

**SULTAN CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

ITEM NO: Consent C 2

DATE: December 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Public Hearing – Regional Police Contract

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, Clerk/Deputy Finance Director

SUMMARY:

Attached are the minutes of the November 13, 2008 Public Hearing on the Proposed Regional Police Contract as on file in the office of the City Clerk.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve as submitted

MOTION:

Move to accept the consent agenda as presented.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS:

The Public Hearing on the Regional Police Contract was called to order by Mayor Eslick. Councilmembers present: Champeaux, Wiediger, Slawson, Flower, Davenport-Smith and Blair. There were no objections to the Council participation.

Staff: Deborah Knight, City Administrator, presented the staff report.

The issue before the Council is to hold a public hearing on the Interlocal Agency Agreement related to law enforcement services proposed by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and pass the contract on for action.

In reviewing the 2009 budget with the Interim Police Chief, the question came up whether the Council wanted to proceed with the current police chief contract with Snohomish County or proceed with a hiring process for an in-house chief. This discussion prompted staff to request a cost estimate from Snohomish County for the in-house chief contract for 2009 for Council consideration.

Snohomish County also provided a regional model proposal for the City's consideration. The regional model would move the East Precinct office in Monroe to Sultan. However, the regional model has the potential of lowering police levels of service to a minimum of one officer on duty. The benefit of the regional model is the total number of staff working out of the Sultan Police Department facilities would increase from 6 FTE to 23 FTE.

The City Council discussed three police department business models (in-house chief, contract chief, and regional services contract) at its budget workshop in September. The Mayor and Council directed staff to request the Sheriff's Office prepare a regional services contract for the Mayor and Council's consideration. The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office presented the attached ILA proposal to the City Council on October 9, 2008. The Council directed staff to set hearings to take public comment on the proposal at the October 23, 2008 and November 13, 2008 meetings.

City staff and the Sheriff's Office have been negotiating building lease and maintenance operating costs. As a result, the proposed regional ILA for 2009 has decreased by \$1,396 from \$839,225 to \$837,829. This is a result of adding the utilities (\$8,700), janitorial (\$3,471) and facilities maintenance (\$9,000) costs to the contract and offsetting the costs by the lease (2400 sq.ft. x \$10/square foot = \$24,000). There is an annual 3% adjustment for both operating expenses and the off-setting lease credit over the five year life of the ILA.

The ILA does not include \$78,000 for SnoPac 911 or the City's LEOFF I responsibilities (\$21,850). Adding these costs results in a total contract of \$937,679. In contrast, the proposed 2009 Sultan Police Services budget is currently \$1,034,572

The City's 2009 budget estimates an additional \$50,000 in support services including Civil Service Commission expenses (\$3,000) and the police vehicle replacement fund (\$43,000). The regional services contract provides for 6.33 FTE or a minimum level-of-service of 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) patrol deputy on service 24/7. The City would share a lieutenant with the County. The lieutenant would manage the sergeants responsible for Sultan, Gold Bar and unincorporated areas of Snohomish County.

The existing employees have vacation and sick leave banked and the City will be responsible for payment of the accrued vacation leave. Under the union contract, there is no requirement to cash out sick leave. The County will not allow the transfer of the accrued hours.

Council Discussion:

Discussion was held regarding major repairs to the building; the credit for the lease (\$10 per square foot); transfer of officers to the County; and the date for the transition.

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The option to have a static credit for the lease or to start at \$24,000 and include a COLA was discussed. The County is not willing to negotiate a split of the cost for maintenance and utilities. The Council has not reviewed the final lease proposal which will be a separate contract from the Regional Police contract. The cost of repairs, maintenance and credit amount will be reviewed and provided to the Council at a later date.

Public Input

Sam Pincing: When reviewing the proposed contract, the credit for the building lease was confusing. It sounds like the City is taking the one that cost more money. This will need to be consider when the contract is renegotiated.

Maryann Naslund: The budget for the lieutenant is slated at 50% cost but he is responsible for Gold Bar and the County. The split should it be 30% instead and reduce the cost of the contract.

Chief Biedler: The lieutenant is responsible for the regional contract and the sergeants work at different times of the day. The Sheriff looked at the amount of responsibility for Sultan versus what their other duties are. He will be stationed here and attend the Council meetings and will perform the functions of the police chief. Sultan would have to pay more if they split the cost on time and responsibility.

Frank Linth: The prima facia value of the space is more then \$10. Does not understand why the City is accepting less money over the length of the contract and how they are coming out ahead.

On a motion by Councilmember Slawson, seconded by Councilmember Champeaux, the public meeting was closed. All ayes.

Carolyn Eslick, Mayor

Laura J. Koenig, City Clerk