

**Mount Vernon
City Council
Study Session Minutes
May 20, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Norris at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Norris, Councilmembers Cheney, Combs, Fiedler, Lindquist, McMullen, Ragan and Urban

Planning Commission: Denny Legro, Warren Cheney, Gary Molenaar, Mark Hulst, and Al Lyon

Staff Present: Public Works Director Bell, Police Chief Bergsma, CED Director Hanson, Senior Planner Higgins, Finance Director Huschka, Parks Director Otos, City Attorney Rogerson, Special Projects Administrator Stendal

Citizens Present: 15

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Joint Discussion with Mount Vernon Planning Commission – Consideration of Downtown and Waterfront Riverwalk and Plaza Design: Ms. Hanson provided a recap of the process that the downtown waterfront and flood control project has gone through. The flood protection portion of this project is made of flood walls with openings to access the promenade. Stop logs of metal will be used during flood events to close these openings and add height. All of these measures are designed to meet or exceed the Army Corps of Engineers high-water level predictions. Ms. Hanson then introduced Patrik Dylan of eccosDesign LLC who presented the conceptual design plans for how the flood component fits into the Riverwalk and Plaza concept. Dike District 3 has been instrumental in the design stages of this project. Partial funding has been secured for the promenade project in addition to various pending grant requests for the Riverwalk project and the flood project. The location of a centrally located parking garage is being negotiated with Skagit County. Federal reviews and final engineering are underway. Albert Lou from Pacific International Engineering was on hand to answer questions about technical aspects of different components.

Councilmembers and Planning Commission members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on this project.

Mayor Norris opened the floor top public comment

- Paul Springer, owner of Trumpeter Public House, asked questions about traffic flow plans for the surrounding streets. Ms. Hanson indicated that traffic patterns are part of the study that was undertaken and can provide him with specifics at her office.
- Joe Flinton asked about the plans for residential units and whether these were scheduled to be condominiums or apartments. Ms. Hanson indicated that the City does not regulate whether residential units are rentals or not. This is a question that would be decided by the developer.

- Doris Breevort asked how much money was needed to start this project. Mayor Norris indicated that the project still needs \$10 million in funding.

A ten minute recess was called at 8:13 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 8:23 p.m.

- B. Out of State Travel Request – Police Department: Chief Bergsma presented Council with information regarding a request for approval to send an investigator to attend “Innocence Lost National Initiative” training in St. Louis, MO. The investigator is part of a joint task force led by the FBI to address child prostitution and all costs for this training are covered by the FBI.

Councilmember Urban moved to approve out of state travel for an investigator to attend training in Saint Louis, Missouri June 1 through June 4, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilmember Lindquist. Motion carried 7-0.

- C. Purchase and Sale Agreement between City of Mount Vernon (seller) and Barbless Investments, LLC (buyer) for Parcel No. 26133, 329 East College Way: Mr. Stendal asked for Council approval for the Mayor to sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement that stipulates the terms and conditions for sale of City owned property at the Northwest corner of College Way and Riverside Drive. Barbless Investment, LLC has offered to purchase the subject property from the City for the purpose of developing a commercial business with associated parking. Council had previously approved this sale in the amount of \$345,969.15. It has since been determined that the agreed upon price was above fair market value and a counter offer has been made at a price of \$276,100.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with Barbless Investments, LLC for the sale of P26133 for a total purchase price of \$276,100. Motion seconded by Councilmember Urban. Motion carried 7-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Rebecca J. Wade, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Alicia D. Huschka, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Bud Norris, Mayor