

Public Safety and Transportation Committee Minutes for March 6, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 6:50PM March 6, 2003, in the City Hall Conference Room with the following in attendance:

Councilmembers

Richard Benjamin, Chairman
Gary Petersen
Scott Thomasson

Staff

Tim Heydon
Maiya Andrews
John O'Leary

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two issues:

1. Lighting needs in a Pacific Ridge neighborhood as requested by ACORN at a recent Council meeting.
2. Need for hotel/motel tax advisory committee and check-in identification requirements.

Committee approved the minutes of February 6, 2003.

Lighting in Pacific Ridge

Tim Heydon presented a map showing the area of lighting concerns on 28th, 29th, and 30th Avenues between South 216th and 219th Streets. Street standards require new lights to be spaced at 200 feet maximum. Based on this spacing, existing light locations, and the approximate location of driveways and buildings, the recommended number of lights is three on 30th, two on 29th and one on 28th.

John O'Leary stated that lights spaced at 200 feet would certainly be a step in the right direction on the crime issues in the neighborhood. The lights help keep criminals out of the shadowed areas and create a perception of safety for the neighborhood.

Councilmember Thomasson asked staff to investigate the cost of installing transformers on individual poles instead of providing a continuous trench from one transformer to each light.

Tim estimated the cost of the entire project at \$63,000. Tim discussed financing options to include (a) having City and ACORN produce a joint letter to Puget Sound Energy (PSE) requesting low-income assistance. (b) Block grants have been unsuccessfully tried because Federal funds could not be used for lighting to be owned by a private company such as PSE. (c) Pacific Ridge mitigation fees can be collected and used for lights on 30th.

Councilmember Benjamin felt that this is a worthy project. Councilmember Thomasson agreed, although he expressed concerns about selecting this project for funding simply because citizens came to Council and asked for lights. He felt that some sort of prioritization process should be used for evaluating the many needed projects in the City prior to selecting ones to receive funding.

Recommendations:

Tim and Councilmember Benjamin will work with ACORN to write a letter asking for assistance from PSE.

Tim will investigate the cost differences between trenching or providing additional transformers.

Motel/Hotel Issues:

Due to lack of time, only a brief discussion was held on the motel/hotel items. Commander John O'Leary provided statistics on the number of calls the Police Departments gets from the various hotels/motels in the City. He said hotel/motels are an extremely high user of the Police Department resources.

Recommendation:

For this reason and for safety, John recommended that Council pass the two Ordinances on the upcoming Consent Calendar to adopt the check-in ID requirements and create an advisory committee on a hotel/motel tax.

No future meeting time was set. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.

Submitted by:

Maiya I. Andrews
Asst. City Engineer