

Langley City Council Workshop
July 25, 2011
Ethics Policies

Mayor Samuelson opened the special workshop at 3 PM. Present were Councilmembers Waterman, Gilman and Seligson. Fran Abel and Rene Neff were absent. Also present were Planner Jeff Arango and Director of Finance/City Clerk Debbie Mahler. Councilman Seligson explained that the City's code has only a very small section on ethics policies which deal primarily with contracts and the city's personnel policies also have very little on ethics. He feels it is an important issue and gathered sample policies from other similar sized cities and the WA State Ferries. Councilman Seligson suggested an ad hoc committee of the council to work on developing policies for the City.

Councilman Gilman suggested expanding the role of the Personnel Committee to continue with this work. There was also discussion of having the committee do a portion of the work and then have a staff member work with the committee or with Hal. Ethics policies should set standards and help staff.

Leanne Finley has asked for disclosure of Councilman Gilman's records of speaking at an Open West Conference, AWC conference and other conferences and spoke. Gilman stated that after speaking with a consultant (Tim Ford) at MRSC is that since he was not asked to speak by the City or directly representing the city, it is not a disclosable public record. He doesn't mind reporting to Council on when and where he spoke and what it was about. He doesn't feel it would set a good precedent to disclose notes, written speeches, etc. This subject could also be addressed in the ethics policy.

Mayor Samuelson stated that he felt it was good policy for each Council person to report on any speaking engagements, etc. that they attend and keep the rest of the council informed.

The documents would not be a part of public records of the city because these are not official actions of the city. Gilman will address Leanne Finlay's email at the next regular council meeting when he gives his Council report. He will also respond to Leanne before the meeting.

The workshop was adjourned at 3:40 PM.