Call to Order

Mayor Young called the Workshop to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance with Mayor Young were Deputy Mayor Cleveland, Councilmember Diane Marshall, Councilmember Maureen Palecek, Councilmember Jim Rackley, Councilmember Stephen Bricker, and Councilmember Dan Swatman. Staff members in attendance were Finance Director John Weidenfeller, Interim Planning & Community Development Director Bob Leedy, Police Chief Bryan Jeter, Assistant Public Works Director Gary Leaf, Deputy City Attorney Jeff Ganson, Building Official Ray Cockerham, Code Enforcement Officer Denny Bryan and Deputy City Clerk Ray Luevanos. Judge James Helbling and Court Administrator Kathy Seymour arrived at 5:32 p.m. Councilmember Phil DeLeo arrived at 5:39 p.m.

Agenda Items

Motion by Deputy Mayor Cleveland, second by Councilmember Rackley, to modify the agenda, moving Item 13 Open Council Discussion up to Item 2.

Motion Carried Unanimously 7-0.

1. Myra Barker—Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation

Ms. Barker presented grant information from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program with respect to the City’s Skateboard Park proposal. She advised Council that the program offered a 50% match of the City contributions to a maximum of $300,000 ($500,000 maximum if the City did not own the proposed property). Ms. Barker summarized the overall process noting that final approval would not be established until July of 2003.

Upon Council inquiry, Ms. Barker discussed eligible costs, noting that only engineering costs and not construction costs could be covered retroactively.

Deputy Mayor Cleveland asked Ms. Barker if she would provide Council with copies of other local grant requests, to which Ms. Barker replied that she would.

Although amendments were approved that restructured the order of the Agenda, items are presented as originally scheduled to maintain the integrity and organization of the minutes.
2. Wetland Biologist/Skateboard Park Update

Code Enforcement Officer Bryan and Ms. Sherri Bennett briefed Council on the recent visit of the wetland biologist to the proposed skateboard park site. Code Enforcement Officer Bryan noted that Mr. Matt Bennett (no relation to Ms. Bennett), a certified wetland specialist, found that the wetlands were consistent with a previous 1993 wetland report. Mr. Bennett identified two areas with drainage issues but noted that the property does not meet wetland criteria.

Deputy Mayor Cleveland noted that she was present along with Mr. Bryan, Ms. Bennett, Councilmember Rackely, and Cheryle Noble. She acknowledged that her understanding was that the primary concern was a stormwater management issue.

Council discussed the lengthy wait required to file for a state grant as described by Ms. Barker. Ms. Bennett inquired into whether Council would be able to provide matching contributions toward the Skateboard Committee already-established list of volunteer labor and materials. Council asked Ms. Bennett to provide specific information as soon as possible for review and discussion within the budget process.

Council briefly discussed alternate skateboard park locations. General consensus was to give primary consideration to the City Hall location.

Council briefly discussed the availability of funds, to include a proposal from REET funds.

3. Tabled Ordinance No. 891—PUD’s

Interim Planning Director Leedy explained the purpose and advantage of having Planned Unit Developments within the City.

Council discussed developer requirements to include minimum lot sizes. Council specifically addressed Section 1.C. of the proposed ordinance. Council consensus was to strike criteria numbers 1 and 4 and to renumber and amend numbers 2 and 3 as follows:

1. The PUD provides an additional 10% open space, recreation areas or amenities beyond that which would be normally required;
2. The project will rehabilitate significant natural features within the PUD.

Council consensus was to establish minimum requirements of 6,000 square foot lots and grading criteria to 10% maximum.

Mr. Bryan Burnicker briefly addressed Council urging a holistic evaluation of the PUD ordinance and asked Council to give consideration to smaller open space use.

Council consensus was to bring forward to the next Council Meeting.
4. Draft Minutes—September 25, 2001 Council Meeting; October 2, 2001 Workshop

Deputy Mayor Cleveland asked that the October 2, 2001 minutes be changed to reflect the following:

Page 2 - Second to last paragraph in item #2 (Open Discussion)
Deputy Mayor Cleveland asked Councilmember Bricker for confirmation on the Public Safety Committee handling the issues of tonnage, stop signs, etc (Not Swatman).

Page 3 - Add sentence at end of #4 (Comp Plan Amendments)
Deputy Mayor Cleveland asked if the Council was ready to forward the Comprehensive Plan Amendments to the October 9th meeting for a vote. Council consensus was yes.

City Clerk Gayle Butcher was commended for her brevity and detail of minutes.

Mayor Young called for a recess at 7:00 p.m.
Mayor Young reconvened the workshop at 7:12 p.m.

5. 1st Council Budget Workshop for 2002—Department presentations from Building, Facilities, Planning, Court, Legal & Animal Control

Building Official Cockerham gave a brief overview of Building Department budget needs.

Council noted that the figures presented at workshop differed from their previously issued preliminary budget figures. Director Weidenfeller explained that tonight’s figures represented the most current information based on information available.

Building Official Cockerham answered Council inquiries regarding staffing levels. However, Council noted that its study and preparation was based on previously issued budget information. Council expressed disappointment in the budget process, noting that they would have to start over in adequately preparing to review budget proposals.

Council requested the most current information prior to any budget presentations to allow them to be prepared. Director Weidenfeller noted that the soonest he could provide such materials would be November 1, 2001. Deputy Mayor Cleveland requested that any changes to the budget materials be accompanied by explanations.

Building Official Cockerham briefly discussed facilities needs and answered cursory Council questions.

Council consensus was to wait until November 1, 2001 for updated budget information and to reschedule department presentations. Council discussed re-scheduling department presentations for November 17, 2001 and for a special workshop on December 1, 2001.
6. Ordinance for 2002 Ad Valorem Tax Levy

Council discussed the proposed levy, paying special attention to the impact upon newly annexed areas. Council proposed lowering the levy but noted that that would have an impact on budget requests.

Council consensus was to bring the ordinance forward to Council Meeting.

7. Union & Non-Union Employee Salary Scale

Director Weidenfeller discussed proposals for a project coordinator and engineering technician. Deputy Mayor Cleveland requested information regarding the information systems specialist and the information systems specialist trainee, as no previous information had been presented.

Council consensus was to move this item to the last budget workshop to allow for clarification of the new positions.

8. Ward Re-districting Committee

Mayor Young advised Council that according to the Pierce County Assessor, a re-districting plan was required by January 1, 2002. Council debated the deadline but agreed to let the City Attorney provide guidance on deadline requirements.

Councilmembers Swatman, Bricker, and Rackley volunteered to sit on an ad hoc re-districting committee to work with the Planning Department for a Re-districting plan.

9. Discuss request for Public Hearing on City Hall Space Needs

Deputy Mayor Cleveland introduced this segment, noting that Sherri Bennett requested this discussion at Council Meeting. She shared that based on an informal e-mail survey of her constituents, she received 25 requests for such a public hearing. She concluded that this is an indication that people want to voice their opinion on this subject matter.

After brief Council discussion, Staff was directed to provide possible options to Council prior to a public hearing. Council consensus was to schedule a public hearing on City Hall space needs in January.

10. Redistribution of Sewer Update Information

Assistant Public Works Director Leaf provided Council with an update of the joint sewer endeavor based upon 3 meetings with the Sumner Public Works Director and general feedback from Sumner City Council. He discussed a possible meeting between sub-committees from both cities and also informed Council that Sumner was potentially
interested in exercising veto authority as leverage on Bonney Lake Growth Management issues.

Council and Staff discussed individual City sewer capacities and autonomous control of growth management. Mayor Young noted an interest from the Cities of Buckley and Enumclaw in discussing sewer and water issues.

Council consensus to schedule a City Sewer update at the November 17th Special Workshop.

11. Hearing Examiner Process/Code Changes

Councilmember Swatman petitioned Council for greater Council input on land use issues as opposed to the current hearing examiner process.

Deputy City Attorney Ganson advocated that increased Council input could potentially mean increased liability as opposed to the arguably objective hearing examiner process. He recommended that Council focus on development policies to attain greater input and advised that Council examine and revise Sections 14-18 of City Code to correct perceived inconsistencies.

Council discussed having the Community Development Committee and the Planning Agency review development code for possible future revisions, to include the possibility of bench-marking other City’s policies.

12. Ordinance No. 888—Rainier Cable regarding Televising Council Meetings

Council revisited this item based on citizen input. Council discussed the costs and benefits of televising Council Meetings.

Deputy Mayor Cleveland suggested that Council informally poll their ward’s constituents prior to taking action on this bill.

Mayor Young recognized the $56,700 cost of implementing this measure. Deputy Mayor Cleveland noted that Council would be better able to examine this ordinance when presented with current budget projections. She asked that this item be discussed at the next budget workshop for further information.

Although amendments were approved that restructured the order of the Agenda, items are presented as originally scheduled to maintain the integrity and organization of the minutes.

13. Open Council Discussion

Councilmember Marshall discussed growth of trees within the community and advised Council that further information regarding the Neighborhood Woods Program would be forthcoming.
Deputy Mayor Cleveland clarified with Staff that no Council Agenda Bills were required on agenda items for which there is no documentation. She also advised Staff on the importance of adhering to agenda deadlines as outlined in the Council Policies and Procedures.

Deputy Mayor Cleveland noted that the issue of Comprehensive Plan Amendment was not on this workshop because it had already been addressed during the discussion on Lake Debra Jane. She also noted that the Sewer/Water Code Amendment is also going directly to the next Council Meeting due to previous discussions at Workshop. Deputy Mayor Cleveland did advise Staff that a Planning Agency member should be present at the corresponding Council Meeting to convey Planning Agency recommendations.

After Council discussion, Deputy Mayor Cleveland recommended cancellation of the Joint Council/Planning Agency Special Workshop scheduled for October 30, 2001 due to lack of agenda items. She suggested moving the sole agenda item of Conservation/Open Space Zoning Code to the November 17th Special Workshop. Council consensus was to cancel the October 30th Special Workshop and reschedule the Zoning Code discussion as recommended.

Council and Staff briefly discussed Postmaster direction that City mail would be returned to sender if not addressed to the Post Office Box 7380 address.

Deputy Mayor Cleveland proposed scheduling the remainder of General Fund budget items on November 17th and presentation of Public Works budget items on November 20th. Mayor Young concurred with the recommendation and affirmed to schedule on the projected agenda accordingly.

Deputy Mayor Cleveland advised Council that she had checked the City Website and that no updates had been made since October 2, 2001.

Finance Director Weidenfeller clarified that the transfer of $55,000, originally slated for a Senior Planner, had been moved out of the General Fund back to the Cumulative Reserve Fund.

There being no further business to discussion, Workshop was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.