



Pierce County Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2006



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Formed in 1852, Pierce County is the second-largest county by population (773,500) in Washington. It is governed by a constitution known as the Pierce County Charter, which was enacted in 1981 and divides power between the government's three branches.

The Pierce County Council adopts the annual budget, which allocates spending mainly for the county's unincorporated population of 355,089. The seven-member body also makes and amends the laws known collectively as the Pierce County Code and oversees economic development, parks, land-use planning, public safety, road and transportation projects, utilities, emergency preparedness, and other areas of county government.

In 2006, the Pierce County Council conducted:

- 50 council meetings
- 22 Community Development Committee meetings
- 20 Economic & Infrastructure Development Committee meetings
- 12 Emergency Preparedness Committee meetings
- 19 Public Safety & Human Services Committee meetings
- 45 Rules & Operations Committee meetings

...and introduced 144 ordinances and 157 resolutions



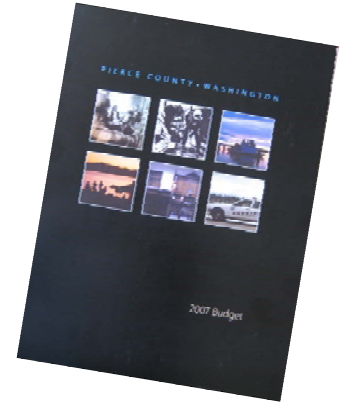
The official seal of Pierce County



Pierce County Council

2007 Budget

- Passed a 2007 General Fund budget that was \$4.1 million lower than the County Executive's budget proposal (*2006-114s and R2006-134s*)
- Added government accountability measures pertaining to adding full-time-equivalent employees and cost overruns on capital projects
- Established the Farming Assistance, Revitalization and Marketing (FARM) program, which creates a new "Farmbudsman" position
- Increased funding for senior centers by 66 percent
- Oversaw Chambers Creek Properties use and planning



Economic & Infrastructure Development

Economy

- Reviewed and accepted the recommendations for economically viable agriculture
- Received briefings on the Berk III report (Pierce County Economic Action Agenda)

Solid Waste

- Modified the membership and functions of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (*2006-19s*)
- Initiated an update to the Solid Waste Plan (*R2006-133*)

Surface Water Management

- Provided oversight of Surface Water Management property acquisition efforts
- Authorized acquisitions of Old Soldiers Setback Levee property (*2006-10*)
- Authorized acquisition of Filucy Bay Horse Farm Property (*R2006-127*)
- Authorized grant application for Puyallup River Habitat Conservation Grant (*R2006-80*)
- Approved Hylebos-Dash Point Basin Plan
- Approved Key Peninsula-Islands Basin Plan

Transportation

- Adopted traffic impact fees (*2006-60s*)
- Modified maximum speed limits for county roads (*2006-32*)
- Adopted the 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program and 14-Year Ferry Program (*2006-108*)
- Reviewed traffic-calming pilot program
- Modified the county street-lighting policy (*R2006-138*)
- Surplused ferry M/V Steilacoom (*2006-36*)
- Established/modified road closure fees (*2006-31*)
- Reviewed 14 right-of-way vacation requests
- Initiated review of right-of-way acquisition procedures and options

Other

- Reviewed five utility franchise requests
- Reviewed Millennium Digital Media transfer request (ultimately defeated)
- Reviewed 9th Street Pit surplus proposal (*2006-25s*)
- Reviewed Lakewood Water District Comprehensive Plan (*R2006-105*)

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Community Development

Capital Facilities Plan, Impact Fees

- Amended school impact fees consistent with the consumer price index (2006-109)
- Amended park impact fees consistent with consumer price index (2006-120)
- Adopted the county's six-year Capital Facilities Plan for 2007-2012 (2006-110s)

Comprehensive Planning/Growth Management

- Changed the procedures for amending the Comprehensive Plan to a two-year cycle and added application submittal requirements (2005-121)
- Reviewed and approved 2006 Comprehensive Plan Amendments from a special plan-amendment cycle, addressing Agriculture Resource Land errors and the Crystal Mountain Resort (2005-120, 2006-9s, 2006-94s and 2006-97)
- Adopted the Graham Community Plan (with special issues related to the landfill, an airport, sensitive areas, and rural farms) and its implementing regulations (2006-52s and 2006-53s)
- Amended the interlocal agreement for the Pierce County Regional Council (R2006-8)

Development Regulations

- Terminated the nonconforming rights held by nonconforming motortracks used as accessory uses of residential property; the motortrack owners were given 90 days to make the use conforming by complying with new standards for residential motortracks or to stop the use (2006-11 and 2006-43)
- Amended subdivision code to address testamentary divisions (2006-46)
- Adopted the Garfield Street Improvement Plan as part of the Parkland-Spanaway-Midland Community Plan design standards (2006-41s)
- Adopted standards addressing the design of Planned Development Districts (2006-104s)
- Attempted to adopt annual amendments to development regulations, responding to resolutions and implementing fixes identified by staff and the public – but the ordinance (2006-91s3) was vetoed by County Executive
- Passed resolutions to initiate amendments to:
 - Amend the sign code (South Hill and Mid-County electronic signs and billboard relocation for right-of-way acquisition) (R2006-61)
 - Allow religious assembly in Reserve 5 zoning designation in Gig Harbor (R2006-66)
 - Ensure public roads, not private roads, serve public facilities (R2006-78)
 - Address the need for standards for outdoor storage and stockpiles (R2006-123)

Environment

- Critical areas update (2006-103s)
- Resolution requesting recommendations on management of flood hazard areas (R2006-131)
- Resolution initiating amendments to shoreline regulations for geoducks and docks (R2006-96 and R2006-97)

Parks

- \$21 million purchase of 1,300 acres of open space for Conservation Futures program (2005-116s)
- Initiated condemnation for part of the Rails-to-Trails project and requested information regarding the plans for improvements at Sprinker Recreation Center (2006-98 and R2006-41)

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Public Safety & Human Services

Courts/Prosecutor/Department of Assigned Counsel

- Reviewed a Superior Court proposal on use of technology and authorized a new court commissioner (*R2006-31s, R2006s*) (court commissioner added by 2006 budget)
- Monitored progress on returned “Andress” cases and their continuing impact on the Prosecutor’s Office and Department of Assigned Council
- Approved moving District Court Probation under District Court Administration (*2006-7*)

Mental Health

- Created a Regional Support Network (RSN) Governing Board to provide policy and financial guidance to the Pierce County RSN – Ch. 2.40 (PCC)
- Authorized separation of RSN functions from the Human Services Department (*2006-30*)
- Continued to review the RSN, Puget Sound Behavioral Health licensing and costs, the new Evaluation and Treatment facility, and the new Secure Detox program

Sheriff/Corrections

- Monitored jail issues and facility update, staff overtime, hiring, impacts of illegal immigrants, compliance releases, and need for new beds
- Received regular updates on Sheriff’s Department benchmarks, crime trends, patrol response times, monitored alarm-system impacts and false alarm trends, and revenue
- Added five Neighborhood Patrol Deputies in 2006 budget

Other

- Adopted new policies on workplace domestic violence, Chapter 3.13 Pierce County Code (*2006-12*)
- Reviewed recommendations of the Firearms Advisory Commission
- Continued to meet and coordinate with Tacoma’s Public Safety and Human Services Committee on issues of joint interest related to the Health Department and homelessness, prostitution and vice
- Monitored animal control, licensing, and costs
- Considered aviary licensing and established Aviculture Advisory Commission (*2006-82*)
- Adopted drug paraphernalia ordinance, Chapter 9.56 Pierce County Code (*2006-103*)
- Received prevention funding recommendations from Allocation Advisory Committee

Emergency Preparedness

- Created new Select Committee that held 12 hearings
- Reviewed and recommended approval of Council’s Continuity of Operations Plan
- Began coordinating emergency planning efforts with courts and other county departments, school districts, fire districts, private health-care providers, and other jurisdictions
- Gathered data and began planning for pandemic flu outbreak
- Created a succession of authority ordinance, which creates a county government line of succession in the event of a disaster (*2006-29s*)
- Coordinated and approved Superior Court emergency siting plan

Performance Audits

- Mental health salary survey report – *May 2006*
- Corrections overtime – *May 2006*
- Pierce County Regional Support Network – *July 2006*
- Development permitting process follow-up study – *October 2006*
- Court reporter issues – *November 2006*
- District Court outstanding warrants – *December 2006*