that person wear the Sultan officer uniform, but then the city would provide the vehicle. So the extent of the cost would be for the uniform. You have a chief's vehicle.

**C/M Kristina Blair** So there are costs associated with using their vehicle? Or not giving them an outfit, so to speak – A--a—a--a uniform.

**City Admin. Knight** Say that to me again? I'm sorry.

**C/M Kristina Blair** You—you--you addressed options. You didn't – you didn't attach costs.

**City Admin. Knight** Oh, I'm sorry. There would be – the city would need to provide the Sultan uniform. There would be no cost to provide the existing uniform to the interim chief. I'm sure there would be a cost with the sheriff's office providing their own vehicle. There would be not cost to the city except for the cost we would otherwise incur to provide our own vehicle. So you could have the interim chief wear the sheriff's office uniform [at] no cost, and you could provide him with a city vehicle [at] no cost. It just depends on whether or not you –

**MAYOR ESLICK** *[interrupting]* There'll be comment time after -- Okay. And then you can comment. So this is just discussion right now and, um... *[trails off]*.

**C/M Steve Slawson** I knew something wasn't for free, so we had to figure out how to get it. Is that -- ?

**MAYOR ESLICK** In my mind it was free. In my mind we had the car, they wear their own uniform.

**C/M Steve Slawson** Do we have to purchase a firearm?

**City Admin. Knight** No, we do not.

**C/M Steve Slawson** Okay. That's within our -- ?

**City Admin. Knight** Yes it is, because it's a sheriff's officer, unlike Monroe when we discuss Monroe.

**C/M Steve Slawson** Okay. There's just a few questions I had.

**C/M Dale Doornek** And when would this take effect?

**MAYOR ESLICK** As soon – we—we're working on the contract right now, as we speak. It's in the attorney's hands. So we just wanted it as soon as we can. As soon as the contract is signed, we want the officer here. So to answer that question, I don't know. Hopefully it's before our new chief comes on, because then what would be the purpose? *[Scattered laughter]*. But we needed to do something, *[sounds like, "in my community"]* had some real issues [unintelligible].

**C/M Steve Slawson** Will the temporary chief, uh, [and the] new chief that is starting, will they be working together to kind of tell the direction that our new chief wants to go?

**MAYOR ESLICK***[pauses]* We haven't thought that far ahead, Steve. Thank you for bringing that up. I don't know, 'cause that really would depend on our, um, our chief coming in. I know that it's really important that we continue [a] relationship with the sheriff's department. And by them offering this service to us, that tells me they want the same. So I get the feeling that they will be available to help us any way they can. That's my personal opinion. After meet—meeting with them. So...

**C/M Dale Doornek** Seems *[sounds like he says, "wry" – wise, perhaps?]* that we're all together to form a direction for the new sheriff starting, new chief was starting up. It makes sense to do it that way.

**MAYOR ESLICK** Do we need to bring this back to a special meeting to have action on it? Or where do we go from here?

**City Admin. Knight** That depends upon when you want to take action. You have a scheduled meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, so you could certainly direct staff to bring back an item for discussion and action on the 14<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested in doing something sooner than that, then all you need to do spesh—set a special session is 24 hours' notice to the public and the media. Is that correct, Miss Koenig? *[no audible response heard]*.

**MAYOR ESLICK** So could we set a date for a quick meeting to—to go over this issue tonight, and set a date? And is that something the—the council wants to do.

**City Admin. Knight** I think we should add one more caveat to that, is that the city attorney needs to complete her review, and we need to come to whatever negotiations we would be having with the—with the sheriff's office. So I think we need...

**MAYOR ESLICK** Before we set a date, we'll need to get those...ironed out. Is that what you're thinking?

**City Admin. Knight** We need to at least have enough time to—to work on ironing them out. Also keep in mind that next week we – some of us will be down in Olympia for the AWC Legislative Action Conference. That'll be Wednesday and Thursday. So perhaps the date we want to set would be Friday? That would per—perhaps give us a week—week's time to complete that? And that would make it effective – that Friday is the 1<sup>st</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**C/M Dale Doornek** You wouldn't want to be premature on any procedures.

**City Clerk L. Koenig***[unintelligible comments in the background]*

**City Admin. Knight** Miss Koenig, you want to go ahead and make those comments into the microphone?

**City Clerk L. Koenig** I would suggest that another option that we have is to simply continue this meeting tonight to, uh, a specific date. And then you won't have to worry about publications or notifications getting out in a timely manner. And then you will just simply send a notice to the newspaper advising this meeting has been continued *[unintelligible]* –

**MAYOR ESLICK** So we would still be notifying -- ?

**City Clerk L. Koenig** Yes.

**MAYOR ESLICK** Okay.

**C/M Dale Doornek** Are we required to make a motion for that?

**C/M Jim Flower** It's a discussion item.

*[brief inaudible comments]*

**City Clerk L. Koenig** The motion at the end of the meeting, instead of adjourning this meeting, is to continue this meeting.

**City Admin. Knight** The other – the other direction I think we would be looking for council from a staff perspective this evening is we're assuming that the continuance of this meeting and the reason to continue it, you'll want us to be sure and get that out as broadly as possible so people have an opportunity to attend the continued meeting.

**MAYOR ESLICK** But then, as soon as the word "sheriff" comes out...*[affirmative "um-um's" were verbalized by two or more council members]*...we'll have a full house again.

**City Admin. Knight** So do you want to hold that meeting in this venue? Or would you want to hold the –[ would you want to consider having staff...have a larger room?

**C/M Jim Flower** Actually, this is fine.

**C/M Steve Slawson** That'll be fine. That'll be fine.

**C/M Bruce Champeaux** And the third option could be, once you get to the *[unintelligible]* meeting, not continue it 'cause we'll already be to next Friday. *[The discussion ended here, with laughter. C/M Champeaux's humorous comment referred to the burdensomely-long meeting; at the time he made the comment – with both public and councilmember comments still to come – the time was 10:25 PM, a length of 4 ½ hours (including the hearings).]*

**"Continued" Council Meeting (from 1/24/08)  
re an Unpublished Discussion Item added at the start of the 1/24/08 council meeting by  
Mayor Eslick, continued to 7:00 PM Friday night, 2/1/08:**

MP3 audio of this, and other discussions, are available on [www.ittakesgrit](http://www.ittakesgrit); access “Audio” button left-side menu:

**Transcription of Audio File D, Mayor Eslick’s Comments of this “Continued discussion” item that magically morphed into an “action” item without legal noticing for same.**

**MAYOR ESLICK** Do you have any questions? Do you want some time to read this over?

**C/M Steve Slawson** I think we have enough interlocals to...  
[laughter].

**C/M Kristina Blair** Should we address – [laughter] – should we address – I think Councilmember Davenport-Smith brought up an interesting question about included benefits and what—what-not.

**C/M Steve Slawson** Should we make a motion first, and then we can do a discussion?

**C/M Jim Flower** And I believe we’re still in public comment.

**C/M Steve Slawson** Are we really?

**MAYOR ESLICK** Yes, we probably are.

**C/M Steve Slawson** So we can move to **action** items.

**MAYOR ESLICK** We’ll move onto action items. We have, uh...a motion –

**C/M Kristina Blair** I’d like to make a motion to...*[clears her throat]*  
approve...the ILA with Snohomish County Sheriff’s office to provide the temporary interim police chief, and authorize the mayor to sign it.

**C/M Steve Slawson** Second.

**MAYOR ESLICK** All in favor – Oh, wait. Discussion. *[unintelligible]* have a discussion. And I would like to start the discussion, if you don’t mind, because I’d like to it to light why I asked the sheriff’s department to step on board. I’ve heard in the past they’re willing to do this. And when *[stutters]* we had issues, I had many, many comments from our citizens with issues that were important enough that our policemen, when they should be there, and they have not been able to come. One of them being, um, the VOA *[she actually said, “ZOA”]* department –

**City Admin. Knight** Ms. Mayor?

**MAYOR ESLICK** Yes.

**City Admin. Knight** Did you want this recorded?

**MAYOR ESLICK** I don’t know if it’s important. Is it important?

*[several simultaneous comments, something about Loretta doing it]*

**MAYOR ESLICK** One of the issues that came up was the Volunteers of America Family Sports Center when David Wood found that he had had someone sleeping in his cabins. And along with backpacks, he found ammunition. And there wasn’t an officer when he – when they were called to come and help collect these items and take care of the issue. The other one was just the other night when we had a break-in at the post office, and there were 32 boxes broke into. This tells me we need help badly. And Larry Marshall had to take three extra days off this weekend because he’s worked so many hours. So we have to get somebody else out here. And when they – when I heard that they were interested and were *willing* – that’s the – that’s the hope, bottom line is that they’re willing to help us here. We can’t look a gift horse in the mouth, in my

opinion. So that's why I'm bringing up that discussion and I've brought this forth. And I'm hoping that – number one, my opinion – and I now I'm looking for your opinion – I – for a month or two I don't think we need to outfit them in our own uniform. I think it's important that people know that we've got the sheriff's department helping us, [that] we're partners with them. The other one is I can't see that it's going to go past May. If something happens to our applicant, Charlie Dennis, we still have another one waiting that was interviewed and ranked right up there almost as high as high as Charlie Dennis did, and he's interested still. So there we have two very good applicants. I, too, was concerned when I saw this back page and I thought, "Uh-oh. This is going to send the wrong message." But I'm hoping that everybody understands that it was only if we chose at a later date to go with them, we have to pay, you know? At some point we have to pay. So with that I—I would, um...um...like some more discussion and comments from the council please.

[end of audio file D]

**Audio File E, Council Discussion and "Action" Vote:**

**MAYOR ESLICK** Who would like to start?

**C/M Steve Slawson** It makes sense to get Larry back on the street, and, uh, to help – it'll help [sounds like he says, "what we need"]. And, uh, I just want everybody what – everyone here knows that this is why we're doing this is Larry's worked so many hours. I mean, he's 70, 80 hours a week, and he's patrolling and doing double-duty and he just...he's kinda getting burned out a little bit. So we kind of need to have this done. I'm all for it.

**C/M Ron Weidiger** I'm all for it, also. Larry is, uh, putting in an awful lot of time. And it's just – I talked to him the other night at the Hoot Owl and he's just spent. He's just [sounds like, "stumped"]. He's taken three days now and, uh....I'm behind him on this one 100%.

**MAYOR ESLICK** Thank you.

**C/M S. Davenport-Smith:** I think that it's a great idea. And I think it's wonderful that we're able to partner with the county sheriff this way. And, um....yeah, I....really hope that we're able to get our new applicant trained, Dennis, and, uh.... Thank you. I'm behind you 100%.

**MAYOR ESLICK** Others?

**C/M Steve Slawson** I just want to thank the sheriff's department for such a generous offer. And, uh...and seeing as [unintelligible] I'm going to call for the question. [unintelligible] now she calls Fred.

**C/M Kristina Blair** I think it is important. I think something that came up last year with our lack of staffing was how do we work place (sic) for our officers. In [unintelligible] my concerns are is the decision-making abilities [unintelligible] and, you know, Deborah's situation. So I'm [unintelligible] this. Call for the question.

**MAYOR ESLICK** All in favor? [voices saying "aye" – train whistle blowing loudly; unintelligible comments, obliterated by the whistle; comments continue].

**Snohoco Sheriff Deputy Beidler:** Do I have to be done? Or can I, can I do some [unintelligible]?

**MAYOR ESLICK** You can speak if you like.

**Deputy Beidler** I want to address two things. One, once you've been up for 14 hours or over 14 hours, you have the equivalent of a one-oh [1.0] as a cop – in--in intoxication level, as in sobriety. I—I know the people that work in your city. I waited till after you took your vote for, to say this, on purpose. They're spent, and they're taxed. And it's not just fatigue. They're

stressed. And—and Larry is wound up. And we have – now my job with the sheriff’s office is contracting, it is budgeting, it is finances, all those things. We have absolutely no agenda. And, and, and what – the comments that I’ve heard is—are—from you guys are the truth. It is just—it’s—it is a gift. And – or at least the first 90 days it’s a gift. It is – it’s certainly for the City of Sultan but it’s all—it’s for your police, you know. When – and I’m sure you know this – you know, at Two, Three in the morning when they go home, the—the dispatch says City of Sultan is on Level Two, and county responds to Priority One calls only. We have One through Five, five meaning barking dog, priority one meaning, “Come help me. Somebody’s stabbing me in my home.” And if it’s not a Priority One, there is nobody working and—and there’ll be no cop. And at least one more badge, whether it’s a star or a badge in your city on the street, cuts down the time that that is happening. So there is – it’s a beneficial (sic) – it’s beneficial to us to have another—another cop out here. There’s that many fewer times that somebody’s running from the east precinct to get out here for one of those calls, to be honest with you. So I think it’s good for everybody.

*[end of Audio File E]*

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**\* Per case precedence, *Port of Edmonds v. Fur Breeders*] re legal noticing requirements for action items, this constitutes illegal action by the Mayor and Sultan Council.**