



Liz Reynolds
Mayor

March 8, 2011

Sherril Huff
Director
King County Elections
919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98108

Re: City of Enumclaw – Annexation to King County Library System
REMOVE FROM APRIL 26TH BALLOT

Dear Ms. Huff:

This letter is notice of the City of Enumclaw's decision not to place on the April 26, 2011 ballot a measure pertaining to annexation to the King County Library System as set forth in King County Ordinance no. 17036. The decision to forgo the election, as detailed in the attached minutes, was made at a special City Council meeting held on March 7, 2011.

Please remove the proposed measure from the April 26th ballot.

Thank you for your assistance,

Liz Reynolds
Mayor of Enumclaw

cc: Mike Thomas, City Administrator
Meredith Shirey, City Clerk



REVISED AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

ENUMCLAW CITY COUNCIL

March 7, 2011 continuation of
February 28, 2011 - 7:30 p.m. ~ Enumclaw City Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, AND ATTENDANCE:

Mayor called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Ennis led flag salute.

Attendance:

Council Members Mahelona, Hogan, Ennis, Elfers, Jensen, Krebs and Beckwith were present. Mayor Reynolds, City Administrator Thomas, City Attorney M. Reynolds, City Clerk Meredith Shirey, Admin Secretary Burwell, Media Services Manager Funfar, Public Works Director Searcy, Community Development Director Shook, Community Services Director Baer, Finance Director McKenzie.

2. General Items:

A. Library Annexation

Thomas – Last time we met on February 28th administration provided information regarding the effort to annex to KCLS. So we are following up on that. I sent out memo on Friday March 4th to council details all the issues on the annexation effort. A draft of transfer agreement is with it as well.

Transfer agreement draft. Met Wed w/KCLS staff.

1. Building – strong preference from council to lease rather than transfer of ownership. KCLS willing to do lease agreement. There are different perceptions of why they want ownership as they would make a large investment into the building.
2. Employees – Ongoing effort on how they would translate. Meetings this week.
3. Art/books – retained in library

Timing – few months of work. We are set up for April 26th election. There are other possible election dates. Primary concern for KCLS is to set levy in year of annexation. If that does not occur there are other thoughts of our funding commitment to get us from the date of annexation to the date when KCLS would take it over.

Alternatives – move forward based on current information OR make other decision to not move forward at this time – postpone election to another date of either later this year or next possibly Feb or April 2012.

Administration recommendation is to look at waiting on the April 26th election until we are able to accomplish all tasks needed for an annexation vote.

Reason gone down this path for annexation was to save jobs and provide a service most affordable to taxpayers. This came about during budget discussions to ensure health of overall City budget.

The City of Enumclaw Mission Statement

The City of Enumclaw will provide municipal services to our citizens in an effective and responsible manner, preserving the community's well being, respecting the dignity of our citizens and promoting excellence in public service.

Council comments:

Ennis – Can you clarify administrations recommendation?

Thomas – The recommendation is to not move forward with April 26 and postpone it to future date

Elfers – KCLS brought up capital improvements. What kind?

Thomas – Bring all of their own things – furniture, IT stuff, computer system, and possibly improvements to the grounds. Over the long run maybe windows etc. They may also go out for another capital bond – they would not use bond proceeds on buildings they lease like they would on one they own. Their long term vision of the building is what they are looking at.

Hogan – If we cancel April 26 election is it necessary to notify of new date?

Thomas – Our immediate obligation is to notify them by Friday, March 11th, that we will not proceed with 26th ballot measure. Don't need to inform of different date.

Krebs – Another option - not moving forward with annexation. Not only if we put it up for ballot measure now or later.

Mayor – We passed a resolution to move forward with the annexation therefore we need to formally withdraw by motion before we move on with other discussions.

Ennis – Do you mean reconsideration?

Mayor – No, Councilmember Krebs mentioned other options, but right now we have a resolution that passed directing us towards annexation. There would need to be a new motion to redirect us to move towards something else.

Beckwith – Can we do both? Can we pull out of this election and with a full year before another election, have a levy in November? If the people want to keep their library – this is what it cost, while moving towards the elections next year if it does not pass.

Elfers – My concern with a levy election is that we have a limited amount of funds to ask voters. With a Library levy, maybe we can't fix streets. If we have to make a choice that would be one.

Beckwith – Is it legal/proper to consider that option?

Mike Reynolds – Yes.

Beckwith – I not suggesting we should do or not do a levy that should be a discussion for another day, I was just wondering if it was legal.

Ennis – I just want to reiterate what Beckwith said as to why we're here. Not to have discussion on other topics or options. We just need to decide on whether to not have the election.

HOGAN MOVED TO HAVE ADMINISTRATION NOTIFY KING COUNTY RECORDS AND ELECTIONS THAT WE WITHDRAW FROM THE APRIL 26TH ELECTION. ELFERS SECONDED.

Krebs - Attorney Mike Reynolds, is that motion sufficient?

Mike Reynolds – Yes. I would also suggest that Council add to that and have staff to draft a resolution of the withdrawal for a historical record.

Beckwith – I would like the motion to include why.

HOGAN – AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE THAT WE HAVE INSIGNIFICANT INFORMATION FROM KCLS TO PROVIDE TO THE VOTERS AND TO DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION WITHDRAWING FROM APRIL 26TH ELECTION. ELFERS SECONDED.

Elfers – Will this be in time for March 11th date?

Mike Reynolds – Yes, the resolution is only a follow-up for historical reasons.

Beckwith – Jim & Rich – why?

Hogan – The information from KCLS is not enough information for voters to vote in April.

Elfers – I was under the impression we would have a transfer agreement by this time. Since we do not, we have no information to show the voters for the Thursday meeting.

Beck – This essentially puts off library improvements for at least a year. This puts us at closing early, opening up late, and no more new books for another year. Quality will suffer for another year. I still feel we should go down this path of annexation.

Mahelona – My opinion is that there are too many loose ends. Not comfortable making presentation. Not there. No issue with withdrawing ballot issue of 26th. I would like to have follow-up discussions at another time to discuss all options.

Krebs – I also believe when this council chooses to send forward we're saying they have information to make decision. Clearly we are not there yet. We need to make the proper decision. I will be voting in favor of this motion.

Elfers – do we have amendment to vote?

Mayor – No

Beckwith – I feel we should move forward, it is also important for council to show some continuity. I will vote for, even though I disagree.

*** MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

MAHELONA – MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL OPEN HOUSE FOR THURSDAY. ELFERS SECONDED

Krebs – Is administration in agreement?

Mayor – Yes

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Mayor – We will post that open house is not available on Thursday

Mike Reynolds – The finding of fact to resolution is for historical purposes. The lack of clarification of all the detail in the final transfer agreement between the City and King County Library System does not provide sufficient information to council and to the voters to make an informed decision.

Elfers – clarification question, the role of the library board – boards serve at pleasure of Administration

and the City. The Library board made public statement as a group. Is this their role? Is it one of Advisory to the council? They have stepped out of role into advocating one position.

Mahelona – The Library board was in their realm to speak out individually or collectively. I have no issue with them and I admire them for doing so.

Beck – I'm glad they spoke out. I wish all our boards had the passion and willingness to speak out. When I was on the Park board, I was trying to get them to say something. We should have no trouble getting word out regarding the meeting cancellation, thanks to our patch newsletter. We need to step back and review all the options to improve Library. Encourage administration to work with Community Services committee.

Thomas – Administration workload will also need to be – our recommendation was not to start over. Still feel annexation is still the proper course. Looking at other options will be a burden on staff. Future discussion on how it might happen. Occurring soon – union negotiations

Hogan – helpful for a report from administration as to our abilities and obligations for levies, issues with library, streets, and police depts. Maybe a brief primer – on operation levy requirements. It would be helpful to all to understand options.

Mayor – I have discussed with Thomas – levy for library not as simple as we need this much money. It encompasses a huge body of work. We need to look long term plan. What are the operations and maintenance for library and the financial impacts? Create a self sufficient library. Balance between core services. It requires some visionary work – for the next 10 years.

Hogan – clarify – no proposal. There are various ways to raise taxes. Operation levies, etc. Can we run levies? Maybe a 10 minute refresher on options would be good.

Thomas – not next meeting, but next one

Mayor – We need to understand the levy requirements and funding regulations

Beckwith – council had directed administration to forward with annexation. Suggest to committee members – formulate plan. Direction can come at later council meeting.

Elfers – We approved a resolution to move forward back in September. Council needs to make decision.

ADJOURNMENT:

ENNIS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BECKWITH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.