

**TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: EXPO CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Councilmembers in attendance were: Fatcher, Malella, Roberson, Myers, McDaniel, Karnofski, and Von Rock (not sworn in yet).

Staff members present were: City Manager Dennis Richards, Public Works Director David Sypher, Community Development Director Michael Kerins, Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield, Interim Library Director Cindy Donaldson, and Deputy City Clerk Carol Bradbury.

Mayor David Fatcher called the meeting to order and gave some background information concerning the topic of discussion. Cowlitz County and the Public Facilities District want to consider what they should do with approximately forty-seven acres at the fairgrounds and the conference center. Bids have been received for a group to come in and do a plan at a cost of approximately \$100,000. They want to split the cost evenly between the City of Longview, City of Kelso, Cowlitz County, and the Public Facilities District. Each of the other three entities has committed to the \$25,000. After discussing this funding request at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, it was the consensus of Councilmembers to table it and discuss it later at a workshop.

Lengthy discussion followed. Councilmember Karnofski moved, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Join in on the study and fund \$13,000.' Discussion continued.

**Rick Winsman**, President and CEO of the Kelso/Longview Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Kelso Lodging Tax Advisory Committee spoke about being a member of the group that has been meeting with the county on this issue for nearly eighteen months. He spoke about how the City of Kelso might benefit by becoming involved with this study and the potential use of the land. He said Kelso needs to have a seat at the table to make sure Kelso's needs are not overlooked. He also suggested the Council require that there be a tourism component in that final study and the final report.

Discussion followed. A vote was taken. Councilmembers Karnofski, Roberson, and Fatcher voted yes. Councilmembers Myers, McDaniel, and Malella voted no. (Rick Von Rock was not sworn in.) Based on this vote, no action will be taken.

Councilmember Malella moved, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Fund \$12,000 toward the Expo Feasibility Study, which is our percent of the Cowlitz County population, with the clarification that our representation would be the equivalent to us funding the full \$25,000.' Public Works Director David Sypher spoke about the need to do studies to be eligible for most of the grants. In February, he intends to go for a grant for the airport and will be asking the County for about a quarter of a million dollars from the .9% money.

Councilmember Myers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Roberson, 'Amend the previous motion to include the stipulation that we require a specific tourism component in the study,' motion carried, all voting yes. (Rick Von Rock was not sworn in and did not vote.)

Mayor Fatcher clarified the amended motion, 'Fund \$12,000 towards the Expo Center Feasibility Study in exchange for a full seat at the table with the stipulation that the study include a tourism component.' Discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes. (Rick Von Rock did not vote.)

There being no further business, Mayor Fatcher adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.



**MAYOR**



**CITY CLERK**