Introduction
-Tim Matthes, Mayor

I felt the Town Hall Meeting was a success and it was a great opportunity for me to listen to what was the minds of our citizens; what concerns them about today, and what they want tomorrow to look like. Thank you to all of those who attended. It was valuable time spent together, and gives me a better understanding of what direction the City should be going. The following report will give a summary of the meeting for those who were unable to attend, and will answer questions that I was not able to answer the night of the meeting. The next Town Hall meeting will be October 11, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. If you wish to reach me, please call or email me: 360-440-6483 or tmatthes@cityofportorchard.us

Annexations & Development

There were a few comments regarding the City annexing and the desire for the City to stop annexing properties. They felt the City has taken on more than it could handle, and that the City’s growth had to be balanced. I explained at the meeting that annexations are driven by the property owners who request to come into the City, and that I do not foresee a lot of annexations in our near future.

One resident asked that downtown not be developed into three and four story buildings, which would take away the view of many long time residents.

Another concern was regarding building a park in McCormick Woods. Money initially held by Kitsap County and transferred to the City following the annexation will be used for engineering, design, permitting, and construction of playground and restroom facility for the McCormick Village Park.

Communication

Overall, citizens want to be informed of what is going on with the City via email alerts and/or weekly blogs. It was suggested to hold Council meetings at different locations in the City to encourage more citizen participation. Other requests were to have committee meetings at City Hall, not at restaurants, and have the Council face the public during Work Study Sessions for a more welcoming and inclusive environment. The public would like more opportunities to comment on business items, allowing their voices to be heard. They enjoyed the informal format of the Town Hall meeting, and thanked the Councilmembers who attended.

Downtown Port Orchard

Those who spoke want to see Port Orchard keep its quaint, small town look and feel. Some great ideas included putting art in the windows of the vacant buildings, and letting start-ups use the vacant space for the cost of utilities. It was suggested that a parking garage could be placed on Port Orchard Blvd and Bay Street. It was also mentioned if the City wants to draw young families downtown, something, besides art, needs to be down there to draw them downtown to spend their time and money. It was asked how to get involved with helping downtown look nicer for
the visitors that come off the ferries. The Port Orchard Bay Street Association is an association of businesses and individual members organized to encourage a strong local economy and quality of life. They support community events, sponsor business-related activities and improve local aesthetics. They meet the third Thursday of each month at Moon Dogs Too at 8:00 am. pobsafacebook@yahoo.com

**Partnerships**

It was suggested that a partnership needs to be created between the South Kitsap Helpline and the City to help it become more successful. Another suggestion was opening up the dialogue on how to inspire people to volunteer in our community.

**Roads**

It was asked when the Tremont roundabout will be worked on. There is no set date for the project to break ground. The City is currently in the Right-of-Way Certification process and ready to submit them to the Department of Transportation for approval. The next huge hurdle will be to find funding for the project. The City is actively seeking partners to fund this very important project.

Another great suggestion was to find a way to solicit public input on road improvement priorities that become part of the Transportation Improvement Plan.

**Safety**

People want to feel safe in their community. There is concern over thefts. One resident mentioned during Christmastime last year, McCormick Woods was hit hard by people stealing packages that are delivered to their homes while they were at work. They would like the police budget increased for 2013 to increase the number of officers patrolling the City.

Another concern raised was the vacant properties acquired for the Tremont roundabout project. They are an attractive nuisance, providing spaces for trespassers and squatters. An off-duty police officer who attended the meeting reminded the audience that if they see suspicious activity happening in their neighborhood, to call 9-1-1.

**Sewers**

A request was made for an explanation on why McCormick Woods needs the grinder pump change out. An FAQ on this project can be found at: www.cityofportorchard.us/docs/city_clerk/gp-faq.pdf

**Taxes**

One citizen wanted the percentage of franchise taxes the City receives. Below is a graph for each utility.

A business owner asked that the City look at the pull-tab tax, and asked that it be changed to a set amount, like the State, to make it a known amount.

**Tourism**

There were a lot of great ideas suggested about increasing tourism.

- Foot Ferry hours of service need to increase. This would bring people from Bremerton, who do not have cars, to visit local shops and have dinner in downtown Port Orchard.
- A meeting between all of the non-profit organizations who host annual events needs to be held to discuss how they can work together to increase tourism.
- Hotel/Motel Tax - with the limited funds Port Orchard receives, a statistical analysis needs to be done to give the organizations who put the most heads into beds a higher percentage of the money. If they are successful in their event, let their success continue to grow with higher funding. The lodging tax distribution should be based on a return on investment.

**On a final note, thank you to all who attended!**