



## Weekly Council Preview

for the week of Monday Nov. 23, 2009

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The Seattle City Council's "Weekly Preview" is a brief description of major Council meetings and issues up for discussion in the upcoming week. Please note this is not a complete list of items the Council will address. To view the most updated Council agendas, as well as a two-week look ahead of Council meetings, please go to [www.seattle.gov/council](http://www.seattle.gov/council).

**MONDAY, Nov 23, 9:30 a.m. – COUNCIL BRIEFING, R. Conlin**  
*Preview of some Council actions to be taken during future Full Council meetings.*

**BRIEFING**      **SDOT's New Snow Removal Policy:** The Seattle Department of Transportation will brief the Council on the new snow and ice response plan for the city. The briefing will include discussion on new snow-fighting strategies, systems, equipment, facilities upgrades, public communications and evaluation.

**MONDAY, Nov. 23, 10:30 a.m. – BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING, J. Godden**

**DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS AND VOTING**      **Final budget discussions and votes:** Please review the [agenda here](#) (full URL below) for specific items on the agenda. Details of all related legislation noted on the Budget Committee agenda can be found under the listing for Full Council Meeting.  
<http://www.seattle.gov/council/budget/attachments/20091123agenda.pdf>

**MONDAY, Nov. 23, 2 p.m. – FULL COUNCIL MEETING, R. Conlin**

[C.B. 116714](#)      **Amending the 2009 Adopted Budget:** This legislation amends the 2009 adopted budget, including the 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program (CIP); changing appropriations to various departments and budget control levels. Committee recommends a PASS AS AMENDED.

[C.F. 310221](#)      **2010 Proposed Budget:** This clerk file covers the 2010 proposed budget.

[C.F. 31022](#)      **2010-2015 Proposed Capital Improvement Program:** This clerk file covers the 2010-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

[C.B. 116686](#)      **Authorizing and providing the issuance of bonds:** This legislation relates to contract indebtedness. It authorizes and provides for the issuance and sale of limited tax general obligation bonds to pay all or part of the cost of financing elements of the city's capital improvement program. The committee recommends a PASS AS AMENDED.

- [C.B. 116687](#) **Authorizing Department Heads and Directors to accept certain grants:** During the course of a year, departments receive grant awards or opportunities for other funding resources that are not anticipated at the time the annual budget is adopted. This proposed legislation would allow heads of city departments and Executive Offices to accept individual grant awards of \$15,000 or less (defined as “small grants”) without having to wait for passage of the quarterly legislation. The committee recommends a PASS AS AMENDED.
- [C.B. 116702](#) **Modifying Seattle Center Director’s authority to enter into contracts:** This legislation amends the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to authorize the Seattle Center Director to enter into non-event rental agreements for terms of not more than five years for facilities under the management of Seattle Center. Approval of this legislation will establish the Director’s authority to execute future agreements, and reinstate it retroactively which corrects and inadvertent oversight dating back to Dec.1995. Committee recommends a PASS.
- [C.B. 116689](#) **Establishing the 2010 Parks and Rec Fee Schedules:** This legislation establishes the 2010 fee schedule for the use of park properties and other park and recreation facilities and services.
- [C.B. 116685](#) **Increasing the amount of Admission Tax proceeds set aside for arts purposes:** A portion of Admission Tax revenue was first proposed to supplement the General Fund budget appropriation for the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs (OACA) in 2000. This funding was originally approved at the twenty percent level, but was suspended in 2001 because of the economic downturn. It later returned to its original twenty percent level in 2003. This legislation would increase OACA’s Admission Tax allocation to seventy-five percent, eliminating the Office’s General Subfund support in its entirety. DIVIDED VOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.
- [C.B. 116684](#) **Adjusting spay and neuter fees:** The proposed legislation raises spaying and neutering fees charged by the City’s Municipal Spay and Neuter Clinic by \$30 for each procedure, effective Jan. 1, 2010. This allows the Clinic to recover its surgical service costs. Committee recommends a PASS.
- [C.B. 116683](#) **Adjusting dog license fees:** Under this proposal, Seattle’s annual dog license fee will increase from \$20 to \$27 for altered dogs, and from \$40 to \$47 for unaltered dogs, effective January 1, 2010. Committee recommends a PASS.
- [C.B. 116682](#)  
[C.B. 116690](#) **Relating to business license fees:** Under the current code, businesses are able to renew their business licenses despite having outstanding tax and fee obligations, which have resulted in significant uncollected taxes and fees owed to the city each year. This legislation amends the code so businesses that owe the city fees and taxes will no longer be able to renew their business licenses until their financial obligations are met. The companion bill (C.B. 116690) works much the same by not allowing businesses to renew their regulatory licenses if the have outstanding debt obligations with the city. Committee recommends a PASS.
- [C.B. 116691](#) **Increasing park fines:** This legislation would increase fines for all parking infractions by \$4. Total fees and charges resulting from passage of this ordinance would be \$1,843,000. DIVIDED VOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.
- [C.B. 116692](#) **Authorizing Residential Parking Zone and Car Share parking permits:** This legislation establishes a new Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) single-day use guest permit that can be issued for up to 50 per household per year at \$1 per guest permit. It also authorizes creation of parking permits for car share companies to pay for the use of the rights-of-way in zones designated for car share vehicles. Additionally, it establishes car share fees ranging from \$300 for non-paid spaces to \$3,100 for the highest tier paid spaces, depending upon location. Committee recommends a PASS.

- [C.B. 116701](#) **Using automated traffic safety cameras:** In 2009, the state Legislature passed legislation authorizing Seattle and Tacoma to conduct a two-year pilot project under the supervision of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to test the feasibility of using automated traffic safety cameras for enforcement of speed laws. While RCW 46.63.170 already allowed use of this technology in school zones, this new pilot project will allow the use of these cameras outside of school zones. Committee recommends a PASS.
- [C.B. 116693](#) **Allowing for full funding of multi-year paving plan:** This legislation extends the term of the paving interfund loan that is authorized by Ordinance 122641. Under the original terms, the interfund loan is authorized until Dec. 31, 2009, but this extends those terms until Dec. 31, 2015 to allow for full implementation of the multi-year paving acceleration plan.
- [C.B. 116694](#) **Authorizing the extension of the Streetcar Interfund Loan:** This legislation extends to Dec. 31, 2012 the Streetcar interfund loan that was originally authorized until Dec. 31, 2009. As of August 2009, the outstanding loan balance was \$4,983,000. Repayment of the loan was intended to be repaid by the end of 2009, in part, with sales proceeds from surplus property adjacent to and right above, the South Lake Union Streetcar Maintenance Facility and Yard at 318 Fairview Avenue North. Due to the economic downturn, a sale has not yet occurred and an extension of the existing loan has become necessary.
- [C.B. 116592](#) **Repealing the Employee Head Tax:** This legislation repeals the city's "Employee Hours Tax" (EHT), often referred to as the Employee Head Tax which requires employers to pay \$25 per FTE for employees who do not walk to work or take transit. It was used to provide funding for various transportation improvements. Since implementation, the EHT has generated less revenue than originally projected. DIVIDED VOTE BY THE COMMITTEE.
- [C.B. 116695](#) **Authorizing the Mayor to establish a 2010 Furlough Program with city unions:** As a result of the national economic crisis, the city has been experiencing revenue shortfalls and is facing large cuts to its 2010 operating budget. This proposed bill authorizes the Mayor to sign and execute two memorandums of understanding establishing a furlough program for 2010, one between the city and certain unions in the Coalition of City Unions, and one between the city and the Municipal Court and certain unions in the Coalition. According to estimates, this legislation affects approximately 4,400 represented city employees, not including employees who may be exempt from the furlough. The furlough program will consist of 80 hours of unpaid time per employee in 2010, pro-rated for part-time employees.
- [C.B. 116696](#) **Authorizing the Mayor to establish a 2010 Furlough Program with non-union employees:** This legislation establishes a 2010 furlough program for certain employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements. It extends the time employees laid off in 2009 and 2010 would be in Project Hire and on reinstatement lists. This program impacts approximately 2,500 non-represented employees.
- [C.B. 116713](#) **Authorizing the mayor to sign MOUs to amend collective bargaining agreements with certain unions:** This legislation authorizes the Mayor to execute memorandums of understanding between the city and certain individual unions in the Coalition of City Unions, the city of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 160, Local 289, all amending collective bargaining agreements expiring Dec. 31, 2010. The MOUs provide for a limit on the employees' contribution rate to the city Employees' Retirement System ("Retirement System"). The city and the Coalition agree that the Seattle Municipal Code shall be amended if a year-end actuarial study finds that the amortization period for the Retirement System's unfunded actuarial liability exceeds 30 years, based on the current contribution rate of 8.03 percent to the Retirement System paid by the city and employees, and if the city determines that an increase in contribution rates to the Retirement System is necessary, the city and employees shall equally increase contribution rates. Such increases shall not result in employees paying greater than a 10.03 percent contribution rate.

Committee recommends a PASS.

- [C.B. 116712](#) **Authorizing compensation for non-union employees:** This legislation provides for an annual cost of living increase for most non-represented employees for the year 2011. Non-represented employees not eligible for this increase are identified by their payroll titles. This legislation affects approximately 1,413 non-represented city employees. Committee recommends a PASS.
- [C.B. 116724](#) **Reducing the number of members on the CTTAB Board:** This proposed legislation would reduce from sixteen to ten the number of members on the Citizens' Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Board (CTTAB). Committee recommends a PASS.
- [C.B. 116699](#) **Authorizing the issuance of bonds:** This legislation provides the legal authorization to issue up to \$179.3 million of Water System revenue bonds and/or Build America Bonds, as was assumed in Seattle Public Utilities' 2009-2014 Adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The bond proceeds, combined with internally generated funds, will support Seattle Public Utilities' capital program over the next two years. Committee recommends a PASS.
- [RES. 31165](#) **SPU reporting on annual state audit progress:** This resolution requires that Seattle Public Utilities produce a report by July 1 of each year detailing the city's progress in responding to the Performance Audit of Seattle Public Utilities Department Final Report issued by the Washington State Auditor's Office in September 2009. This resolution requests an annual report until it is no longer required.
- [C.B. 116708](#) **Adjusting drainage and wastewater rates:** This ordinance would revise the 2010 wastewater rate up 0.48 percent, from \$8.89 per CCF (hundred cubic feet) to \$8.93, and revise the 2010 drainage rates up 1.96 percent. The proposed increases are due to the Council's reinstatement of key operations and maintenance (O&M) and capital projects for the 2010 Adopted budget. The ordinance would also adjust the applicable wastewater and drainage credits for low-income customers. DIVIDED COMMITTEE VOTE.
- [C.B. 116707](#) **Adjusting drainage and wastewater rates:** This ordinance would revise the 2010 wastewater rate up 1.02%, from \$8.89 per CCF (hundred cubic feet) to \$8.98, and revise the 2010 drainage rates up 1.96 percent. The proposed increases are due to the Council's reinstatement to the 2010 Adopted budget of key operations and maintenance (O&M) activities, capital projects and a 12 percent city wastewater tax rate. The ordinance would also adjust the applicable wastewater and drainage credits for low-income customers. DIVIDED COMMITTEE VOTE.
- [C.B. 116721](#) **Increasing City Light Rates:** This legislation would approve an across-the-board City Light rate increase of 13.8 percent applied to all rate schedules, including low income rates (which would thereby remain at 40 percent of regular residential rates). This increase would take effect on Jan. 1, 2010. DIVIDED COMMITTEE VOTE.
- [C.B. 116700](#) **Authorizing City Light to issue and sell bonds:** This legislation provides the legal authorization to issue up to \$210 million of new money bonds for City Light, as it is assumed in the 2010 Proposed Budget, 2010-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and City Light's utility rates package. The bond sale is anticipated to occur during the first quarter of 2010. Bond issue proceeds, combined with cash from operations and contributions in aid of construction, will support the capital program through 2010, fund a required bond reserve and pay costs of issuance. Major projects supported by the bond issue include generator rebuilds, security improvements, existing network upgrades, and relocating electrical service to accommodate transportation projects. Committee recommends a PASS.

- [RES. 31166](#) **Requesting more utility information be included with proposed budgets:** This resolution requests that the Executive submit certain information with utility-related budgets and legislation, including the potential impacts of the legislation on rates, financial performance, and the typical monthly bill for a single-family residence. Utility-related legislation often increases expenditures beyond those anticipated during rate adoption. This legislation outlines Council expectations about rate information to be submitted with future utility-related legislation. Committee recommends ADOPT.
- [C.B. 116725](#) **Abolishing the Office of Policy and Management:** This legislation would abolish the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and transfer staffing responsibility for the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board from OPM to the Department of Neighborhoods (DON), which currently provides staff support to the Board. Committee recommends a PASS.
- [C.F. 310223](#) **City Council changes to the 2010 Proposed Budget and the 2010-2015 Proposed Capital Improvement Program.**
- [C.B. 116716](#) **Adopting the 2010 City Budget:** This legislation would adopt the City of Seattle's 2010 Budget, which includes Seattle's 2010-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and position modifications for fiscal year 2010.
- [C.B. 116723](#) **Relating to increasing property taxes:** This legislation, with a simple majority vote of the City Council, allows for the levying of a property tax increase equal to inflation but not greater than a 1 percent increase over the prior year's regular property tax collection. If inflation is lower than 1 percent, the law requires a majority plus one vote, with a finding of substantial need, to have a tax increase exceed inflation to the maximum of 1 percent. As the city is aggressively adjusting its expenditure plan to the significantly reduced revenue forecasts in 2009 and 2010, this bill proposes a Council finding of substantial need to use the 101 percent regular property tax limit factor to support the City's Capital Improvement Program and other budget goals established in Resolution 31134. The Council may not increase regular property taxes above 1 percent without a vote of the people.
- [C.B. 116722](#) **Authorizing the levy of regular property taxes:** This legislation authorizes the levying of regular property taxes by the City of Seattle for collection in 2010, representing an increase above the regular property taxes levied for collection in 2009.
- [C.B. 116733](#) **Authorizing SPU to collect a franchise fee from retail customers in Lake Forest Park:** Since 1963, Seattle Public Utilities and its predecessors have served about 400 customers in what is now the city of Lake Forest Park. These customers are primarily residential. A year ago, the city of Lake Forest Park requested SPU enter into a formal agreement to operate in the rights-of-way within its jurisdiction. On Sept. 28, 2009, the Seattle City Council approved bills authorizing the Director of SPU to sign the franchise agreement with a franchise fee of six percent and collect the franchise fee. It also revised water rates and charges for retail customers in Lake Forest Park accordingly. Because C.B. 123112 incorrectly stated rates that were not amended, SPU is proposing this legislation to correct the record and remove any potential ambiguity in the code.
- [C.B. 116734](#) **Establishing a Prostituted Children Rescue Subfund:** This legislation establishes the Prostituted Children Rescue Subfund in the General Donations and Gift Trust Fund to allow the city to accept donations on behalf of, and to expend such funds to support recovery programs for prostituted children that provide enhanced shelter, transitional housing, support and therapeutic services, and other services to victimized children, as well as training of first responders.

- [RES. 31164](#) **Affirming the city's Race and Social Justice Work:** This resolution acknowledges the significant successes of the city's Race and Social Justice Initiative and endorses continued investments in the programs and policies that have been established under the Initiative. This resolution also provides policy direction for the new Mayor to continue these programs and policies and to build upon the foundation that has been established by the Race and Social Justice Initiative.
- [C.B. 116715](#) **Master Use Permit extension for Qwest Field North Lot:** This legislation reconciles conflicts in the amendments to the Seattle Municipal Code relating to land use, zoning and the six-year Master Use Permit expiration. Committee recommends a PASS.
- [C.B. 116642](#) **Demolishing derelict housing:** This legislation would exempt property owners in Single Family zones from needing to establish a new use by permit for a property before receiving a permit to demolish a residential structure. Committee recommends PASS AS AMENDED.

**TUESDAY, Nov. 24, 9:30 a.m. – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – STATE ROUTE 520, R. Conlin**

- BRIEFING  
AND PUBLIC  
COMMENT
- Briefing on SR 520 Legislative Work Group's Preliminary Recommendations:**  
Representatives from the Legislative Workgroup and the Washington State Department of Transportation will brief the Council on the preliminary recommendations on the replacement of the 520 bridge. Following the briefing the Council will take public comment for 60 minutes.

**TUESDAY, Nov. 24, 2 p.m. – ENVIRONMENT, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE, R. Conlin**

- [C.B. 116732](#)  
PUBLIC  
HEARING,  
DISCUSSION  
AND VOTE
- Accepting an easement at 5522 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Cleveland H.S.):** This legislation authorizes the Director of Seattle Public Utilities to accept an easement in 5511 15th Avenue South for a relocated water main and to declare two easements in the above property surplus to the city of Seattle's needs. There will be a public hearing prior to the discussion.
- [C.B. 116731](#) **Requiring disclosure of energy efficiency performance:** This bill would require owners of non-residential buildings of 10,000 square feet or larger and of residential buildings of five units or more to submit reports of their building's energy performance using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Portfolio Manager Tool. The reporting requirements would be phased in over a two year period, with larger buildings subject to these requirements by Jan. 1, 2011 and remaining buildings by Jan. 1, 2012.
- [RES. 31169](#) **Establishing a Do Not Mail Registry:** The resolution urges the Washington State Legislature to take steps to reduce the amount of 'junk mail' by creating a 'Do Not Mail' registry for people to opt out of receiving unsolicited commercial mailings. The registry would be modeled after the national 'Do Not Call' registry. Each year, the city's solid waste system must handle large amounts of discarded junk mail. This action would seek to reduce unwanted junk mail and associated impacts on solid waste services in Seattle and elsewhere in Washington state.

**WEDNESDAY, Nov. 25 – ALL MEETINGS CANCELLED**

**THURSDAY, Nov. 26 – COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED**

**FRIDAY, Nov. 27 – COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED**

*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place in Seattle City Hall Council Chambers at 600 4th Avenue. The easiest access to the City Hall building is on 5th Avenue between Cherry and James Streets. Meetings and Public Forums in Council Chambers are also cablecast live on Seattle Channel 21 and webcast live at [www.seattle.gov/council/council\\_live.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/council/council_live.htm). Follow the Council on Twitter at [twitter.com/SeattleCouncil](http://twitter.com/SeattleCouncil) and on Facebook at Seattle City Council.*