

The Bellingham City Council met in chambers January 10, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On Monday, January 24 at 10:15 a.m. in the Mayor's Board Room there will be a City Council Lake Whatcom Reservoir and Natural Resources Committee Meeting regarding Lake Whatcom Initiatives.

On Monday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers there will be a Public Hearing regarding 2011 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Docketing.

STATE of the CITY delivered by MAYOR DAN PIKE

- The City has been forced to make difficult choices in a restricted economy. Choices have been made which intentionally develop tools for the future. Specific tools were mentioned. The City enters 2011 with a modest reserve intact. In a climate where many cities are defaulting on their bonds, Bellingham has earned at AA bond rating.
- The city employs 782 people.
- The City will focus on the following areas in 2011.
 - Economic development: several new businesses are locating in Bellingham. Maintaining an attractive city as a desirable place to locate is important.
 - Lake Whatcom Watershed: new wells will not be allowed and homeowner innovation to maintain the lake encouraged.
 - Chuckanut Ridge issue will be resolved.
 - The large water pipe previously servicing Georgia Pacific will be refitted for hydro—electric.
 - More solar to be promoted
 - Greenways trail expanded to include a walkway from Blvd Park to Downtown.
 - Prepare to use paramedics to replace the defeated County EMT program.
 - Catch-up on infrastructure maintenance and updates.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ACTION

Lake Whatcom Watershed emergency order prohibiting new wells passes 7-0

Parks & Recreation committee: Blvd over-water walkway will cost 7.1 ml. This funding comes from FHWA grant and Greenways funding. No resolution

Michael Lilliquist proposed an ordinance regarding language in the zoning codes. Matter is relegated to staff. No action.

A resolution is called for hiring outside council to represent the City in law suits regarding water rights. Passed 7-0

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor appointed Greg Winter, Rebecca Johnson and Sherri Emerson to the Commission Against Domestic Violence.

Mayor appointed Diana McKinney as the Puget Neighborhood Rep and Mike Robinson as the Silver Beach Neighborhood Rep to the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

AB18995

Further restricts Phosphorus in the Lake Whatcom Watershed and requires retail establishments to notify customers if any garden products contain phosphorus. Pass 7-0

AB19055

Modifies water rates for untreated industrial water. Pass 7-0