

# EDMONDS CITY COUNCIL APPROVED MINUTES

## June 17, 2008

Following a Special Meeting at 6:45 p.m. for an Executive Session regarding labor negotiations, the Edmonds City Council meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Haakenson in the Council Chambers, 250 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Edmonds. The meeting was opened with the flag salute.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Gary Haakenson, Mayor  
Deanna Dawson, Council President Pro Tem  
D. J. Wilson, Councilmember  
Dave Orvis, Councilmember  
Ron Wambolt, Councilmember

### ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT

Michael Plunkett, Council President  
Peggy Pritchard Olson, Councilmember  
Steve Bernheim, Councilmember

### STAFF PRESENT

Tom Tomberg, Fire Chief  
James Lawless, Assistant Police Chief  
Dan Clements, Administrative Services Director  
Brian McIntosh, Parks & Recreation Director  
Noel Miller, Public Works Director  
Kathleen Junglov, Asst. Admin. Services Dir.  
Scott Snyder, City Attorney  
Sandy Chase, City Clerk  
Jana Spellman, Senior Executive Council Asst.

### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approve the  
Agenda

**COUNCILMEMBER WAMBOLT MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WILSON, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA IN CONTENT AND ORDER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

**COUNCILMEMBER WAMBOLT MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAWSON, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The agenda items approved are as follows:**

Roll Call

**A. ROLL CALL**

Approved  
06/03/08  
Minutes

**B. APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2008.**

Approve  
Claim Checks

**C. APPROVAL OF CLAIM CHECKS #104678 THROUGH #104821 FOR JUNE 5, 2008 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$706,197.67, AND #104822 THROUGH #104977 FOR JUNE 12, 2008 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$505,803.47. APPROVAL OF PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSITS AND CHECKS #46593 THROUGH #46668 FOR THE PERIOD MAY 16 THROUGH MAY 31, 2008 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$833,041.53.**

Claims for  
Damages

**D. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES FROM HAINES POINT HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (\$141.57), PATRICIA GILMARTIN (\$475,607.95), AND LEE DOUGHTY (\$56.31).**

Interpreter  
Fees

**E. AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERPRETER FEES.**

Liquor Licenses

F. LIST OF EDMONDS BUSINESSES APPLYING FOR RENEWAL OF THEIR WASHINGTON STATE LIQUOR LICENSES, JANUARY - MARCH 2008.

Fiber Optic Service

G. FIBER OPTIC SERVICE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH EDMONDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

Pole Attachment License

H. PUD BOILERPLATE "POLE ATTACHMENT LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL ENTITIES."

Ord# 3688 Cable Franchise Fee

I. ORDINANCE NO. 3688 - CABLE FRANCHISE FEE ORDINANCE.

Emergency Storm Repair

J. REPORT ON FINAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE DECEMBER 2007 EMERGENCY STORM REPAIR PROJECT AND COUNCIL ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECT.

Northstream Culvert Repair

K. REPORT ON FINAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE NORTHSTREAM CULVERT EMERGENCY REPAIR PROJECT AND COUNCIL ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECT.

BNSF Second Main Track Project

L. AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR TO SIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH KPFF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC. FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR REPLACEMENT AND/OR ENCASEMENT OF EXISTING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION OF THE BNSF SECOND MAIN TRACK PROJECT.

Stevens Hospital

3. UPDATE ON STEVENS HOSPITAL

Fred Langer, Commissioner, Stevens Hospital, described his background working for Stevens Hospital for six years as a RN before finishing his education and becoming an attorney. He was elected as a Commissioner in 1997 and served as the President of the Board of Commissioners from 2002-2007. He displayed a photograph of Stevens Hospital, explaining when the hospital was opened in 1963, the planned capacity was 15,000 emergency room visits per year; the hospital currently serves approximately 44,000 emergency room visits per year. He identified the four other Hospital Commissioners, Deana Knutsen, Kimberly Cole, Charles Day and Bob Meador.

He explained the Hospital District serves Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Brier, a portion of Bothell, Edmonds and Woodway. He noted if the hospital were sited today to service this area, it likely would not be in this location because access is primarily via Hwy. 99 rather than I-5 or I-405. He displayed a map identifying their service area, explaining over half of their patients are from outside the District's taxing area. He recalled in 1994 when the voters of Mukilteo were invited to join the District, they declined. He displayed a chart illustrating growth by zip code, identifying areas of significant growth to the east outside the taxing District where many of their admissions are from.

Commissioner Langer explained in their primary service area, the amount spent on healthcare admission is approximately \$850 million. Like most hospitals, Stevens Hospital provides a significant amount of charity care. He noted the economic impact of healthcare in the area was over \$1 billion. He acknowledged Stevens Hospital did not compete with Children's Hospital for acute pediatric care nor did Stevens Hospital have trauma facilities like Harborview. He displayed a chart illustrating the amount collected from taxpayers in the Hospital District, \$0.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value, pointing out this was dramatically lower compared to other hospital districts. He referred to their "turnaround" where with the assistance of consultants, the hospital was now operating with a positive profit, 2-4% with an annual budget of \$160 million. He commented on deferred capital spending totaling \$70 million that was needed to modernize the facility and make it a facility the region was proud of. He compared the amount collected by the Evergreen Hospital District, noting it was approximately \$65 million more over the past

ten years. He emphasized for every tax dollar Stevens Hospital collects, they give back \$3 in charity care and write off another \$5 in non-collectable accounts.

The current issue is the need for an influx of capital to modernize the facility and they are seeking a partner; his first choice as a partner was the Public Hospital District but was concerned that would not be possible in the current economic climate. Therefore, they must consider alternative partners. He explained for every five emergency room visits, there was one admission. Stevens Hospital was in a very competitive environment due to their divert status (emergency personnel instructed to take patients elsewhere because of Stevens Hospital's limited capacity) and the volume of admissions. He summarized something would change with regard to the delivery of healthcare in south Snohomish County, the question was only whether Stevens Hospital would be at the forefront which he was confident they would be and whether the District would be their partner or there would be another partner.

**Michael Carter, Chief Executive Officer, Stevens Hospital**, displayed Stevens Hospital's mission, vision and value statements, commenting the mission to improve the health and well being of the community meant more than treating episodic, acute care emergencies, they want to intervene early and be part of a healthy community. He referred to their vision which includes trusted and financially strong, commenting being financially strong and trusted has been and continues to be a problem for the hospital but were both worthy goals. He assured the quality was there at Stevens Hospital.

He commented on their competition and what made Stevens Hospital's position in the market very vulnerable. He displayed a map of the region and identified hospitals in the area that draw from Stevens Hospital's market and described their recent capital improvements:

- Providence Everett – recently completed a new parking structure and will break ground next month on a \$600 million tower soon. Providence changed their name effective September 1, 2008 to Providence Regional Medical Center Everett due to their plans to expand and capture patients who currently use downtown Seattle hospitals.
- Evergreen Hospital – \$24 million collected in taxes per year. Intend to offer 80 new beds soon, recently filed a Certificate of Need to allow expansion. Their area of interest includes growth in Mill Creek.
- Swedish Hospital – new leadership in 2007, opening a new \$150 million orthopedic unit. Acquired Ballard Hospital, are building a hospital in Issaquah and would like to establish a larger presence in the north.
- Northwest Hospital – although smaller, are reasonably well capitalized with several niche relationships including a recently announced affiliation with the University of Washington for a proton-beam accelerator, at a cost of \$250 million, one of six in the country.

Mr. Carter concluded there were well capitalized, aggressive competitors in the area who were interested in expanding to the north, thus it was necessary to have the capital and strategies to survive in this area; Stevens Hospital could not continue to “live on a shoestring.” A levy that produced a great deal of money would assist, but Stevens also needed an effective physician strategy. He explained doctors are changing the way they practice; many doctors over 50 years of age, disillusioned by difficulties encountered in their private practices, are receptive to becoming employees. For example, Providence recently hired a group of general surgeons - surgicalists - who perform all surgeries that comes in through the emergency room. For Stevens Hospital to do this would require a \$5 million investment. He noted Edmonds Family Medicine comprised of 27 physicians, although not for sale, have received offers from the Everett Clinic and Providence Physician services. If that clinic were sold, a huge base of Stevens Hospital would disappear. The cardiologists at Stevens Hospital work for Swedish, they are at Stevens Hospital due to a cardiovascular services affiliation that will end. He noted these were simply examples of the vulnerability of Stevens Hospital's physician base. Stevens needs not only a capital strategy to build new facilities but

also a physician strategy to ensure a strong, growing physician base to support the facility should there be a decision and money available to build it.

Mr. Carter concluded Stevens Hospital had improving income statements, quality, and their service, although not what it should be, it was close to some breakthroughs; their average inpatient satisfaction score was 80.3% and 83% was the median. He summarized Stevens Hospital's day-to-day operations were comparable but their balance sheet was fatally flawed. He asked for the Council's understanding and support in this process.

**Rick Canning, Chief Financial Officer, Stevens Hospital**, displayed and reviewed Stevens Hospital's financials including revenue increases over the past six years generated on inpatient census, outpatient activity and emergency room activity and operating income which increased from 5.8% negative to 3/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% negative. He advised net income had improved from a negative 1.9% to 3.2% which represents in 2008 approximately \$4 million; \$2 million of that are tax revenues generated to pay debt service on a major bond issue. He described their cash flow, noting they were currently at 8% but need to be at 11% in order to have an investment grade rating with the rating agencies.

Mr. Canning reviewed their cash reserves, identifying the number of days of cash available, advising they were currently at 34.5 days. In order to have an investment rating, they needed 120 days of cash on hand; the hospitals mentioned previously have cash reserves in excess of 100 days and some nearly 200 days. He advised their cash balance decreased last year due to investments in facilities and equipment; in an effort to rebuild the reserve, capital expenditures have been significantly curtailed this year. He displayed and reviewed a chart of investments in the facilities and equipment. He referred to the average age of plant (accumulated depreciation divided by annual depreciation charge), explaining for a benchmark organization, that number should be no more than ten years. Stevens Hospital's age of plant is increasing significantly up to 15.2 years which represents an under-investment in facilities and equipment.

Mr. Canning explained Stevens Hospital was also a significant provider of charity care to the community, \$5.4 million in 2007 and \$6.9 million projected for 2008. In addition they have uncollectible accounts, approximately three times the amount spent on charity care. He summarized there have been significant operational losses over the years and in 2008 Stevens Hospital continues with a negative operating forecast of \$250,000 for 2008. Liquidity levels remain low with days of cash on hand averaging 33.8 days since 2002 and projected to be 36 days for 2008. As a result of insufficient cash flow and high debt to equity ratio of 65% (should be below 50%), and because they are not an investment-grade rated organization by Moodys or Standard & Poor's, Stevens Hospital is unable to borrow money on their own. To regain the investment-grade rating, they must demonstrate consistently for at least 3-4 years an operating margin in excess of 2% and over 100 days of cash on hand for a minimum of three years.

**Charles Day, Commissioner, Stevens Hospital**, described the importance of first seeking the input of the constituents of the District as the hospital is a public facility, one of the largest employers in south Snohomish County (1300 employees), and a \$170 million asset. He reiterated Stevens Hospital either needed to partner with the constituents of the district or find another partner because the hospital needs to be saved. He commented on Stevens Hospital's bad reputation, assuring Stevens was changing - there were excellent doctors in the area although it was difficult to attract physicians without the latest facilities and equipment. In order to upgrade, Stevens Hospital needed an infusion of nearly \$400 million. He reviewed options:

- Option 1: Additional capital investment to maintain medical technology, technology improvements and new program development and enhancement with no major update to the physical plant at a cost of \$35 million over the next six years which would require a \$0.37/\$1,000 levy enacted no later than 2010.

- Option 2: Expansion and rebuilding the emergency department with 40 beds as well as a critical care tower with 40 beds. The estimated cost for this option is \$120 million.
- Option 3: Replace the existing tower with 170 beds. He anticipated the 1963 building would be demolished and a new emergency department constructed, the existing tower could be used for another purpose.

He described the impact this would have on citizen's property taxes: using \$480,000 as an average assessed value for Edmonds, and \$322,000 for Lynnwood, the Edmonds taxpayer currently pays \$75 per year; under option 1, this increases to \$255 per year; option 2 increases the assessment to \$394 and option 3 increases it to \$630. He acknowledged there was a cost to citizens of upgrading Stevens, pointing out the importance of an up-to-date community hospital as it was the first line of care for citizens in acute distress.

Councilmember Wambolt asked whether Stevens Hospital had asked the voters to increase the levy. Mr. Carter explained when the M&O levy was first passed, there was an escalator clause; however, I-695 limited their ability to increase the levy to 1% per year. Stevens Hospital had not asked the voters for an increase in the levy.

Councilmember Wambolt commented the amount expended for compassion and healthcare service seemed high and asked how the percentage compared with other hospitals. Mr. Carter answered they were over 2% for charity and approximately 4-4.5% for bad debt which was close to the State average. Mr. Canning pointed out Stevens was not necessarily unique with regard to the pressure it was feeling; there was financial duress throughout all public hospital districts in the state. Mr. Day pointed out Stevens was the only hospital from the Canadian border to Stevens that accepted psychiatric patients, a majority of which are involuntary commitments and charity. The only other facilities are at Harborview and Steilacoom.

Councilmember Wambolt commented he was trying to determine why Stevens Hospital's profitability was below the mean. He asked how the amount of levy per employee compared to other hospitals. Mr. Langer advised the hospitals industry was typically measured by employee per adjusted occupied bed. Stevens was approximately 5.6 which compared favorably to larger facilities. Steven's average daily census is 93-94; the census in larger facilities ranges from 150-200 which allows the larger facilities to spread fixed overhead costs over a larger number of patients. Mr. Carter agreed Stevens may be slightly overstaffed; however, sending staff home due to low census often leads to turnover.

Councilmember Wilson thanked the Stevens Hospital representatives for their presentation, thanked Mr. Carter for his time in February, the respect shown him when he spoke at the April Commission and Mr. Langer for meeting him after the Commission meeting. He noted his questions were questions from the community, recognizing this was the most important public policy the community faced due to its direct, tangible impact on the community's quality of life.

Councilmember Wilson referred to Mr. Day's comments to the Port Commission about misconceptions in the press and by some individuals and Vice President/Chief Development Officer Jack Kirkman's comments in the *Edmonds Beacon* that highlighted misrepresentations in the media and offered them an opportunity to clear up any misconceptions. Mr. Day explained the Commission operates under the same Public Meetings Act the Council must follow. Their meetings are advertised in approved locations and their meetings are open to the public. He invited the Council to attend the Stevens Hospital Commission meeting next Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. in the fourth floor conference room. Mr. Day commented they had been accused of not being transparent; he advised their website now contained their audited financial statement; they are audited annually by the Joint Commission, the State, a performance audit by the State,

Medicare and KPMG as well as individual department audits. He assured they were not paying off the auditors to tweak an opinion.

In response to the comment that the Hospital Commission operates under the same rules as the Council, Councilmember Wilson pointed out City staff publishes the Council agenda as well as supplement information for each item on the City's website and asked if this was done on the Stevens Hospital District website. Mr. Carter answered only meeting dates and minutes of the prior meeting are published. Councilmember Wilson pointed out this was substantially different than the Council. He asked how special meetings were published. Mr. Langer answered they welcomed the Council's questions and recognized Councilmember Wilson did not want to see the hospital fail. He advised there were statutory requirements with regard to where special meeting notices were published, noting there were 4-5 locations where they were published including the *Edmonds Beacon* and the *Herald*.

Councilmember Wilson agreed he did not want the hospital to fail; he wanted to be Stevens' biggest ally due to its importance to the community. His primary concern was the hospital was making decisions about its future that citizens would not be able to participate in because the process was not public enough or transparent enough and by the time citizens heard about those decisions, it would be too late. He recalled Mr. Carter's response to his concern was that assumption was correct. Mr. Carter clarified his remark was taken out of context. His response was that would be true if they continued to have as little participation from the public as they currently do. Councilmember Wilson restated Mr. Carter's clarification that the deficiency was in the public engagement, not in the behavior, actions, or engagement of the hospital.

Mr. Langer expressed concern with the tenor of the questions, noting the standards they abide by are published by the legislature, and they are not subject to the opinions of any member of the public. He noted there were no credible instances where meetings were held that did not meet these standards. Councilmember Wilson clarified that was not his question, the bylaws state the Hospital District was only required to provide 24 hours notice to the public of a meeting. He asked whether that was adequate to get the public engagement/response. He recalled in Mr. Carter's 2006 presentation to the Council, he stated there was a major problem with the public's perception of the hospital's care, a comment often repeated, that the problem is not the quality of care but the public's perception of the quality of care. Recognizing that had been identified as a problem, Councilmember Wilson asked what was being done to address it. Mr. Carter commented information about Stevens' care was available on their website via core measures as well as the Washington State Hospital Association link. Councilmember Wilson reiterated the quality was not his concern; his concern was the public perception of Stevens Hospital which has been identified as a problem and what was being done about it. Mr. Carter agreed this needs to be a public process and largely why it had not been was there had not been any interest. They plan to do their part to ensure the public was interested, engaged and participates in the process in the future.

With regard to Steven's financial situation and the audit, Councilmember Wilson relayed he had questions about the audit and some post-close items. He previously raised these questions with the hospital in varying capacities. He noted that the full audit and the letters were not posted on the hospital's website. He pointed out Stevens may have had an unqualified audit but there were significant problems in the audit that someone viewing from the public was not able to see unless they did a public records request. He asked whether that was an adequate way to engage the public. Mr. Day responded the items that were found were not significant enough to qualify the opinion; they had an unqualified opinion. Councilmember Wilson asked whether posting the letters that highlight significant issues in the 2007 audit would better engage the public and build public support. Mr. Day assured there were no significant errors and there were no material internal control problems noted. There was a significant internal control which was less than material, and that simply reflected that there were more than a normal amount of audit adjustments during the year.

Councilmember Wilson referred to the April 22, 2008 letter from KPMG that he obtained via a public records request, which states on page 4, we consider the following deficiency to be a significant deficiency in internal control. Several post-close adjustments were recorded to properly reflect financial information as of and for the year ending December 31, 2007 and the changes recorded after the end of the year are listed in the letter. He noted the changes recorded after the end of the year resulted in a \$163,000 incentive to Mr. Carter and/or his executive team and that compensation was more than half of the total post close statements. He expressed concern that that information was available only via a public records request rather than available on the website.

Mr. Canning explained the \$163,000 was the total incentive compensation for the entire senior management staff. It had been the practice to record those in the year they were paid which was done the prior year. Following a discussion with the auditors, they explained a better practice would be to record that amount in the year the measurement was done, 2007, so they approved posting it back to 2007 and in order to ensure there was not a similar adjustment this year, incentive compensation was estimated and they are recording that each month. He noted there were eight items in the letter that totaled \$291,000, acknowledging 2-3 should have been corrected during that year and may have been overlooked in the change in financial management. These have been reviewed and steps taken to ensure adjustments are recorded appropriately during the course of the year to reduce the number of adjustments. He noted the comment from the auditor was the number of the adjustments, not the magnitude but they felt for internal financial reporting purposes, reporting each month should be more accurate.

Councilmember Wilson reiterated he wanted Stevens Hospital to succeed in Edmonds, finding the location ideal as it was the closest point where I-5 and Hwy. 99 meet and at the corner of three cities. He reiterated his primary concern was public support via an M&O levy and/or new bond levy and public perception. His questions were not whether Stevens was following generally accepted accounting procedures or statutes but why public perception appeared to be the lowest priority when it was cited as one of the biggest problems.

Councilmember Wilson inquired about plans to move the hospital, recalling Mr. Kirkman's comments in the press that there were never any plans to move, Vice President/Chief Planning Officer Sarah Zabel's statement to the Planning Commission that moving eastward would be an appropriate consideration, and Mayor Haakenson's comments that Stevens Hospital was not moving. He asked if they could say categorically that Stevens Hospital was not moving. Mr. Langer answered moving the hospital due to the amount of capital investment in that 8 acres was not sensible. He anticipated there would always be a strong healthcare delivery presence in Edmonds but it was prudent to conduct further investigation when clearly the service area growth was in areas other than Edmonds. The facts do not currently support that the present location as the optimal place for further investment. He visualized a free-standing emergency room closer to where growth was occurring near I-405 to free up the existing facility. He reserved judgment regarding adding congestion to the existing location until further data was available. Councilmember Wilson summarized relocation was on the table. Mr. Langer clarified it was not relocation but rather redeployment; he did not find moving the entire hospital to another location practical but he agreed relocation was on the table when discussing a \$450 million investment but did not feel it was likely under the current scenario.

Councilmember Wilson referred to the challenge of recruiting physicians, a challenge faced by most hospitals. He recalled Mr. Carter's predecessor Dr. Todd felt his top competition for Stevens Hospital was local physicians and asked if that continued. Mr. Langer pointed out 20 years ago there were no free standing ambulatory care centers, there are now 13-14 competitors who have admissions to hospitals as well as self-admit to their own facilities. He noted Evergreen faced the same circumstances.

Councilmember Wilson recalled a statement that Stevens Hospital would be retiring their bond debt in a few years. Mr. Carter advised they were currently receiving \$0.19/\$1000 assessed valuation, \$0.10 for a bond. Mr. Canning advised that levy would be retired in 2011, leaving only the \$0.09 operations levy.

Councilmember Wilson asked why Stevens Hospital has not asked voters for increased funding in the past. Mr. Langer reiterated when they invited Mukilteo to join the District; the no vote was 4:1 which illustrated the public's lack of interest in additional taxes. Councilmember Wilson asked whether increasing the public's perception of Stevens Hospital and engaging the public would build support for a levy. Mr. Langer commented much of the perception of Stevens Hospital was from those who have never been to the hospital. Asking the audience who had had care at Stevens Hospital and who had a bad experience, he noted out of 30 who had received care, 3 had a poor experience which was illustrative of the statistic that people were 11 times more likely to complain than compliment. Public perception was changed one patient at a time; the fact was the quality of care was good and perception would follow the truth. He agreed improved public perception would improve support for a bond measure. He summarized the cornerstone of the turnaround procedure has been transparency and honesty.

Councilmember Wilson recognized Stevens Hospital was getting better but was not well and they had a long way to go before the public supported the hospital to the degree they needed and they had the power to change the public perception.

Councilmember Wambolt suggested if the goal was to have more citizens at Commission meetings, the meeting time be changed from 8:00 a.m. as most people could not attend at that time. He commented the timing of the meetings send the message that they did not want the public there; most other organizations held their meetings at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Langer agreed to take this suggestion under advisement.

Councilmember Orvis expressed appreciation for the services provided by Stevens Hospital, noting both his wife and he had surgery at the hospital. As a member of the Hospital District, he expressed interest in partnering with Stevens Hospital and urged them not to discount the public's interest in partnering with them. Mr. Langer announced their next Commission retreat where this issue and the impact the levy would have on the public would be discussed was scheduled for July 21 at Stevens Hospital.

Councilmember Wilson agreed with Councilmember Orvis' comment about the public's interest in partnering with Stevens Hospital. He described his recent experience at Stevens Hospital emergency room with his son, assuring there was room for improvement in their care.

Mayor Haakenson advised his wife, his mother-in-law, both his sons and he have received great care at Stevens Hospital.

Bettinger/  
Kretzler  
Historic  
Home

4. **DISCUSSION REGARDING MOVING THE HOUSE AT 555 MAIN STREET TO CIVIC FIELD AND A PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE EDMONDS CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING INTENT TO PRESERVE THE BETTINGER/KRETZLER HISTORIC HOME.**

Councilmember Orvis explained this resolution would declare the Council's intent with regard to the Bettinger/Kretzler historic home.

Council President Pro Tem Dawson clarified when Councilmember Orvis asked to schedule this item on the agenda, he asked for two items, first a discussion of this matter and information gathering on tonight's agenda, and a second item on the June 24 agenda for public comment and action. Therefore, it was not her intent to take action tonight, particularly since only four Councilmembers were present.

Councilmember Orvis explained the intent was to use private funds to move the house from its current location to the Civic Center playfield. Council President Pro Tem Dawson explained the property at 555 Main Street, the current location of the Bettinger/Kretzler historic home, has been purchased and the new owner plans to develop the site. One of the potential new sites for the house is the Civic Center playfield which would require acquiescence by the Edmonds School District as they own the property. Prior to seeking the District's approval, the City must also consider the needs of the Parks Department, use of the property for other purposes, etc.

**Fred Bell, Edmonds**, Historical Society President, explained when they discovered the house would be available, the Historical Society expressed interest in saving the house due to its historical significance. Through his investigation of properties along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, he discovered none are available at this time. Following his suggestion to move the house to the Civic Center property, the Edmonds Historic Museum held an Executive Council meeting and a resolution was passed to obtain a line of credit which has been accomplished. He was confident the museum could operate a successful capital campaign to fund moving the house to the Civic Center playfield.

With regard to the lease the City has with the Edmonds School District for the playfield, Councilmember Orvis explained the City could make a proposal to the School District which would require approval by the Board. At a recent meeting with museum members and representatives of the School District, their primary question was what would happen when the lease expired as the City was obligated to return the land back to its original state. Although the School District was very positive about the idea, they did not want to be encumbered by removing the house after the lease expired. He noted the property owner wanted assurance the City was negotiating in good faith and committed to the concept, not that all details/negotiations were complete.

Council President Pro Tem Dawson commented before the Council committed to the concept, they needed information regarding whether the house would have an adverse impact on the Civic Center playfield use and operations. Parks & Recreation Director Brian McIntosh thanked Mr. Bell for his efforts, particularly canvassing 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue for available property. Recognizing the Civic Center playfield as an extremely active park, he had concerns with moving the house onto the site. He was sympathetic to preserving the house preferably in the bowl area but did not find relocating the house to the Civic Center playfield a good fit and was unsure how it would impact the track, open space or other uses. His goal for the Civic Center playfield was uses that promote an active lifestyle; the skate park is an example. He was uncertain what the intended use of the building would be and had heard suggestions that included relocating the Parks Department, a wedding venue, etc., noting there were parking and M&O issues associated with the use of the house.

Mr. McIntosh observed the proposed resolution referred to the Civic Center playfield as a suitable location and he acknowledged it was likely the only location at this time. Another consideration if the Council decided to move the house to the Civic Center playfield was whether it would be a temporary location until a more suitable location became available. He noted the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Arts Corridor was envisioned as developing in 6-10 years and would be a more appropriate location. If the Council passed the resolution, he wanted assurance that those involved would continue to search for a better, more appropriate location; he viewed the Civic Center playfield as a temporary location and suggested adding that language to the resolution.

Mayor Haakenson assured the Parks Department staff was not being moved.

Council President Pro Tem Dawson requested staff determine the setbacks, etc. to identify potential locations on the site which would allow Mr. McIntosh to consider impacts on the site. She asked Mr. Bell if the Civic Center playfield was viewed as a temporary move and if the condition of the house would

allow it to be moved again in the future. She also asked what uses were envisioned for the house and under whose auspices that use would occur. Councilmember Orvis advised several uses were being considered; the museum was interested in it for events such as wedding receptions. It would be the museum's responsibility to rent the facility to pay the maintenance costs. Mr. Bell advised the Museum Board and the community members he has spoken with have great faith in a capital campaign as well as future donations to maintain the property in perpetuity. He was confident the house could be moved in the future if necessary and he was certain he could find someone who wanted it. He envisioned there would be enough money generated by the capital campaign to return the playfields to their original condition if the house were moved again. With regard to uses of the building, he envisioned the Museum Director's office would be relocated to the house and the house rented for weddings and receptions, social functions, and other public uses.

Council President Pro Tem Dawson asked if the house has been examined structurally to determine if it could be moved a second time. Mr. Bell did not envision there would be significant damage to the house from moving it once or twice. He advised two people looked at the building to bid on moving it. Council President Pro Tem Dawson asked for confirmation by next week that the house could be moved more than once.

Council President Pro Tem Dawson wanted assurance if the Council agreed the Civic Center playfield location was short term solution until a more suitable location could be found, that it could be done temporarily and what would be required such as a foundation to allow it to be moved again. Mr. Bell questioned the reference to a temporary location, advising the funds to move the house came from volunteers, dues and a capital campaign and he questioned who would fund the next move. Council President Pro Tem Dawson commented on the need for clarity whether the Civic Center playfield is viewed as a permanent location or a temporary location; it appeared the Historical Society envisioned Civic Center playfield as a permanent location. Mr. Bell responded his intent was to move the house onto the Civic Center playfield until the end of the lease, 2021, which made it a permanent location.

Mayor Haakenson advised the Council would discuss the resolution again at next week's Council meeting.

Arts  
Commission  
Annual  
Report

5. **EDMONDS ARTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007.**

**Todd Timmcke, Chair, Arts Commission**, stated the mission of the Edmonds Arts Commission (EAC) is to ensure the arts are integral to the community's quality of life, economic vitality, and central identity. He explained the work of the EAC could be divided into five categories: planning, arts assistance, community involvement, public art and programs. Under planning, the Community Cultural Plan public process and initial draft were completed in last year. In addition, a Preserve America Grant was secured for the development of the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Cultural Corridor. In the area of arts assistance, \$9,000 was awarded for tourism promotion. Funds were awarded to the Cascade Symphony Orchestra, Choir of the Sound, Driftwood Players, Jazz Connection, Rotary Foundation, KSER Foundation, Third Thursday Artwalk, EAFF/Art Studio tour and Olympic Ballet Theater. The EAC also published the quarterly EAC Arts newsletter, hosted an arts advocacy workshop and awarded an arts education scholarship to Sarah Humphrey.

Mr. Timmcke commented on the importance of partnerships to the EAC; the EAC partnered to support and promote the arts, arts education and cultural tourism with the Edmonds Arts Festival, Chamber of Commerce, Edmonds Community College, Edmonds Historical Museum, Edmonds Center for the Arts, Edmonds School District, Friends of the Library, pARTners (dance workshops for students and teachers at Edmonds Elementary) as well as local businesses and arts organizations. He noted the importance of public art to the visual identity of Edmonds. The EAC acquires and maintains a renowned public art

collection and acquired two artworks last year including *Unstable Perch* by Joey Katzer and a permanent exhibit case was constructed for the Sister City friendship quilt from Hekinan, Japan. The Commission also co-hosted a reception and preview showing of a film about Everett DuPen whose sculpture *Vision* is in the public art collection.

He highlighted programs sponsored by EAC, commenting programs were the heart of the Commission's work. In visual arts, the Commission maintained four exhibit spaces and coordinated with the arts festival space to feature the work of 30 regional artists, selections from the Hekinan Collection and other collections. Works by Max Grover and Georgia Gerber were among the highlights. A workshop by Georgia Gerber was also presented in conjunction with her show and the third Thursday Artwalk. The Commission also sponsored the Best Book I Ever Read Contest, presented eight summer concerts in the park and the new Rotary Pavilion in City Park was dedicated at the start of the season. He commented one of the gems of the EAC's programs was the Write on the Sound Writer's Conference and thanked Cultural Services Assistant Kris Gillespie for her work on the conference.

Mr. Timmcke summarized all these efforts were made possible by the tireless work and dedication of the members of the Arts Commission, City Staff and countless volunteers. He referred to Commission members Rick Bader, Greg Banasek, Joyeanna Chaudiere, Pam Harold, Mary Monfort, and Joanne Otness and thanked retiring Commissioner Julie Long for her work in 2007. He expressed the Commission's appreciation to Cultural Services Manager Frances Chapin and Cultural Services Assistant Kris Gillespie. He also thanked the City for their support of the arts.

Mayor Haakenson expressed the City's appreciation to the EAC for their work.

Contracting  
with Former  
Employees

## 6. CONTRACTING WITH FORMER EMPLOYEES.

Administrative Services Director Dan Clements explained due to potential conflicts of interest involved with awarding contracts to firms who employ former City employees, staff was asked to prepare an ordinance establishing guidelines for this type of activity. The Finance Committee reviewed this issue including ordinances from several other jurisdictions. The proposed ordinance is similar to Snohomish County and includes an exception clause contained in Spokane's ordinance.

Council President Pro Tem Dawson recognized staff for their quick response to the Council's request, commenting the ordinance would serve the City well and provide guidelines if such a situation arose in the future.

Councilmember Wambolt advised the Finance Committee reviewed several examples from different jurisdictions and found Snohomish County's ordinance most closely matched the City's goals with the addition of the exception clause that would allow an employee to be hired back as a consultant within one year with the approval of the City Council. He recalled the Council's objection in the past was an employee who left the City and was then hired back as a consultant at a substantially higher rate. The proposed ordinance would not allow an employee to work for a company where there would be a conflict of interest.

Councilmember Wilson asked whether the proposed ordinance applied to the City Council or if it only applied to City employees who may contract with the City in the future. City Attorney Scott Snyder advised the definition was taken from the State Statute which included public elected officials, therefore, it would include Councilmembers. He noted the exemption also included Councilmembers with Council approval.

Council President Pro Tem Dawson commented the ordinance contained a provision common to most jurisdictions, once a Councilmember left that jurisdiction as an elected official, they could not lobby that organization for profit for one year. She explained the reason most jurisdictions adopted that provision was to prevent the perception that Councilmembers were inappropriately profiting from serving in that capacity. There was no exception for that provision. Mr. Snyder clarified if a Councilmember were elected to another public office, they were exempt. The Council could also exempt former officials returning in an unpaid capacity.

Councilmember Wilson asked whether the City could hire a person from another jurisdiction/agency. Mr. Snyder advised that situation was not addressed by the ordinance.

Councilmember Orvis clarified a former Councilmember could lobby the Council without compensation. Mr. Clements agreed that would be allowed. Mr. Snyder assured the goal was not to restrict anyone's First Amendment Rights.

Ord# 3689  
Contracts with  
Former  
Employees

**COUNCILMEMBER WAMBOLT MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAWSON TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3689. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The ordinance reads as follows:**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 3 ECC, REVENUE AND FINANCE, TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 3.70 ECC, CONFLICT OF INTEREST, REGARDING CONTRACTS WITH FORMER EMPLOYEES.**

Concession  
Agreement  
with Shorts 'N  
Slippas

7. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPLICATION FOR A CONCESSION AGREEMENT. THE AGREEMENT IS FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY IN ORDER TO PLACE A TRAILER ON THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO VEND FOOD AND BEVERAGES. THE SITE IS LOCATED AT JAMES STREET IMMEDIATELY EAST OF THE FERRY HOLDING LANES AND IS ADJACENT TO THE SR104 PARK. (APPLICANT: ANGELO NARCISO/SHORTS 'N SLIPPAS)**

Mayor Haakenson recalled the Council had a great deal of discussion before approving a Concession Agreement for a business at this location a few years ago; therefore, the City Clerk and he felt it appropriate to present it to the Council for consideration of the new ownership.

City Clerk Sandy Chase explained in late 2006 the Council adopted Edmonds City Code Chapter 4.04 regarding the lease of public property or City right-of-way; decisions to lease City property or public right-of-way are legislative decisions to be granted at the sole discretion of the City Council. The applicant proposes to locate a trailer on the right-of-way on James Street to sell authentic Hawaiian shaved ice, drinks (bottled water, sodas) and prepackaged ice cream. She explained the Council has entered into only one other Concession Agreement with Milltown Pizza and that agreement expired December 31, 2007. The Council approved the Concession Agreement for an additional year but Milltown Pizza made the decision to close. The new applicant plans to purchase the Milltown Pizza trailer previously sited in this location. If the Council determines the Concession Agreement should be approved, a monthly fee would need to be established. The monthly lease amount for the Concession Agreement with Milltown Pizza was \$100 per month.

Councilmember Wambolt asked if there had been any complaints about the operation of Milltown Pizza. Ms. Chase recalled receiving one email from the President of the condominium association at 100 James Street expressing concern with the appearance of the trailer. Mayor Haakenson advised since Milltown Pizza was no longer operating at that location, there have been complaints about the trailer remaining there.

Mayor Haakenson opened the public participation portion of the public hearing.

**Karen Wiggins, Edmonds**, a resident of the building directly east of the trailer, stated although she did not object to a concession, the Council approved a different, nicer trailer for the pizza vendor. The vendor then sold that trailer and placed a lesser quality trailer on the site. She concluded the appearance of the trailer and poor maintenance was their objection. She recommended the Council require the trailer or its equivalent that was approved in the Milltown Pizza Concession Agreement.

**Roger Hertrich, Edmonds**, inquired about the criteria for someone to apply for a Concession Agreement, whether there were any restrictions, how a person qualified for a Concession Agreement, and whether a Concession Agreement could be requested for any public right-of-way.

**Angelo Narciso, Seattle**, applicant, advised his partners and he were seeking approval of the Concession Agreement on James Street east of the ferry lanes and their goal was to save the world from bad shaved ice. He advised Shorts 'n Slippas was their LLC but they would be doing business as the Hula Hut.

Council President Pro Tem Dawson asked for photographs or a description of the trailer. Mr. Narciso explained the goal was to make the trailer look nice and were open to suggestions. He advised the cracked windows on the trailer were being repaired.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Haakenson closed the public participation portion of the public hearing. He advised the answers to Mr. Hertrich's questions were contained in the ECC.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAWSON MOVED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ORVIS, TO APPROVE THE CONCESSION AGREEMENT. THE MONTHLY LEASE AMOUNT WILL BE \$100.00 AND THE TERM WILL BE ONE YEAR.**

Council President Pro Tem Dawson commented this was in line with the previous Concession Agreement granted by the Council and it was beneficial to the public to have concessions in that area. She noted there were provisions in the agreement for termination if obligations are not met and the Agreement would ensure the concession was well run.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Concerns with  
Development  
Services  
Department

**Tony Shapiro, Edmonds**, commented on the reputation of the planning/building/engineering department, particularly the Engineering Department and its impact on the economic vitality of the City. He expressed an attitude of humility and respect, explaining it was not his intent to browbeat or degrade the department but he had concerns with the financial drain the department imposed on applicants and the vitality of the City. He urged the Council to consider hiring a consultant to assist the Department in restructuring and addressing its shortfalls and suggested hiring DeMarche Consulting who has assisted Snohomish County, Lynnwood, Shoreline, Seattle and other municipalities. He summarized this department was dysfunctional and was not functioning in a professional or adequate manner to address the needs of applicants or citizens. He cited two examples, the Building Official's insistence that applicants wet stamp drawings and the refusal to provide an answer why this is required other than the State requires it. However, in talking with the State Board of Licensing for Architects and Engineers, he was told wet stamping was not required. He noted this was indicative of the prevalent mentality in the department; wet stamping did not add value to the product and consumed the applicant's time, energy and effort. He also cited discourteous staff, recalling one of their clients asked to see the file for their

application and was told by the Permit Coordinator that the client could not observe the file. This client has subsequently refused to do work in Edmonds.

Opportunities  
for Improving  
Development  
Services

**Linda Paralez, Demarche Consulting**, commented with regard to opportunities for building and land use improvements, she observed all cities had opportunities for improvement. She pointed out the statistics on the City's website for the planning organization ended at 2004. Her work with Snohomish County, Mill Creek, Woodinville, Lynnwood, and Shoreline, included comparison studies but she was unable to obtain up-to-date data from Edmonds. That produced challenges for those cities in determining whether they were competitive with Edmonds as well as challenges for developers building in Edmonds. She commented some of the items that could be easily implemented would be to involve the City in eGov Alliance, standardized the City's practices and provide online permitting and online permit status.

Concerns with  
Development  
Services  
Department

**Brian Goodnight, Edmonds**, explained as a builder in Edmonds for the past 20 years, he observed a big change between the old Building Department where builders could ask simple questions and receive an answer. During design of his last building, he talked with the Planning Department and Engineering Department numerous times, had approximately \$30,000 invested in architecture fees and later found that one of his setbacks was incorrect. He referred to Lynnwood's free pre-design meeting that eliminates a great deal of frustration and problems. He learned recently Edmonds had a similar process that cost \$250 with \$125 refunded at the permit process; however, no staff member had ever informed him of the availability of that meeting. He expressed frustration that simple questions could not be answered by staff. He summarized the department has slowed to the point it operated inefficiently and suggested the currently slow economy would be a good time to reorganize.

Concerns with  
Development  
Services  
Department

**Bill Wilson, Edmonds**, described their experience when they had a vacancy in one of their buildings in 2005 and signed a lease with Community Solutions. When Community Solutions sought a business license from the City, the Building Department and Fire Department required inspections and created a list of necessary improvements to obtain a business license in the space the Community Solutions took over from another company with the same use, warehouse and office. It took over a year and over \$20,000 to achieve permit status so that Community Solutions could obtain a business license.

Concerns with  
Development  
Services  
Department

**Donna Breske, Snohomish**, licensed professional engineer, echoed Mr. Shapiro's recommendation to hire an outside consulting firm. As Ms. Breske had an appeal before the Hearing Examiner, Council President Pro Tem Dawson cautioned her not to use that matter as an example. Ms. Breske referred to times when the engineer/applicant/ architect disagreed with staff's recommendation, noting there was no forum for discussion other than the Hearing Examiner. She relayed her and other architects' willingness to pay an outside engineer to provide a third party, non-biased point of view when disagreements occur. She questioned whether there was anyone on staff familiar with the 1992 Department of Ecology manual, commenting in her experience staff overlooked Chapter 1 which established thresholds that trigger Chapter 3 and staff was not familiar with the different requirements for development versus redevelopment. She cited a specific example on 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue where the client increased a previously established impervious area slightly which should be considered redevelopment and would not trigger the requirement for any detention, yet staff wanted the cumulative impervious surface considered.

Concerns with  
Development  
Services  
Department

**Mark Lowen, Edmonds**, advised he picked up a permit on June 16, 2008 that he had applied for it, beginning with the critical areas, on June 4, 2007. He cited miscommunication and misinformation, remarking he was forced to hire Ms. Breske to write a letter to inform the City he did not need her engineering. Due to the lengthy process to obtain a permit to remodel his home, he was now unable to obtain a loan due to the shortage of construction funds. He expressed frustration that a person could go into the building department on five occasions, ask the same question and receive completely different answers each time. He summarized the "sins of the second floor" affected the citizens of Edmonds and agreed with the suggestion to have a consultant assist the City with restructuring.

Concerns with  
Development  
Services  
Department

**Roger Hertrich, Edmonds**, commented architects and builders were afraid to complain because they feared retaliation during their next project. He pointed out the cost of continually extending projects due to inexperienced and ineffective staff and urged Mayor Haakenson to take appropriate action. He noted there were architects and builders who would not do business in Edmonds. He commended Mr. Shapiro for speaking out, noting although only a few spoke to the Council, all builders and architects were having the same experience.

Endangered  
Species Act

**Dave Page, Edmonds**, recalled in 1991 a Federal District Judge affirmed Congress' decision to place the Great Northern Spotted Owl on the Federal Endangered Species Act. During their research, his staff found very little information about the owl. He described how humans were affected by the protection of the Great Northern Spotted Owl; the logging industry in National Forests was eliminated and restricted to within 2000 feet of a nest on private lands. He concluded the consequence of that action was 155 saw mills closed between Port Angeles and Eureka, California; 55 schools closed; 900 businesses closed; 188,000 people were displaced from their jobs, and divorces and alcoholism were rampant. He expressed concern that the protection of some species was to the deficit of humans.

Bettinger/  
Kretzler  
Historic  
Home

**Betty Larman, Edmonds**, recalled when they remodeled their house, increasing it from 1,800 square feet to 4,000 square feet, they experienced no problems. She was distressed that little value was given to old homes, pointed out historic homes were what made Edmonds. She felt the architecture of many of the condominiums that replaced the old homes destroyed the flavor of Edmonds and urged preservation of old homes because history was precious. She encouraged the Council to assist Mr. Bell in his efforts to preserve the Bettinger/Kretzler historic home.

Bettinger/  
Kretzler  
Historic  
Home

**Karen Wiggins, Edmonds**, suggested condemning the former Skipper's property and locating the Bettinger/Kretzler historic home on that site. She envisioned that location would provide a wonderful welcome to Edmonds and anticipated there were grants available to assist with that effort. She suggested parking the house on skids until the old Skipper's property could be condemned.

Concerns with  
Development  
Services  
Department

**Steve Shelton, Edmonds**, described his experience with the property at 204 4<sup>th</sup> North when they decided in 2006 to replace the chain link fence with a white picket fence. Halfway through demolition the project was red-tagged, they were fined and required to obtain a critical area analysis to replace the existing perimeter fence. Last year when they wanted to replace the garage doors, the contractor contacted the second floor who advised a permit was not required to replace the garage doors. When the contractor replaced 2x4s due to dry rot, the project was red-tagged and they were fined for not obtaining a permit.

## 9. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF JUNE 10, 2008.

Finance  
Committee

### Finance Committee

Councilmember Wambolt reported the Committee discussed the Edmonds Community College fiber agreement which was approved on the Consent Agenda as Item G. Next the Committee discussed a PUD Pole Attachment Agreement which was approved on the Consent Agenda as Item H. The next item considered by the Committee was contracting with former employees which the Council approved during Agenda Item 6. The Committee discussed the Edmonds fiber optic program and determined it was not financially feasible to provide fiber optics to residential consumers and recommended proceeding with fiber optic agreements with governmental organizations. This item will be presented to the full Council on a future agenda. The final item considered was the cable franchise fee ordinance which was approved as Consent Agenda Item I.

Councilmember Wilson inquired about providing fiber optics to consumer/residential users. Councilmember Wambolt explained since this project began, Verizon has made a massive investment in

fiber optic installations throughout the City which diminishes the opportunity to obtain that business from citizens. He noted to make it financially feasible, 42% of the homes must connect. Mayor Haakenson explained the focus was other governmental agencies and streamlining the City's operations such as electronic meter reading, etc.

Public Safety  
Committee

#### Public Services Committee

Council President Pro Tem Dawson reported the Committee had a brief discussion regarding a request to change to the City's current handicapped parking laws to limit the amount of time. State law allows establishing a limit but also allows drivers with a handicapped placard to park in non-restricted parking spaces indefinitely. Due to the enforcement issue this would create, possibly encouraging drivers to park in non-restricted parking spaces which creates safety issues and because it did not appear this was an ongoing problem, the Committee agreed to take no action at this time other than highlighting the need for drivers with a handicapped placard not to utilize the spaces as permanent parking places

Community/  
Development  
Services  
Committee

#### Community Services/Development Services Committee

Councilmember Wilson reported the Committee discussed a concern that the gates on underground parking garages in mixed use buildings downtown were closed during the day restricting access to parking established for the commercial use. The question was whether the current code was clear enough to require the buildings to open their gates during business hours and it was the consensus of the Committee that the code was strong enough and the building owners were required to keep the gates open to allow parking in marked commercial stalls during daytime hours.

### **10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Development  
Services  
Department

Mayor Haakenson advised he would ask Mr. Bowman to watch the video of tonight's meeting and report on the issues that were raised under audience comments. He advised efforts were underway to reorganize building, planning and engineering and he had met with a consultant to discuss the matter.

### **11. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Stevens  
Hospital

Councilmember Wilson expressed his appreciation to the Stevens Hospital representatives for their presentation, commenting they did a great service to the community by engaging them in this process, reiterating they had done a poor job of engaging the public in the past. He stated the public gets the government they deserve; if the public asset of the hospital did not function well or was not governed well, it was inherently the fault of the community for not paying attention. It was incumbent on the public to visit the hospital's website and email the Board of Commissioners.

Health  
District

Councilmember Orvis relayed information from the Health Board encouraging anyone injured by a bat in their home to retain/capture the bat so that it could be tested for disease.

### **12. ADJOURN**

With no further business, the Council meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.