



Memorandum

Date: May 11, 2012

To: John Kovash, Mayor
Members, West Linn City Council

From: Chris Jordan, City Manager 

Subject: May 14 Council Agenda

The City Council will be meeting on Monday, May 14 with a pre-meeting at 6:00 and the regular meeting at 6:30. Attached is a revised agenda. The pre-meeting will include an executive session to discuss labor negotiations, status of pending litigation, and property acquisition. At the request of some members of the Council, I have attached the memorandum I provided to the Council on March 2, 2012 that might be helpful as part of your attorney discussion under Business from the Council.

The Agenda includes a work session immediately following the regular meeting. The topic for this meeting is the continuing education of all of us on the topic of Economic Development. Incoming Economic Development Director Chris Kerr has arranged for Sean Robbins, the Chief Executive Officer of Greater Portland, Inc. to attend and lead this discussion. Earlier this week, the Oregonian printed an editorial discussing economic development that highlighted the work of Greater Portland, Inc. That editorial is attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attachment

Memorandum

Date: March 2, 2012

To: John Kovash, Mayor
Members, West Linn City Council

From: Chris Jordan, City Manager

Subject: Report on Attorney Options

During the Council retreat, the consensus of the Council was that the City would benefit from employing legal assistance in the agency. The City Council asked that staff prepare a cost comparison for two different options: an in-house City Attorney, and an in-house attorney with an outside contracted City Attorney.

Current Situation: Contracted City Attorney

Costs have fluctuated tremendously over the years for the contracted City Attorney from a low of approximately \$100,000 in 2008 (the year that the City employed an in-house attorney), to a high of over \$230,000 in 2005 and 2009. The average is approximately \$200,000 annually based on the current fee structure of \$165/hour.

Option 1: In-house City Attorney

As previously presented, moving the City Attorney functions in-house would require an experienced attorney, a part-time paralegal or administrative assistant, and some contracted attorney assistance for specific projects or meeting coverage, such as the Planning Commission. Overall cost estimate is:

Salary and benefits:	\$240,000
Materials and Services:	\$ 30,000
Total	\$270,000

Option 2: In-house Attorney with Contracted City Attorney

We have compiled information regarding the compensation for an in-house attorney based on comparisons with other public agencies in the region. These comparisons are attached. For this estimate, we are using a salary of \$95,000 and the City's benefit package for the estimated salary and benefits. We are also using the figure of \$100,000 for contracted City Attorney costs based on the 2008 figure mentioned above. We have also included an additional \$10,000 for materials and services for office supplies, technology and training for the in-house attorney.

Salary and Benefits:	\$140,000
Materials and Services:	\$110,000
Total:	\$250,000

Conclusion

The information provided above is staff's best effort to estimate costs associated with the Council's direction. We also believe there are at least two issues that will require Council consideration prior to making a decision:

- 1) Management and coordination of responsibilities. Under Option 2, there would need to be clear direction regarding the management and coordination of responsibilities between the in-house attorney and contracted City Attorney.
- 2) Added value. Under which scenario provides the most added value to the City?

This memorandum has been shared with the City Attorney prior to distributing to the City Council. City Attorney Tim Ramis has provided the attached memorandum providing his perspective on this issue.

Attachment



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Greater Portland Inc. helps build economic teamwork

Published: Monday, May 07, 2012, 5:29 PM Updated: Tuesday, May 08, 2012, 11:18 AM



By

The Oregonian Editorial Board


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Randy Rasmussen, The Oregonian

Hillsboro, home to Intel's new D1X facility and other plants, is a key player in regional economic development because of its supply of developable land.

In 2000, the Portland area economy appeared to be humming. The seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate dropped as low as 4.2 percent.**

In March 2012, the seasonally adjusted rate was 8.5 percent. Yet in at least one respect, the region might be better positioned for economic growth now than at the turn of the century.

Economic prosperity of the late 1990s masked divisions among businesses and governments within the region. The fissures came into broad public view in 2001, when Columbia Sportswear moved

its headquarters from the Portland area to unincorporated Washington County. It was a seminal moment, repeatedly **cited in this year's Portland mayoral race.**

The **mayor's race** will be narrowed to two candidates next Tuesday. The winner will inherit an unemployment rate much higher than 4.5 percent but a regional operating environment that is more conducive to growth.

Over the past four years, the level of cooperation among various entities has improved significantly. Rather than poaching each other's businesses, communities within the metro area now collaborate and pool resources in an effort to attract new employers.

Perhaps the signature achievement of this collaboration was the late 2010 merger of **Greater Portland Inc.** and Portland Vancouver Regional Partners, the final step in a process bringing together the efforts of various public and private economic development groups.

We view this accomplishment, and the dialogue it has helped foster among local leaders, as a major reason for optimism that Portland can make long overdue economic gains as the recovery progresses.

In the evolved model, the Portland Development Commission acts as a clearinghouse, managing the intake of economic development inquiries. It then broadcasts opportunities to the region, gets responses and coordinates the response to the companies.

"We're more in tune now to what our companies need and how to respond to it," said Patrick Quinton, executive director of the PDC.

The recession focused public attention on the need for greater attention to economic development. A new lineup of regional leaders understood that they could better address economic problems together.

"We're now figuring out we can't do this stuff ourselves," said Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle.

Since 2008, there has been significant turnover in key Washington County and Multnomah County leadership positions. Doyle, Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey and Portland Mayor Sam Adams were elected in 2008. In 2010, former Hillsboro Mayor Tom Hughes was elected **Metro Council president**. The Multnomah and Washington county commissions have also seen significant turnover.

The region's mayors meet on a regular basis, and talk in between. Economic development officials also communicate regularly.

"We have relationships with each other; we all know each other," said Quinton, who has been with the PDC a little more than four years, the last 15 months as executive director. "That's half the battle, having personal relationships and working well together."

Hughes has seen the evolution from two important vantages. Hillsboro is home to some of the region's most important employers and some of the best sites for future businesses. Metro plays a central role in determining land available for development.

"There's greater hope now that we can put together a unified strategy on economic development in the region than we've ever had before," Hughes said.

If this all sounds basic, it is. But, for a region sometimes defined more by what it opposes than what it supports, it is important. Shared goals can be a powerful thing.

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Memorandum

Date: May 11, 2012

To: John Kovash, Mayor
Members, West Linn City Council

From: Chris Jordan, City Manager *WJ*

Subject: Leadership Academy

The first class of the West Linn Leadership Academy has met for four sessions with the fifth and final session scheduled for June 13 at 6:00 at the Adult Community Center. The City Council is invited to join the class for this session which will include some leadership exercises led by Greg McKenzie. For that session, each class member has been given some homework: to read the book Who Moved My Cheese by Spencer Johnson, MD. We are providing each of you with a copy of this book and ask that you read prior to the session so that you can participate in the session with the class.