



# **News Release**

## **CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Mountlake Terrace Civic Center Project Update**

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE—A variety of issues including financing options, costs and timing for the Civic Center Project were discussed at City Council's February 2 work/study session.

At their January 12 work/study session, the City Council requested a list of qualities for building a new Civic Center or continuing to rent the interim City Hall space.

The list was developed to guide a more thorough dialogue to determine City Council's next steps at the February 2 meeting. The February discussion centered around which financing option to take to voters and the timing of it since the city has no funding to continue to rent beyond July of 2014. Options considered by the City Council include funding the Civic Center Project on land already owned by the city with a Capital Bond Issue or continuing to rent the interim City Hall with a property tax levy lid lift.

It was determined that no matter what option was selected, a YES Committee would be needed to educate the community on the issues. Mayor Jerry Smith said, "I will form a YES Committee of citizens to conduct a poll or survey to get the opinion of voters on whether they would prefer the Capital Bond Issue or the levy lid lift and bring back the results."

In 2011, the city gathered feedback from a post-election survey and two focus groups to learn more about what residents thought regarding the Civic Center Project. The results showed that while residents approve of the project, they believe the cost was too expensive and needed to be scaled back. The recent

Community Satisfaction Survey showed that 60% of respondents felt the Civic Center project was essential or very important.

The city has been able to reduce the cost of the project by one-third by relocating the Emergency Operations Center (now grant funded), storage and additional floor space to the Operations Facility. The city purchased the City of Lynnwood's portion of the building in 2010 and that helped reduce the cost of the project while keeping its major components.

The feedback also indicated that residents wanted more information about the Civic Center Project. To address that need, new webpages are available with background information, feedback results and specific details about the project. It is available at [www.cityofmlt.com](http://www.cityofmlt.com), and click "Civic Center Project" under Most Requested Services or call Assistant City Manager Scott Hugill at (425) 744-6208. The City Council is expected to discuss this issue next at the March 3 special work/study session.

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