

Anacortes City Council Minutes - February 28, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of February 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Ryan Walters, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Amanda Hubik were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller reported that the Governor had announced that the Washington State mask mandate would end on March 12, 2022 and that the city would not impose any requirements more strict than the state guidelines.

The Mayor announced that starting March 1, citizens in Skagit County could text to 911 if calling 911 by phone was not possible.

Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee: Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Committee meeting held February 24. She described the presentation by Taylor Webb from Sustainable Connections in Bellingham.

Museum Committee: Mr. McDougall reported from the Committee meeting held the previous week. The topics discussed included a new video presenting museum services, expanded hours for museum facilities, an online map for the Bill Mitchell murals, the addition of Adam Farnsworth to the staff, and ongoing hiring.

Fiber Committee: Mr. Walters reported from the Committee meeting held the previous week. The topics discussed included financing options for the completion of the project, contracting procedures, and attempts to expedite the EDA grant funded service area.

Planning Committee: Ms. Moulton reported from the Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included a sidewalk comprehensive plan, the Anacortes Cinema lease, an Anacortes events center, upcoming Council discussions of self-storage in the Commercial Zone and floodplain management, the Housing Action Plan, and the future of the Commercial Avenue parklets.

Public Comment

Mayor Miller advised that some citizens had objected to the display of the Russian flag at the Sister Cities displays at the entrances to the city. The mayor explained his commitment to the Sister Cities organization and its mission.

John Lovric, president of Anacortes Sister Cities, read from the [Sister Cities International statement](#) regarding the importance of the principles of citizen diplomacy in the face of international tensions. Mr. Lovric spoke against removing the Russian flag from the Sister Cities displays.

Duane Clark, past president of Anacortes Sister Cities, expressed support for Ukrainians around the world. He shared popular press reports about opposition by Russian citizens to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Mr. Clark spoke against removing the Russian flag from the Sister Cities displays.

Mayor Miller invited the public to comment on any item not on the agenda.

Boshie Morris, 1618 7th Street, spoke about legal notices in the Anacortes American. She said the legal notice

for the February 22, 2022 public hearing had not included a link to the materials on which public comment was being sought. Ms. Morris asked that the public hearing scheduled for March 7, 2022 be renoticed for a future date with a link to the relevant materials. Ms. Morris also spoke in opposition to parking revisions proposed by draft Ordinance 4012. She urged a comprehensive look at parking in this area before making any changes. Ms. Morris's comments were submitted in writing and were added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes of February 22, 2022
- b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$511,627.51
 - The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
 - EFT numbers: 102563 through 102595, total \$203,824.90
 - Check numbers: 102596 through 102606, total \$16,928.05
 - Wire transfer numbers: 299359 through 299583, total \$127,454.01
- c. Street Fair Application: Shipwreck Fest July 16, 2022

OTHER BUSINESS

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Annual Appointments 2022

Planning Director Don Measamer requested City Council confirmation of Lodging Tax Advisory Committee appointments for 2022. Mr. Measamer reviewed the proposed reappointment and appointments, referring to the packet materials for this agenda item.

Mr. Young and Ms. Moulton spoke in favor of more active solicitation of volunteers for city boards and commissions, including the LTAC.

Mr. Walters asked which LTAC committee members represented hoteliers and which represented potential grant recipients. He objected to a Chamber of Commerce member serving on the committee, given the large share of the Lodging Tax that is distributed to the Chamber. He urged postponing action pending further information, possibly codifying the membership of the committee, and possibly re-advertising the positions.

Mr. Measamer clarified that the proposed appointments complied with the Tourism Promotion Strategic Plan and the RCW.

Mr. Walters volunteered to draft an ordinance and bring it back to full Council for discussion in a couple of weeks.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 7:05 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of February 28, 2022 was adjourned.