

2018 SUMMIT

COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING
Saturday, January 27, 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Maplewood Golf Club, Renton

SUMMARY

Attended: Mayor Jeff Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Sean Smith, Councilmembers Margaret Harto, Fran Hollums, Marilla Mhoon, and Paul Selland; City Manager Regan Bolli; Leadership Team members Noreen Beaufreere, Kathy Hardy, Richard Hart, Rob Hendrickson, Andy McCurdy, Ethan Newton, Sharon Scott, Karla Slate, and Don Vondran; Facilitator Jim Reid and his colleague, Nick Swope.

Absent: Councilmember Joe Cimaomo

Guests: Jonathan Ingram, Planning Commission Member; Dave Lucavish, Former City Councilmember

OVERVIEW

The Covington City Council held its annual strategic planning summit on the last Saturday of January, as required by the Council's Policies and Procedures. This year the summit was on the 27th. This is the summary of the key discussions, decisions, and agreements that emerged from the meeting.

This year's summary is a little different from past summaries that facilitator Jim Reid has produced for the Council and City Manager's Leadership Team. This summary contains five sections:

- A. The City's major accomplishments of 2017.
- B. Covington today and in 2040.
- C. Review of the City's strategic framework (vision, mission, goals, and strategic plan).
- D. Council's discussions and consensus agreements.
- E. Issues on the horizon and takeaways (final thoughts about this year's summit).
- F. Action items from the 2018 summit that should advance the Council's agreements.

A. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2017

These are the City's major accomplishments of 2017 that the City Council and Leadership Team cited to open the 2018 strategic planning summit:

- Celebrations and commemorations of Covington's 20th anniversary.
- Took on the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) over the designation of the City's population classification and won! Covington is now designated a larger city
- Establishment of the Youth Council.

- We signed an agreement with a developer regarding the Lakepointe Plan. Along the way, we engaged the public to receive community input.
- Increased staff to a full-time Code Enforcement Officer from a half-time position.
- While some excellent staff people retired, the City brought on skilled and experienced staff to replace them.
- Negotiations with the Kent School District: The City continues to work with the District to purchase the property on which Covington Elementary is located.
- Moving forward on the development of parks; strongest evidence is the purchase of South Covington (SoCo) park.
- A great year for Covington at the State Legislature. Working with our legislators and lobbyist, the City received an impressive amount for roads and park improvements.
- Community participated more than ever in community events.
- One thing that enhanced events was the presence of the Arts Commission, which hosted events that attracted and engaged both kids and adults.
- Councilmembers and staff effectively represent Covington at regional meetings and forums. This brings favorable attention and resources to the City.
- A regional real estate guide featured a home in Covington, thus providing the City with more favorable exposure.
- Mailing the recreation guide.
- Completed updating the critical areas regulations.
- Once again received a finance award.
- Police Department is adding a sergeant and opened the Crime Victims Resource Center.
- Police Department is also working more closely than ever with the HOAs.
- Badges and Barbells program.
- Mentorship program at Polaris.
- Shop with a Cop served 500 kids.
- The City's interactive online project development map.
- Brought on board our new, in-house City Attorney, Kathy Hardy.
- Staff succeeded in achieving the goal of providing Councilmembers with their meeting packets two days earlier than in previous years.
- Overlay projects in Timberlane and 180th at/256th were completed.
- Added 175 new lots available for development. In contrast, in 2016 zero new lots were added to the inventory.
- The twice-yearly Community Development project activity report is very helpful.
- Hawke property annexation.
- Construction of the hospital was completed.
- Construction began of phase two of Covington Community Park.
- Permits that the City had been waiting for from the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) and the US Army Corps of Engineers were issued.
- King County purchased and assumed responsibility for a park outside the city limits that Covington no longer could maintain.
- Covington and the County also cooperated closely on the parks road right-of-way.
- Green River Coalition completed environmental restoration work at various areas throughout the city.
- Advanced the refunding of bonds, which the new tax law passed by Congress in December 2017 no longer allows.

- The Council and staff continue to respect and cooperate with one another. Staff leadership paves the way for this cooperation to be strategic and well coordinated.

B. COVINGTON TODAY AND IN 2040

Covington Today

In August 2017 Covington turned twenty. The Council and Leadership Team looked back over the past two decades by discussing what influences have shaped the City and what were the most surprising developments along the way.

- Surprised by the strength of the community's economic development.
- City Council has had the courage to seek and secure the funding necessary to do high level and important work.
- "I am surprised that I am not surprised" by how the City has evolved, grown, and matured.
- Long tenure of the staff, and their positive tone and high standards of achievement.
- The last two City Managers have been strong leaders.
- The Council, staff, and community have maintained a steady vision of Covington's future. Our vision is coming to fruition because of our team effort and focus.
- Relations with other cities in the Puget Sound area are continually improving.

Covington in 2040

- The City and neighbors of Covington have worked hard to get so far in twenty years. Unlike communities where wealthy benefactors contributed funds for parks or the arts or other facilities, this community has earned what it has. That is a good precedent for the future. We'll continue to work hard for what we want to become.
- Redevelopment will be as important to the City's future as new development. The redevelopment of land and existing facilities into Town Center will be key.
- As Covington reaches a new level of maturity, the City and neighbors will be able to enjoy the fruits of our efforts and the benefits that come with being a more mature community. The hospital and educational offerings are two examples.
- We are passing from the "virgin" to the "veteran" stage.
- Covington and the immediate surrounding area could have a population of 50,000-70,000 people. The community will need to ask if it wants to grow to become this big.
- Covington will continue to be an attractive place but will need to be even more strategic about managing growth.
- We will have more competition from other cities who will copy our blueprint for success in securing State funds for major projects.
- Covington will have more economic and trade influence and become a regional hub.
- We'll grow up, not out. Multi-story buildings and mixed uses (residential on upper floors, businesses on the street level) will make Town Center a real downtown. So, too, will a new City Hall and a public plaza.
- An indoor community center would be an outstanding opportunity.
- Lakepointe development will have tremendous influence. It is a unique opportunity for a city to assume control of a blank, two hundred-acre parcel. And the development of Lakepointe should also spur residential and office development within Town Center.

- King County is likely to continue to oppose Covington’s efforts to annex some adjacent neighborhoods in the unincorporated county. But what if the residents of those neighborhoods advocate becoming part of the City?
- The economy will diversify as the entertainment industry becomes more prominent.
- Fifteen years ago not many people knew about Covington. Today is very different. Our vision and goals, and growth and maturation have contributed to making Covington more prominent and respected. More people want to live here. That trend will continue toward 2040.
- Covington is also becoming a place where people from eastern Washington who are traveling to the coast or to Olympia on business stop to shop or eat.
- By 2040 Covington will have its own YMCA with land donated by Yarrow Bay.
- Covington will be a place to live, work, shop, recreate, and be entertained. The infrastructure necessary to support this will be obtained as the City continues to cooperate with the State in securing the funding.
- Covington has a “can do” attitude. People want to be involved.

C. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The City Council reaffirmed the vision, mission, and six goal statements. One Councilmember said “they still hold true and are a good touchstone for the future.” Another said that the City’s progress in advancing them is evidenced by the fact “we have gone from striving for to maintaining” the accomplishments under this planning framework. One other Councilmember said that the public process leading to the City’s agreement with the Lakepointe developer demonstrates that the vision, mission, and goals are working, and are tangible to the Council, staff, and public.

The Council also expressed enthusiasm for the strategic plan and the format for tracking progress in advancing the six goals. After reviewing and discussing the action items in the plan, a Councilmember complimented staff for “the excellent, clean format that helps us keep track of what we have done and achieved.” Another commented that the “strategic plan takes the goals further.” And a third member of the Council concluded the discussion by observing: “This vision and set of goals, as well as our strategic plan, helps us prioritize. Neighborhoods, community, and Town Center are coming out on top.”

The Council changed some timelines for initiating or achieving action items in the strategic plan. They are listed under Section F. “Action Items from the 2018 Summit” (see pages 11-14).

D. COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS AND CONSENSUS AGREEMENTS

This section highlights the major themes of the Council’s discussions during the 2018 strategic planning summit and the consensus agreements. The agreements are numbered and boldfaced.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-‘20 FRAMEWORK

As mentioned on the previous page under Section C. “Review of the Strategic Plan Framework:”

1. **City Councilmembers reaffirmed the vision, mission, and six goal statements. They also expressed support for the strategic plan, including the format for tracking progress in advancing the goals.**

ECONORTHWEST'S ANALYSIS OF THE CITY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND OPTIONS

Rob Hendrickson updated the Council on the status of analysis of the City's finances and related financial issues. Morgan Shook of ECONorthwest is the consultant who is leading the effort. The final report from the consultant will be received in late March or early April of this year.

Mr. Shook is using forecasting models to project lower and upper boundaries of the City's future finances. He has reviewed documents and plans, and interviewed Council and Leadership Team members. His preliminary findings are that the City's financial condition is strong.

Rob presented a portion of Mr. Shook's memo dated 20 November 2017 in which he laid out the scope of the analysis and summarized findings from the interviews of the City Councilmembers and Leadership Team. One of the major themes from this preliminary report is that there is consensus on what the big capital projects facing the City are, but there is no consensus as yet on the prioritization of the projects or how to fund them. Another key finding is that the City Council desires a fact-driven analysis of the options. Councilmembers told Mr. Shook that they need clarity about both the prioritization of projects and funding choices.

In response to a question, Rob stated that he has asked Mr. Shook to include in the final report a discussion of bond issues. The analysis will also anticipate a future recession and its potential impacts on City revenues. This led to a comment that the City might need to play a role in educating business owners about how retail sales are transitioning from brick-and-mortar stores to online shopping.

2. **The Council expressed support for the comprehensive scope of ECONorthwest's analysis and the preliminary findings that the final report and recommendations will be based on.**

The Council made two requests: 1) provide 2015 information about the comparison of taxes in neighboring cities; and 2) provide the City Council with Mr. Shook's report before it meets with him so Councilmembers can review the report and prepare questions to ask him.

YOUTH COUNCIL AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY COMMISSIONS

The City established the Youth Council in 2017. At this summit the Council briefly discussed ending the practice of placing a young person on the City's other commissions and instead making it one of the Youth Council's duties to track the issues the commissions are addressing and provide the youth perspective to the commissions and Council. During this discussion it came to light that only the Human Services Commission is required to have a representative of youth.

3. **The Council agreed to retain the status quo. Members were disinclined to add any new responsibilities to the Youth Council or to end the representation of young people on the City's four (The Planning Commission does not have a provision for youth members) commissions/councils.**

Margaret Harto and Sean Smith volunteered to go to schools to appeal to students to apply to serve on the Youth Council or as youth representatives on commissions. The suggestion was also offered that the Youth Council might host an event that highlights the need for more involvement from the City's youth on the Youth Council and commissions.

COVINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TOWN CENTER, AND THE AQUATIC CENTER

Regan Bolli and Richard Hart presented an overview of where the City is today with the purchase of Covington Elementary School. The property that the Kent School District owns and which the Council envisions for Town Center is seventeen acres. Of that, the City has agreed to purchase eight acres, which is the site of the school. The City is expected to purchase the eight acres in the middle of this year. The City has the funds to purchase this acreage; the Town Center account, Surface Water Management (SWM) funds, and funding from the recently approved State Capital Budget will be used to buy the property. As a result, there will be almost no funding left in the Town Center account.

Regan and Richard also reviewed the potential uses of the Covington Elementary School in the near future (before being demolished for construction of Town Center). They reviewed the potential costs of improving and maintaining various areas of the school and the school grounds. Chief Andy McCurdy told the Council that the King County Sheriff's Office could be interested in leasing some space at the school from the City for training courses.

In the long-term, the Council envisions the entire seventeen acres as Town Center—the core of a revitalized downtown. The school property could be the site of a new community center and City Hall.

- 4. The Council reiterated its interest in purchasing the eight acres upon which the Covington Elementary School sits.**
- 5. Council also agreed to authorize the City Manager to hire a consultant following the purchase of the property to assess repurposing the school and to identify the costs associated with repurposing and maintaining the school and school grounds.**

The Council also discussed the Aquatic Center, which will be remodeled or demolished. If the Council determines that the Aquatic Center must be demolished, it would need to decide whether to build the new facility on the site of the existing Center or at a new location. If built on a different site, the Center could probably remain open during the construction of the new facility. One potential site could be within Town Center.

There are currently no funds in the account that were established for the Aquatic Center. The Council did not discuss how to generate funding for improving or replacing the Center. One idea that has been discussed in the past is to get the voters to authorize creation of a Metropolitan Park District (MPD). An MPD could establish a tax to raise funding for parks, trails, pools, and other park and recreation facilities. . If the District were regional (i.e., larger than the boundaries of Covington), it might be able to generate even more funding.

- 6. The Council reiterated its support to hire a consultant to conduct a conditional assessment of the Aquatic Center and a feasibility study of the options available to the City.**

The Council suggested that an agenda item for the Tri-City meeting with elected and senior appointed officials of Covington, Maple Valley, and Black Diamond in May should be the Aquatic Center. An interest of the Council's is to get the Maple Valley and Black Diamond officials to recognize that the Aquatic Center currently serves some of their citizens and is more a regional than local facility.

THE CITY COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE REGION

Covington's City Council has historically played an active role in the region. This has resulted in the City gaining stature, influence, and resources. Many of the growth management issues facing the City have regional ramifications. As Fran Hollums learned by being a member of the Sound Cities Association's Public Issues Committee, "We are not alone." Regional involvement gives Covington opportunities to learn what other cities have done or are doing, and to continue to influence the actions of others so that the best interests of Covington are respected and addressed.

The Council and Leadership Team reviewed a list of regional committees. In addition to Fran's role on the Public Issues Committee, Marlla serves on the WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Council, the King County Flood District Advisory Committee, and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Scholarship Committee; Sean is on the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority; and Paul Selland has recently joined the South County Area Transportation Board. Don Vondran represents Covington on the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee, and Regan is on the AWC Education Advisory Committee.

7. The Council agreed that next year the City should expand its regional role.

Committees that the Council would try to serve on include: Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Executive Board (Marlla recently stepped down from that body after serving three years); PSRC's Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB); PSRC's Transportation Policy Board (TBP); and the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC).

Appointments to the committees for 2019 will be made toward the end of this year. The call for applications occurs every October. Therefore, in September the Council plans to discuss who from Covington should be nominated to serve on the above committees and others that will be of importance to the City.

In addition, some Councilmembers suggested that Covington should be represented on the Governor's Advisory Committees and committees of the National League of Cities.

The Council also discussed the May 2019 Tri-City meeting, which Covington will host. The Council identified issues of interest for the agenda, including transportation (Seattle Area Legislative Transportation Coalition [SEAL-TC]), the Aquatic Center or the regional need for a pool and related facilities, and Emergency Management coordination. In addition, the agenda could include an update on human services; specifically, what the City of Covington learned about addressing the needs and interests of people who are homeless camping in their cars, and balancing those interests with the common interests of all City residents.

TRANSPORTATION

Don reviewed the status of a number of road projects. Rob presented an assessment of the costs of the projects that are underway as well as others on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). From the subsequent conversation among the Council and Leadership Team, it is clear that the City's capital needs outpace funding available to pay for them.

Rob presented facts and figures indicating that if the car tab fee were rescinded and replaced by a sales tax of two-tenths-of-one percent, voters would actually pay less and the City would generate significantly more funding to pay for transportation infrastructure. But Councilmembers are also sensitive to the voters' feeling of "tax exhaustion." Sound Transit 3 has played a major role in creating this feeling, even for voters not in the ST3 taxing district.

8. **The Council agreed that the City should submit to the voters a proposition that calls for the car tab fee to be replaced by the sales tax of two-tenths-of-one-percent.**
9. **Council also authorized the staff to explore the proper timing for placing this proposal on the ballot.** A factor in determining the timing will be the timing of other ballot measures from King County.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Andy McCurdy provided an overview of the trends and conditions of 2017. Calls for service, he explained, rose to 5493 in 2017, up from 4289 in 2012. He also thanked the Council for funding a sergeant, who will become the sixteenth employee of the City's Police Department (although the City is actually paying for nineteen or twenty Full Time Equivalents [FTEs]; these additional employees provide a variety of services to the City but also to their employer, the King County Sheriff's Office, and to other law enforcement agencies with whom the County contracts).

Andy posed this question for the Council: "What level of police services do you want?" While national standards for the number of police officers per residents offer some guidelines, they are skewed by large cities, such as Chicago, which has more officers per residents because it has more crime. Andy and Regan noted that a more accurate measure could be the impact of retail stores on the rate of crime. More retail outlets usually mean more crime. Once Lakepointe opens, with a hotel or two and restaurants as well as shops, the City should expect a spike in the crime rate.

Three options were suggested to help fund public safety services in and around Lakepointe, but at this time the Council did not direct staff to analyze them. The options are:

- The City and Lakepointe's developers would enter an agreement whereby the developers would agree to contribute to pay some of the cost of public safety services at the mall.
- Business owners would form a Business Improvement District. Businesses within the area would be taxed to generate funding for public safety and, possibly, other services.
- The City would assess a lodging tax on visitors who stay in the malls' hotel(s) while attending events or festivals in Covington. Thus, tourists would help defray the costs of police services.

The Council also briefly discussed the idea of granting funding to neighborhood groups to form and maintain Block Watch organizations. Andy mentioned that the Block Watch program has not cost the City any money, other than the time some officers may contribute to advise neighborhood groups as they form such associations, and the time officers, City Councilmembers, and some staff spend on National Night Out visiting events held throughout the community, some of which may be sponsored by block watch groups, other neighborhood groups, or HOAs.

10. The Council did not favor establishing a City grant program for neighborhood block watch groups.

At the end of this discussion, Councilmembers observed that the School Resource Officer is doing an excellent job as the liaison between the Police Department and schools. And Andy observed that most crime is opportunistic and preventable. The City could communicate a message to its residents to take simple precautions, such as leaving nothing of value in a car, especially overnight, and locking doors of homes and cars. "Don't make yourself an easy target" was Andy's message.

It was suggested that the City could post on its website these messages and crime prevention tips. Jeff Wagner could include these tips in his "Mayor's Corner."

COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

City Attorney Kathy Hardy reviewed the Council Policies and Procedures with the City Councilmembers to determine if they favored any changes.

11. Council agreed on one change, to 8.4 CITY COUNCIL ADVISORY BODIES/Exit Interviews (page 20 of the Policies and Procedures; page 92 in the 2018 summit packet).

Kathy will craft language reflecting the Council's preference shortly after a commission member departs, the Mayor should send a letter to the individual saying that if the person would like an exit interview, the request will be granted. Mayor Jeff Wagner has already composed and sent such a letter to departing Commission members. (In the last three years one person has asked for an exit interview.)

Council members also briefly discussed 4.2.5 COUNCIL MEETING TYPES; GENERAL PROVISIONS/Types of Council Meetings/Emergency Meetings. The Council was interested in the powers of the Mayor during times of emergency. Can the Mayor act unilaterally, particularly in circumstances where it is not possible for Councilmembers to convene or even communicate with each other?

12. The Council agreed to wait until the City's new emergency management coordinator takes office before visiting this issue again.

The Council also discussed behaviors such as a Councilmember leaving the dais during a meeting to step to the podium to testify as a citizen, not as a member of the Council. Also discussed was email and website etiquette: 1) Don't write an email or post on a website anything that you would not want as the headline in the newspaper; 2) Don't hit "reply all" if responding to an

email that went to all the Councilmembers; if you do, you could be initiating a public meeting and violating the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

As the discussion ended, Kathy observed that the Council is a highly functioning body. The Council expressed an interest in coaching and mentoring each other, and in continuing to work cooperatively and collaboratively so that the Covington City Council remains a high functioning team. What everyone needs from each other is trust, respect, honesty, and forthright or direct opinions and discussion

E. WRAP UP: ISSUES ON THE HORIZON and TAKEAWAYS

As is the tradition, the Council briefly identified issues that are likely to face the City this year or in the next few years. The issues cited were:

- Garbage rates, every-other-week service, mini garbage cans (10 gallons), senior discounts, and the ability to opt out of service.
- The future of Camp McCullough, the eighteen-acre site on Pipe Lake.
- The lack of office space in Covington, including the lack of space for medical offices.
- The City's relations with Puget Sound Energy (PSE).
- The housing stock: its age, condition, and diversity.
- A lecture by and discussion with Peter Kageyama, the author of "For the Love of Cities."

The retreat ended with everyone expressing what was most interesting or meaningful about this year's summit. Here is a compilation of the comments:

- It's the most enjoyable meeting of the year! Unbelievably meaningful!
- The summit is better the second time. My decision to be on the Council is reassured with each meeting.
- The amount of time everyone devotes and all of our contributions are impressive.
- Thank you for taking time on a Saturday. We had interesting discussions of important issues, and they reflected that we are working well together.
- This Council is goal-driven. They are written down. They guide us. And we are accomplishing them!
- It all works so well because in the last couple years we have had two great City Managers and a great Council and Leadership Team.
- It's great for the staff to hear what the Council thinks. We want to help you succeed. And we appreciate your understanding of our workload.
- The summit reconfirms that we are all a team.
- We are making hard decisions. Now we need to sell them to the public.
- Everyone cares.
- My batteries are recharged.
- Our best days are ahead of us.
- We are not vintage, but veterans. We can meet the challenges of the future and get the City to the destination we envision.

F. ACTION ITEMS FROM THE 2018 SUMMIT

■ **2018-'20 STRATEGIC PLAN TRACKING SHEET** (Pages 13-17 in the 2018 Summit Packet)

1. Council asked for each goal of the tracking sheet to be placed on its own page.

Goal: Economic Development (Page 13 of the 2018 Summit Packet)

2. Extend item 1 into 2019 and 2020.
3. Extend item 2 into 2019 and 2020.

Goal: Town Center (pages 13-14)

4. Extend item 2 into 2019 and 2020.
 - A suggestion for building on this action item: Discuss with representatives of Green River Community College the idea of surveying the community about its interest in the College offering classes in Covington, and what kinds of courses would be most attractive and beneficial.
5. Move up item 4 from 2020 to 2019.

Goal: Community (pages 14-15)

6. Item 4: Discuss with Maple Valley representatives the idea of partnering to expand Play Unplugged.
7. Item 5: Ask Maple Valley and Black Diamond if they would like to partner in developing a new annual tournament. Because the Council would prefer that the tournament be held in Covington, state the invitation as "We are inviting you to join us." Be prepared for the possibility that Maple Valley may suggest that the tournament be held at Lake Wilderness Park or at one of its fields. If so, there may be something that Covington should request in exchange.
 - a. Sean Smith envisions local high schools someday hosting football games on fields at their schools or in their communities. Suggest this idea in the Covington Community Park Phase 3?
8. Item 7: Move to 2019.

Goal: Neighborhoods (page 15)

9. Item 3: Covington could develop a packet for neighborhood groups and Home Owner Associations (HOAs) that guides how they would conduct the National Night Out. The City would send out a letter two months before the event to solicit interest, and then follow up with those who are interested by sharing the "how to" packet.
 - a. Staff has begun compiling a record of which neighborhood groups and HOAs are active and might be interested in assuming this responsibility.
 - b. Marlla Mhoon suggested that Covington could learn from Bend, Oregon how to make its neighborhoods more identifiable.

Goal: Municipal Services (page 16)

10. No change is required to item 5, but Don Vondran reported that it has been difficult to find a suitable and available property on which to construct a new maintenance facility. He also said that the Public Works Department is engaging a different real estate agent to assess properties

for the facility. A suggestion was made to consider a site at 256th @ Highway 18 and to develop it as a maintenance facility and as an environmental education project.

Goal: Customer Service (pages 16-17)

11. Item 3: Add 2019 to the leadership development program. Although Council suggested that the tracking sheet continue to show that it could begin in 2018, the assumption is that anything initiated this year will be foundational. The real effort to develop and launch the program will be in 2019.

▪ **ECONORTHWEST'S ANALYSIS OF THE CITY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND OPTIONS**

12. Provide 2015 information about the comparison of taxes in neighboring cities.

13. Provide the City Council with Mr. Shook's report before it meets with him so that Councilmembers can review the report and prepare questions to ask him.

▪ **YOUTH COUNCIL AND YOUTH REPRESENTATION ON CITY COMMISSIONS**

14. Work with Margaret Harto and Sean Smith to schedule them to speak at local schools about serving on the Youth Council or as youth representatives on commissions.

15. Explore the idea of asking the Youth Council to host an event that highlights the need for more involvement from the City's youth on the Youth Council and commissions.

▪ **COVINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TOWN CENTER, AND THE AQUATIC CENTER**

16. Prepare for the City's purchase later this year of the eight-acre site where Covington Elementary School is located.

17. Hire a consultant after the property is purchased to assess the future uses of and condition of the school and identify the costs associated with repurposing and maintaining the school and school grounds.

18. Hire a consultant to conduct a conditional assessment of the Aquatic Center and a feasibility study of the options available to the City.

19. Place on the agenda of the Tri-City meeting in May discussion of the role of the Aquatic Center as a regional facility serving not only Covington's residents, but also the people of Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and other neighborhoods and cities.

▪ **THE CITY COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE REGION**

20. In September the Council should discuss who from Covington should be nominated to serve on regional committees in 2019 (and, possibly, others that have been identified as important to the City). The call for applications or nominations is in October.

These are the committees of greatest interest to the Council: Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Executive Board (Marlla recently stepped down from that body after

serving three years); PSRC's Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB); PSRC's Transportation Policy Board (TBP); and the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC).

21. In early Spring finalize the agenda for the May Tri-City agenda.

▪ **TRANSPORTATION**

22. Prepare the ordinance by which the Council places a proposition on the ballot that rescinds the car tab fee and replaces it with a sales tax of two-tenths-of-one-percent.

23. Determine the proper timing for placing this proposal on the ballot and recommend the timing to the Council.

▪ **PUBLIC SAFETY**

24. Post on the City website crime prevention tips. One place to post them would be in "The Mayor's Corner." A key message could be "Don't make yourself an easy target"

▪ **COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

25. City Attorney Kathy Hardy will revise 8.4 per the Council's agreement (see page 10) and bring the proposed language to Council for review, discussion, and adoption.

26. Once the Emergency Management Coordinator is on board, hold a Council discussion about whether or not the Mayor should be able to act unilaterally in extreme circumstances during emergencies. Related to 4.2.5. (See page 10.)