

MINUTES
Ferndale City Council Meeting
Held Tuesday, February 22, 2011
City Hall Annex – Council Chambers
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT BY ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Mel Hansen
Councilmember Paul Ingram
Councilmember Brent Goodrich
Councilmember Lloyd Zimmerman

Councilmember Connie Faria
Councilmember Jon Mutchler
Councilmember Steve Malpezzi

STAFF:

City Administrator Greg Young
Finance Director Mark Peterson
Associate Planner Ryan Morrison

City Clerk Sam Taylor
Public Works Director Janice Marlega

Mayor Gary Jensen presiding.

5:00 p.m. STUDY SESSION – Sewer Comprehensive Plan Update

Wilson Engineering consultants provided an overview of the plan and their work for the update of the city's Sewer Comprehensive Plan.

Plans are required by RCW and WAC prior to major system upgrades. This primarily addresses the collection system and they also looked at the Waste Water Treatment Plant capacity. In the 1996 plan, the phase III was anticipated to be about now, but growth hasn't been as large as anticipated in that previous plan.

2016 is now the projected planning beginning for the upgrade.

The plan recommends ongoing sewer inspection and smoke testing programs, manhole rehabilitation/replacement, sewer line spot repairs and other prevention measures. The update calls for, on the administrative side the development of a hazard mitigation plan and an emergency response plan as well as GIS maintenance.

Future capital improvement projects identified in the plan include pump station upgrades and retrofits, telemetry system upgrades, pump station decommission, sewer slip-lining on old concrete pipes and miscellaneous sewer line replacements.

Finance Director Mark Peterson outlined the financial plan for the proposed capital projects. The plan looks at two different bond issues, one in 2011 or 2012 for \$5 million. It covers a large amount of capital expenditures through 2013. In 2019, another bond would be issued to coincide with the Waste Water Treatment Plant for about \$4 million.

Councilmember Faria mentioned that she was concerned about no employees being hired to help with the proposed projects.

Public Works Director Janice Marlega said the sewer plan itself is designed to identify the specific necessary projects involved. The financial plan isn't specifically required as part of the comprehensive plan update, but staff will continue to develop a financial plan.

Councilmember Goodrich was interested in knowing how the bond market is doing.

Peterson said the bond market has deteriorated, meaning that there are now higher interest rates to the city.

Goodrich said he wanted to know if there was an advantage to doing the \$5 million bond this year rather than next due to interest rates.

The finance director recommended doing that.

Councilmember Hansen said he believed the Southwest Sewer Interceptor connection fee surcharge should at some point be ended because the project is finished and paid for.

Councilmember Malpezzi called the document "daunting" and asked for an executive summary.

The next step is a scheduled public hearing on March 7 for the adoption of the sewer comprehensive plan update.

6:00 p.m. CALL TO ORDER: / FLAG SALUTE:/ ROLL CALL:

PUBLIC COMMENT Speaking on items not on the current agenda, EXCEPT for consent agenda items (B)

Johnny Grames, Bellingham – Grames spoke about a League of Women Voters forum playing on BTV10 about the new jail. He discussed his concerns about the city providing utilities to the proposed Whatcom County Jail site near the airport and near the Ferndale urban growth area. He noted the costs of the project and the size of the proposed facility. Grames said a citizen opposition group to the jail has an impressive group of women participating. He said they should be considered for the potential vacant council seat.

B. Consent Agenda

- *Approval of Minutes of Council meeting of February 7, 2011*
- *Approval of Claims Run of February 22, 2011 – Manual Checks #71888-71939, #705813 amount: \$216,115.17; Regular Checks #71940-#72026 amount: \$345,987.34; **Total Claims Run: \$562,102.51***
- *Community Garden Memorandum of Understanding*
- *City/Library District Pioneer Pavilion Building Use Agreement*
- *Fee Code Adjustment – Soccer Fields Tournament Reservation Fee*

Councilmember Faria moved, and Councilmember Ingram seconded, approval of the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Public Hearing: Official Zoning Map Technical Correction Ordinance

Staff explained to the council that this was a basic technical correction to ensure the proper zoning is noted on a parcel that was already intended to be a different type of zoning than on the map.

Public hearing was opened.

Doug Robertson, 900 Dupont, Bellingham, WA – He is in favor of the change as the representative of the property owner.

Public hearing was closed at 6:09 p.m.

Councilmember Mutchler moved, and Councilmember Faria, to approve the amendment of the Official Zoning Map. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Capital Improvement Project Update

Administrator Young updated the council on the Police Station project. March 7 will be the day the demolition bid is awarded.

After that the city will go out to the bond market for the full remodel.

Councilmember Zimmerman was concerned about a lack of detail about the construction of the building.

Young and Mayor Jensen noted that the city has "as-built" information about the building, but it is not adequate to find out specifics on the internal structure of the building.

Because of this, the city will have a contractor analyzing the makeup of the facility to prepare for future bidders for the full remodel. This will enhance the bid process, Young said, and will provide more certainty.

Zimmerman said he has pictures of the building when it was constructed. Young said those pictures could be useful.

Councilmember Goodrich wondered when the council will see the proposed layout, square footages and other information in order to make their decision.

Young said 85 percent to 90 percent of the information has already been provided. Some minor tweaks in terms of formatting of the internals of the building are taking place by the Ferndale Police Department.

Councilmember Hansen said the motion was to proceed with the total building with bid alternates that would bring it down to approximately 15,000 square feet.

Young confirmed that, and added that the plans are for the full 18,000 with deductive alternatives. He noted that most alternates are additions. In this case, there will be four deductive alternatives. One will be for storage for the communications van, one for a sally port structure to transport those who have been arrested, another is for large impounding storage and the final is the Emergency Operations Center training room.

Each one of those options is toward the outside of the building, and could be removed depending on costs and size the council determines is most appropriate.

The May 16 meeting is tentatively scheduled for the full remodel bid awarding. After that staff will bring back a potential bid for street improvements on Legoe Avenue.

Young then updated the council on the library project. SHKS Architects met with the city and they are "marching toward" full design documents. The first part of March should be when the design and development meeting takes place. The architects will visit then to provide a presentation on the project.

A new, refined cost estimate will also be developed based on the next phase of design and development, Young said.

Councilmember Zimmerman wondered what the final outcome of discussions on changing the scope of their work and payment was.

Young said the discussion was deferred because it was too early to change the scope of the project.

Councilmember Mutchler was curious about the "shelf-life" of the architectural information.

Young said that today staff discussed having construction information prepared to 90 percent, rather than 100 percent. That's because over time building codes change and that information could be revised.

Usage could also be changed, too. That means there is a risk where a full set of designs must be revised. Therefore, it's perhaps a best practice to develop to 90 percent construction drawings so that once funding is in place the final 10 percent of design can be finished up.

Councilmember Mutchler wondered if it was customary for the city to move forward in this way. Young said it's not unusual, and extremely common for street projects. It's not necessarily as frequently done on building projects, but is common for public works overall.

Mutchler said he believes the Whatcom County Library System director would like the city to pay for the remainder of the project.

Mayor Jensen said the city doesn't have the funding in the budget as of now for the remaining \$2 million for the project.

He then noted that there has been discussion about proceeding forward with some of the site work to use current funding that would take advantage of a better bidding climate and might help spur more donations to come in. That discussion hasn't taken place with the library yet, however.

Councilmember Zimmerman was interested in what happens with the Pizza Annex.

Mayor Jensen said the annex remains for city purposes.

Councilmember Ingram offered that paperless libraries are becoming popular, particularly with colleges because younger people are used to electronic information. He said he understands the library supporters and staff don't like his comments on that topic.

Mayor Jensen said the Ferndale library has been moving a bit toward electronic information and did go into a smaller planned facility.

On Pioneer Pavilion, the building is basically done, Young said. The stakeholder's tour on Wednesday will be the initial visit for people to see the renovation.

MAYOR REPORTS/COMMENTS

Friday night at 6 p.m. at City Hall the mayor has invited baseball stakeholders to City Hall to discuss softball use of the fields.

The mayor said there would be a lease brought back to council but they wanted to wait until the fields stakeholders meet.

If any are interested, Monday, February 28, at 10 a.m. the Growth Management Hearings Board will meet at the courthouse, 311 Grand Ave. Room 512.

On March 12 at 9 a.m. at Haggen is the Pink Walk.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Councilmember Mutchler wanted a discussion on the upcoming vacancy of Councilmember Faria's seat as she will be moving at some time during the summer.

City Clerk Sam Taylor provided a basic rundown for council on how the vacancy and appointment process works, and recounted conversations with the Municipal Research Services Center on what action the council can take prior to an effective date of resignation. After multiple discussions with MRSC, it was determined that the council could advertise and even interview candidates before a resignation takes effect, but no official vote to select a replacement can happen until the effective date of resignation or later.

Councilmember Malpezzi believes the council should start the process to develop an application.

Councilmember Hansen said a lot of the process could change based on when the resignation takes effect.

Hansen said the council shouldn't make a decision in advance. Hansen's personal preference is, generally, to not create an incumbent for the seat. But it could be the case that only one person runs for the seat.

Councilmember Mutchler said he was inclined to fill the position because he said he has spoken with a number of citizens who are also interested in the seat being filled.

Councilmember Zimmerman suggested Faria consider resigning earlier so the council can choose a replacement, because seven votes are important on the council, particularly on budget items. Councilmember Hansen noted that the situation changes significantly if the resignation occurs in June versus August.

Councilmember Malpezzi said perhaps the next step is to let the community know that there may be intent to appoint a replacement.

Councilmember Ingram wondered about requirements of an application to make sure a citizen has attended meetings.

It was suggested by the City Clerk Sam Taylor that the council can note their desire to see commitment to attend meetings prior to being appointed, but it likely can't require anyone to be at a meeting.

Councilmember Mutchler motioned to move forward with an appointment process, ensuring the procedures set forth in council rules and procedures and state law are followed. Seconded by Councilmember Zimmerman.

Mutchler said his intent is to fill the vacant seat no matter how long that seat remains vacant prior to the November election.

Councilmember Hansen said he's not ready to approve tonight that the council is ready to fill the position, because there are too many unknowns about when the resignation will take place.

Councilmember Goodrich proposed to table the decision to the Finance & Administration Committee. Seconded by Councilmember Mutchler.

Councilmember Malpezzi said committee may not be necessary and that the council can simply vote tonight.

Councilmember Mutchler said he simply wanted to know the consensus of council. He said he's comfortable with tabling for now but would like to see it come to a vote at some point.

Motion carried 5-2, with Councilmembers Malpezzi and Zimmerman opposed.

Councilmember Hansen said Thursday, Feb. 24, the Whatcom Transportation Authority will be considering a new contract with the bus drivers that will be precedent setting regarding all governments in the county. He didn't reveal the details of the contract.

Councilmember Ingram said the weather on his vacation was worse than in Ferndale. But he enjoyed the trip. They fed a lot of people shrimp, and raised somewhere around \$8,000 on a fundraiser.

He said if anyone wants tickets to Beauty & the Beast and a pasta feed to come see him.

Councilmember Zimmerman was concerned about a three-inch pipe that wasn't identified. Public Works Director Janice Marlega said she'd look into it.

Councilmember Malpezzi wanted to know if there was any decision on the Arts Commission on Wednesday.

Barbara Ingram said the Pavilion tour is the same time and asked to cancel the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Finance Director Mark Peterson said the city's 2011 budget is now online. Mayor Jensen thanked the clerk for putting that document online quickly.

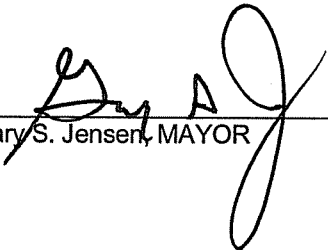
COMMITTEE MINUTES – INFORMATIONAL

ADJOURNMENT

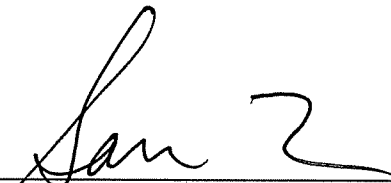
Councilmember Hansen moved, and Councilmember Faria seconded, adjourning. Motion carried unanimously.

Council was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:



Gary S. Jensen, MAYOR



Sam Taylor, CITY CLERK

MINUTES
Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, February 16, 2011
City Hall Conference Room
7:32 a.m.

COMMITTEE: Councilmember Mel Hansen - Chair
Councilmember Brent Goodrich
Councilmember Lloyd Zimmerman

ADMINISTRATION: Mayor Gary Jensen
Public Wks Director Janice Marlega
Clerk Sam Taylor
Stormwater Manager Wendy LaRocque
Public Works Supervisor Bo Westford
Community Development Director Jori Burnett
City Administrator Greg Young
Project Manager Katy Radder
Finance Dir. Mark Peterson

Sewer Comprehensive Plan Update

BACKGROUND: City staff has been working with Wilson Engineering to obtain detail on the city's sewer and wastewater treatment plant infrastructure. The comprehensive plan outlines the ability of the city to deal with wastewater as Ferndale grows.

The Sewer Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is divided into two plans, one from 2011-2016 and the other from 2017-2030. This discussion will be focused on the 2011-2016 Plan.

The CIP has been developed based on information provided by the model, maintenance information, visual inspections, permitting requirements and includes the street projects with sewer improvements that are on the City's Six Year Transportation Improvement Program.

As shown on the draft CIP, the estimated cost of the program for 2011-2016 is \$9.5 million. For 2011, the CIP cost is estimated to be \$1.2 million. In the current budget, we have about \$400,000 for this work. Currently, the priority of the street projects is driving the priority of the sewer projects since sewer funds are needed to fund sewer improvements associated with the street project. Meanwhile, there are other sewer projects in the City that may have a higher priority than the current street project.

The committee was briefed by staff of Wilson Engineering on the detailed work done to assess the city's wastewater treatment infrastructure, including sewer lines, pump stations and the treatment plant itself.

The system consists of 1,400 manholes and cleanouts, more than 308,000 feet of pipe between four and 48 inches in diameter and 17 sewer pump stations. The capacity of the wastewater treatment plant would be maxed at 3.23 million gallons per day.

The peak flow for the city is, at this time, around 2.5 million gallons per day.

The current system, with the improvements proposed in the plan, would be able to deal with future capacity within city limits as well as within the city's Urban Growth Area.

DISCUSSION: Finance Director Peterson shared the financial plan for the capital improvement projects, which estimates a 3 percent population and cost of living adjustment growth to pay for the projects. There is, however, no specific project increase to pay for projects, only cost of living adjustments based on CPI.

About 15 percent of the revenues would come from water and sewer connection fees, Peterson said.

The plant expansion is projected for 2019. The financial plan is very preliminary and will come back at a later date, Marlega said.

A study session is scheduled for a full council discussion at the February 22 council meeting at 5 p.m.

Main Street/Church Road Stormwater Pond Options

BACKGROUND: In order to complete the next phase of the Main Street project and the Church Road project, the City is required to comply with stormwater regulations which will require stormwater treatment and detention.

Staff is recommending that Reichardt & Ebe move forward on a design to phase the construction of the SW Regional Pond instead of designing on-site stormwater treatment/detention facilities for the Main Street and Church Road projects.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Zimmerman raised concerns about the capacity of the project and noted that the city could do more work to figure out if Mr. Hong's property was a viable option.

It was noted, however, that there is an appraisal for far lower than what Mr. Hong is seeking to sell the property for, and it has already been determined the city will move forward at Douglas Road to construct the SW Regional Pond.

Councilmember Goodrich moved, and Councilmember Hansen seconded, agreeing for staff to proceed with Reichardt & Ebe doing design phase for the pond. Motion carried 2-1 with Zimmerman opposed. Staff will bring back more information to council at a later date once the work is done.

2nd Street Extension Speed Limit - Discussion

Mayor Jensen noted that it has already been determined that the speed limit on the 2nd Avenue extension is 25 miles per hour, at the scientific and engineering recommendation of both the Public Works Department and the Police Department.

Councilmember Goodrich Moved, and Councilmember Hansen seconded, keeping the speed limit at 25 miles per hour, per Public Works and Police Department recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES
Planning & Land Use Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, February 16, 2011
City Hall Conference Room
9:09 a.m.

COMMITTEE: Councilmember Connie Faria - Chair
Councilmember Mel Hansen (interim)
Councilmember Brent Goodrich

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Councilmember Paul Ingram

ADMINISTRATION: Mayor Gary Jensen
Community Dev. Dir. Jori Burnett
Finance Dir. Mark Peterson
City Administrator Greg Young
City Clerk Sam Taylor

Transportation Impact Fee Revision Ordinance - Discussion

CDD Director Burnett informed the council that Transpo Group was still working on the issue and more information will be provided at a later date. He wanted to simply update the council to let them know the proposal is still be worked on.

Official Zoning Map Technical Correction

BACKGROUND: In 2010, the Ferndale City Council established new zoning boundaries throughout the City, in an effort to clarify recently-codified commercial zones and associated rezones. At that time, property owners of the "Ferndale Town Center" site, located within the 5700 block of Barrett Road (see attached map), indicated that the existing zoning designation of General Business was an inappropriate designation for future development on the site. In 2009, the City determined that the Highway Commercial zone (for which the property had previously been designated) was outdated, and that replacement zones should be created. At that time, the City chose between the General Business and Mixed Use Commercial zones. In 2010, as the City was in the process of reviewing the recently created zones, the subject property owners and other property owners were provided with the opportunity to seek modifications to the zoning boundaries.

The Ferndale Town Center property owners own two larger properties adjacent to the subject property. The intent of the Planning Commission, staff, and the City Council, as clearly stated in 2010 staff reports, was to change the zoning designation for all properties in this area, owned by the subject property owners. However, this intent was not translated into the maps that were provided as exhibits at the time of the public hearing.

There will be a public hearing during the regular meeting on February 22, intended to correct this technical error, assuming that the original intent of Council was to include the subject property.

No action taken – Public Hearing will be held February 22 at regular council meeting.

Other

Pioneer Pavilion signage – Mayor Jensen updated the council on procuring sign lettering and having it installed on the newly renovated Pioneer Pavilion. The estimate is for \$1,000. The Ferndale Public Library will have their own sign. The administration will be working with the library on how those signs will be displayed.

The committee was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

MINUTES
Police Station-Library Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, February 16, 2011
City Hall Conference Room
10:01 a.m.

COMMITTEE: Councilmember Jon Mutchler – (Interim) Chair
Councilmember Mel Hansen
Councilmember Brent Goodrich

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Councilmember Paul Ingram - Chair

ADMINISTRATION: Mayor Gary Jensen City Administrator Greg Young
City Clerk Sam Taylor Finance Dir. Mark Peterson

Police Station Project Update

Administration Young said bids for demolition on the project are scheduled for March 7. Improvements that the city would like to do to Legoe Avenue can be paid for with current construction funds, but it's likely not possible for the current contractor that will renovate the facility can do them. This is because Reichardt & Ebe need time to work on proposed designs and specifications for the bid work.

The intent, Young noted, is for the Legoe improvements to be finished by the time the rest of the police station renovation is finished.

Pioneer Pavilion Update

The pavilion renovations are nearly done and a public stakeholders tour is scheduled for the evening of February 23. The contractor still technically controls the building as it's not yet finished, but they've allowed the city to check the space out with a group of people.

Mayor Jensen updated the council on procuring sign lettering and having it installed on the newly renovated Pioneer Pavilion. The estimate is for \$1,000. The Ferndale Public Library will have their own sign. The administration will be working with the library on how those signs will be displayed.

Library Project Update

Whatcom County Library System Executive Director Joan Aioldi noted that the Library Board has approved the building use agreement to move into Pioneer Pavilion.

The agreement is exactly the same as the previous one for the current facility, but it does add a provision recognizing the Old Settler's Picnic and use of the building for the week of the picnic.

The Public Health & Neighborhoods Services Committee was considering the agreement later in the day.

Committee adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

These costs are in line with the way the city charges for baseball tournaments currently.

Councilmember Faria moved, and Councilmember Hansen seconded, placing the proposed adjustment to the fee code on consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Water/Sewer/Park Impact Fee Rebate Program – Discussion

Community Development Director Burnett provided information to the committee regarding an impact fee reduction program conducted by the City of Blaine.

The program shows that since institution of the program in 2007, there has been no significant or noticeable increase in the number of buildings constructed in the city.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Goodrich, who proposed a City of Ferndale rebate program, said the goal of his proposal was both to spur construction and create jobs.

Members of the building community also spoke, offering up thoughts about when impact fees should be paid.

David Braithwaite, 5998 S. Bakerview Park Dr., a local builder and developer, said he doesn't believe that the construction of a building creates an impact, and that the impact is only created once the building is occupied, so impact fees aren't fair for developers to have to pay.

Administrator Young argued that Braithwaite simply wants to hold off on paying the fees to put them off on the person that purchases the home.

David Verret, 2620 N. Harbor Loop, #6, Bellingham, a building designer who serves on the board of the Building Industry Association of Whatcom County, suggested that the city consider not necessarily reducing the impact fees, but seeking a deferment of the fees from the beginning of the process to the end.

Verret suggested that a portion of the impact fees could be paid immediately and then the rest could be paid at a later date – perhaps at occupancy of the structure.

Council members suggested they were interested in discussing that further.

Councilmember Mutchler said he believed that it was hard to judge the success of Blaine's five-year program from only a few years of it running, and it needed more time to get a good assessment.

His concern is that Ferndale has a lot of empty lots that are ready for building that simply aren't seeing construction.

It was agreed that the council will work with staff to set up a separate committee discussion to continue work on perhaps created an impact fee deferment system based on David Verret's suggestion.

Local Realtor Chet Kenoyer asked that as a part of that discussion the council considers making the program retroactive, specifically to December 2010, when there was a rush to get building permits because some impact fees were going to increase. Council members agreed they'd include that aspects as part of the discussion, including determining if that's legal for the city to do.

Committee adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

MINUTES
Public Health & Neighborhood Services Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, February 16, 2011
City Hall Conference Room
11:36 a.m.

COMMITTEE: **Councilmember Lloyd Zimmerman - Chair**
 Councilmember Jon Mutchler
 Councilmember Steve Malpezzi

ADMINISTRATION: **Mayor Gary Jensen** **City Administrator Greg Young**
 Police Chief Michael Knapp **Detective Melanie Campos**
 City Clerk Sam Taylor

Community Garden Memorandum of Understanding

BACKGROUND: Administrator Young informed the committee that the community garden is still up and running, but it's being organized by the same group that previously managed it. The new group has requested an agreement with the city that conformed to the previous community garden management's memorandum of understanding.

The new group is a sub-group of the Ferndale Resource Center, Young explained.

Councilmember Mutchler moved, and Councilmember Malpezzi seconded, placing the community garden memorandum of understanding on the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

City/Library District Building Use Agreement

The Whatcom County Library System Board has approved the building use agreement to move into Pioneer Pavilion.

The agreement is exactly the same as the previous one for the current facility, but it does add a provision recognizing the Old Settler's Picnic and use of the building for the week of the picnic.

Councilmember Mutchler moved, and Councilmember Malpezzi seconded, placing the building use agreement on the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Gang Activity Update

Chief Knapp and Detective Campos updated the committee on the current level of gang activity both in Whatcom County and Ferndale. The discussion came about after an article in The Bellingham Herald discussed the rise in gang activity in recent years.

Detective Campos explained that it is difficult to pin down the specific number of gang members in Ferndale because members are migratory and often seek out areas to live or commit crimes where there is less law enforcement presence. The county overall has 38 identified gangs totaling 350-450 people.

The committee expressed a desire to in some way help with the issue of gangs in Ferndale.

Detective Campos, Chief Knapp and Mayor Jensen noted that there is a lack of resources now in the city budget for more officers, which would be extremely beneficial to helping with overall law enforcement activity in the city.

Detective Campos said just in January alone she dealt with 30 new cases, a majority of which are rape cases. Those are very important to deal with quickly because victims need closure, she said. While not specifically trained in gang activity work, Detective Campos said she's the most experienced in the FPD

on the issue, but there is simply not enough time for her to work on those issues, too, including the ability to provide some educational outreach in city schools.

Councilmember Malpezzi said he was interested in supporting the allocation of some city budget resources to overtime pay for Detective Campos to go to schools for educational programs.

He also raised concerns about the new police facility, and said if it was smaller, less debt service would need to be paid and so perhaps some resources could go to personnel costs.

Chief Knapp said he appreciated the concern, but that the facility was developed based on expert advice from objective consultants that assessed the real needs of the department. Knapp said he didn't believe the new facility is excessive at all and that it is an important piece of the puzzle to law enforcement support in the city.

He said once the station is finished it will be a great first step in helping support the rest of the management of the police department.

Councilmember Mutchler noted that there was a long political process, even before his time on the council, in which the police facility decision was made by a majority of the council. He said it's now time for the community to move forward.

Mutchler asked that staff try to develop a community meeting on the topic of gang activity, but Mayor Jensen said he was concerned with the request because of the current budget situation and a lack of staff time to do that.

Committee Chairman Zimmerman suggested it was good to have the discussion at the committee level and more might be done in the community to work on gang issues rather than a community meeting, which could simply scare people.

Chief Knapp said he will be speaking with the Ferndale Record about perhaps a series of articles on law enforcement issues, including gang activity, to help educate the community, and he encouraged council members to reach out within the community for further educational opportunities on the topic.

The committee was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.