



City Council Minutes – February 22, 2010

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Brad Adams called the special meeting of February 22, 2010 to order. Roll call found present: Nick Petrish, Erica Pickett, Brad Adams, Bill Turner and Cynthia Richardson. Kevin McKeown and Brian Geer were absent (excused). Roll call was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution – Opposing the Model Toxics Control Tax Increase

Mr. Adams announced that Mayor Maxwell was in Olympia for hearings regarding this agenda topic. Planning Director Ryan Larsen presented a proposed resolution opposing the State legislature's HB 3181 / SB 6851 which would increase the state's Model Toxics Control Act tax from 0.7% to 2% to help pay for stormwater projects. Mr. Larsen noted this would directly affect local oil refineries. The resolution urges the state to find an alternative funding source to assist with stormwater project clean up. Mr. Larsen advised that Mayor Maxwell is strongly in support of this resolution. Mr. Turner said the legislature's proposal unfairly taxes a small portion of the business interests in the state. He suggested a gas tax would be a more fair way to fund stormwater clean up and supported the resolution. Mrs. Richardson added that taxing exports, such as refined fuel, will decrease Washington State's market share and will eventually result in no net increase in tax revenue. She expressed support for the resolution. Mr. Adams opposed the proposed tax increase because it will go into the State General Fund rather than directly to the purported purpose of funding stormwater treatment. He noted that the refineries already spend millions of dollars every year improving environmental standards. He supported the resolution. Mrs. Pickett acknowledged that the legislature is looking for much needed general fund revenue but agreed with Mrs. Richardson that making Washington fuel more expensive will hurt the state's export market. She said she favors the resolution. Mr. Petrish provided a historical perspective that the refineries have changed the whole character of the Anacortes community and he does not want to lose that. Mrs. Richardson moved, seconded by Mr. Turner, to approve **Resolution 1795** opposing the Model Toxics Control Tax Increase and send it to Olympia. Vote: Ayes – Petrish, Pickett, Adams, Turner, Richardson. Motion carried.

There being no further business, at approximately 7:39 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Adams adjourned the special meeting of February 22, 2010.