

Anacortes City Council Minutes - May 10, 2021

Call to Order

Mayor Laurie Gere called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of May 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Matt Miller all participated in the meeting in absentia via video conference.

Announcements and Committee Reports

COVID-19 Update: Mayor Gere shared current case statistics and vaccination progress for Anacortes, Skagit County, Washington State, and the nation. The mayor noted that Skagit County remains in Phase 3 of the state's Roadmap to Recovery plan.

Port/City Liaison Committee: Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the committee meeting held the previous week. The topics discussed included coordinating re-opening steps between the two entities, the future of events at the Port Transit Shed, a potential interlocal agreement for 2nd Street, the Maritime Strategic Plan, and the Depot Plaza stage grant application.

Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee: Mr. Walters reported from the committee meeting held the previous week. The topics discussed included the survey of service providers and planning for the committee's May 12 meeting with service providers.

Mr. Walters reminded councilmembers to send their budget priorities to the Finance Director by the following morning.

Mayor Gere mentioned public concern about RV parking and camping along R Avenue and the Tommy Thompson Trail. She said the city and community groups were working to address the issue and connect those in need with resources.

Public Comments

The mayor read into the record a letter received from Elizabeth Walker regarding take out packaging that cannot be composted or recycled. Ms. Walker's letter was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Carter, to approve the following Consent Agenda items. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- a. Minutes of May 3, 2021
- b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$967,305.50
The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
EFT numbers: 100033 through 100075, total \$606,553.63
Check numbers: 100076 through 100084, total \$345,458.85
Wire transfer numbers: 283095 through 28420, total \$11,197.11
- c. Contract Award: Ambulance Billing Services #21-103-FIN-001
- d. Resolution 3034: Emergency Declaration for 41st Street Repairs
- e. Street Fair Application: Anacortes Farmers Market

OTHER BUSINESS

Ordinance 3087: Vacating right-of-way of a portion of 11th Street adjacent to blocks 242 and 243, "Map of the City of Anacortes"

City Attorney Darcy Swetnam presented Ordinance 3087, which had been revised per Council's direction following a public hearing concluded at the May 3, 2021 regular City Council meeting. Ms. Swetnam noted a needed correction to the second recital from "10th Street" to "11th Street". Ms. Swetnam also displayed a map demonstrating the slight adjustment of the vacation boundaries to align with current property boundaries; she said the legal descriptions in the revised ordinance reflected that adjustment.

MATT MILLER moved, seconded by ANTHONY YOUNG, to adopt Ordinance 3087 vacating right-of-way of a portion of 11th Street adjacent to blocks 242 and 243, "Map of the City of Anacortes", with the correction of "10th Street" to "11th Street" in the second recital. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, MATT MILLER. Nays - None. Result: Passed

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CDBG 2021 Annual Action Plan

PCED Program Coordinator Joann Stewart presented the 2021 CDBG Annual Action Plan, referring to the packet materials for this agenda item. She noted that the plan had previously been presented to Council at its regular meeting on April 26, 2021.

Mayor Gere invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item. No one present wished to address the Council. Mayor Gere then closed the public hearing.

Ms. Cleland-McGrath announced that she would abstain from voting on the plan because she serves on the Board of the Anacortes Family Center, one of the funding recipients under the plan.

ANTHONY YOUNG moved, seconded by BRUCE MCDOUGALL, to accept the proposed projects and direct staff to submit the draft Action Plan to HUD no later than May 15, 2021. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, MATT MILLER. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Continued Public Hearing: Critical Area Regulations Draft 3

Senior Planner Tess Cooper resumed the line by line review of the comment matrix that Council had begun at its May 3, 2021 regular meeting. Ms. Cooper responded to councilmember questions and noted items for follow up revision or investigation.

Mayor Gere invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item.

Kyle Loring addressed the effectiveness of mitigation, Section 19.70.340.A.1, Section 19.70.380, wetland protections, buffer sizes and buffer averaging, and riparian management zones.

Asa Deane, Executive Director of Friends of the Forest, addressed the importance of wildlife movement corridors, referring to his comments that had been submitted prior to the meeting and added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Catherine Houck addressed buffer potential rather than strictly buffer quality at the time of assessment. Ms. Houck supported the comments of Evergreen Islands generally but argued against excluding biking from passive

outdoor recreation. She also quoted from the San Juan County critical areas ordinance which includes upland buffers around shoreline areas and asked why the Anacortes CAO does not. Ms. Cooper responded to that question.

Kathleen Lorence-Flanagan spoke in support of removing bicycling from passive recreation and asked whether City Council or the hearing examiner decides. She also asked that "biking" be struck because that could be interpreted as motorcycling rather than bicycling. Ms. Lorence-Flanagan also addressed the importance of buffers and tree relocation.

Brian Wetcher spoke in support of staff's request for software to monitor mitigation and said that mitigation consistently leads to net loss of habitat. Mr. Wetcher spoke against allowing mitigation except as a last resort, for a clear and overriding public benefit, and with a successful mitigation plan executed prior to implementation.

Tom Glade addressed the mission of Evergreen Islands and said Mr. Loring's comments had been submitted in the spirit of those goals. Mr. Glade thanked staff and council for carefully considering those suggested changes.

Marlene Finley, speaking on behalf of Evergreen Islands, congratulated staff for the great mapping tools available on line. Ms. Finley urged continuing to improve mapping both baseline and trends for critical areas, wetlands, and habitats. Ms. Finley also addressed passive recreation language, saying that was an artificial construct that is unnecessary. She suggested following San Juan County's language instead. Ms. Finley also urged careful consideration of buffer setbacks in light of wildland fire risk.

Mayor Gere said that the discussion of the CAO would continue two weeks hence, at the May 24, 2021 regular City Council meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 8:40 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of May 10, 2021 was adjourned.