

Anacortes City Council Minutes - March 7, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of March 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Ryan Walters, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Amanda Hubik were present. Councilmember Jeremy Carter participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller reminded that the statewide mask mandate was scheduled to lift at midnight on March 11, 2022 and that the change would be observed by all City of Anacortes facilities.

The mayor reminded that daylight savings time would begin on March 13.

Port/City Liaison Committee: Ms. Hubik reported from the Committee meeting held the previous week. The topics discussed included the wastewater treatment plant outfall project, the 2nd Street agreement, and the Maritime Strategic Plan.

Public Safety Committee: Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Committee meeting held the previous week. The Fire Department topics discussed included filling open staff positions, new volunteers, a SAFER grant application, promotions to captain, retrofitting an older fire truck for wildland firefighting, and Station 3 studies. The Police Department topics discussed included legislation currently being considered in Olympia and hiring progress.

Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee: Mr. Walters reported from the Committee meeting held the previous week. The topics discussed included a session with Tina Tate from Friendship House and Habitat for Humanity.

Public Works Committee: Ms. Moulton reported from the Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included the outfall project which would be on the agenda later in the evening, stormwater which would be on the agenda later in the evening, and maintaining the excellent water quality at the water treatment plant.

Public Comment

Mayor Miller invited the public to comment on any item not on the agenda. No one present wished to address the Council on any topic not already on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes of February 28, 2022
- b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$294,643.86
The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
EFT numbers: 102607 through 102653, total \$169,684.99

Check numbers: 102654 through 102667, total \$67,240.61

Wire transfer numbers: 299617 through 299913, total \$8,586.17

- c. Amendment #2 to Interlocal C20180481 with Skagit County: Emergency Medical Services System Delivery Agreement
- d. Resolution 3075: Waiving the State Competitive Bidding Requirements for the Purchase of Two Solid Waste Curotto Cans

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Continued Public Hearing: Ordinance No. 4012 Amending Chapter 10.12 regarding Stopping, Standing, and Parking

Public Works Director Fred Buckenmeyer introduced Ordinance 4012 for public hearing; this item had been continued from the February 22, 2022 regular City Council meeting. The ordinance would amend Chapter 10.12 regarding stopping, standing, and parking. Mr. Buckenmeyer reviewed the proposed changes, referring to the packet materials for the meeting.

Mr. Walters requested that parking signs everywhere in town reference the relevant AMC section. Mr. Buckenmeyer agreed.

Mayor Miller invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item. He requested speakers to limit their comments to three minutes.

Boshie Morris, 1618 7th Street, corrected her comments regarding G Avenue parking from the last City Council meeting. Ms. Morris suggested that the 6th Street map in the packet did not accurately reflect available parking. She spoke about parking usage patterns of residents in the area. She urged Council to consider data when deciding on the proposed ordinance.

Jon Stables, 608 J Avenue, explained the need for ADA accessible parking to his home and his ADU. He said the proposed ordinance would make it safer for wheelchairs which would not have to cross the street mid-block.

Vicki Stables, 608 J Avenue, said she does have off street parking, but was still very much in favor of the proposed changes. She said residents's guests often have no on-street parking available. Ms. Stables also supported the proposed change to the Kiwanis Park parking lot time limit.

Warren Tessler, 1613 6th Street, observed that ferry traffic and parking on 6th Street has been an issue for decades, particularly in the summer. He said guest parking is a problem. Mr. Tessler supported the proposed changes, except perhaps during the annual ferry haul out.

Barbara Larson relinquished her time to other speakers.

Luke Russell, 1611 6th Street, agreed with the comments already expressed. Mr. Russell referenced his earlier comments and emailed petition to councilmembers on this topic. He supported the proposed changes.

No one else wishing to comment on this item, Mayor Miller closed the public hearing.

CAROLYN MOULTON moved, seconded by RYAN WALTERS, to adopt Ordinance No. 4012 amending Chapter 10.12 Stopping, Standing, and Parking. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

OTHER BUSINESS

2022 Stormwater Management Program Plan

Mr. Buckenmeyer introduced Stormwater Program Manager Diane Hennebert to present the 2022 Stormwater Management Plan. Ms. Hennebert's slide presentation and the draft Plan had been included in the packet materials for the meeting.

Mayor Miller invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item. No one present wished to address the Council.

Contract Award: Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Relocation - Marine Phase #20-032-SEW-008

Mr. Buckenmeyer requested City Council consent to award the referenced contract. He reported that since the packet was published the prior week, FEMA had approved the contractor selection process. Mr. Buckenmeyer introduced Rob Webb from consultant Dalton, Olmsted & Fuglevand to share a slide presentation explaining the contractor selection process. Mr. Webb's slides were added to the packet materials for the meeting.

CAROLYN MOULTON moved, seconded by ANTHONY YOUNG, to to authorize the mayor to sign contract #20-032-SEW-0081 with Pacific Pile & Marine, LP in the amount of \$7,567,366.40 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Relocation - Marine Phase. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Display of the Russian Flag

Mayor Miller reiterated his commitment to the Sister Cities and deplored the naked aggression of the Russian government against Ukraine. The mayor shared representative emails from constituents, some urging removing the Russian flag from the city's entrance displays and others urging retaining the flag in support of the Russian people in opposition to their government.

Mr. Walters invited his colleagues to discuss the range of public opinion on this topic and determine if any action would be appropriate. He referenced Resolution 1226 which established the Sister City relationship with Lomonosov, Russia in 1992. Ms. Moulton noted that the preponderance of public comments received asked that the Russian flag be removed from City displays. She concurred with that sentiment. Councilmembers discussed the symbolism of displaying or removing the flag from displays in the city, and of continuing or discontinuing the Sister City relationship with Lomonosov.

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

Jack Curtis, 4402 Fir Crest Court, supported removing the Russian flag from the Sister City displays, referencing his email to the City Council which had been added to the packet materials for the meeting. He supported maintaining the Sister City relationship with Lomonosov.

Tom Kuker, 3809 W 11th Street, agreed with Jack Curtis's analysis of the flag display. Mr. Kuker asked that the Russian flag be removed from the city entrances. He also asked that Sister City status be severed or suspended with Lomonosov until cessation of hostilities by Russia.

Doug Thurber, Anacortes, referenced his years working on ships with Ukrainians. Mr. Thurber said a flag is a symbol of a nation, not of the people who live there, and that Russia is in disgrace. He asked Council to remove the Russian flag from display because the Russian nation should be shamed for its actions.

John Lovric, 4811 Cypress Drive, supported the Ukrainian people and the Russian people who are protesting

their government's action. Mr. Lovric said that removing the Russian flag in Anacortes or severing the Sister Cities relationship would not change the course of the Russian armed forces. Mr. Lovric read a [message from the Sister Cities International organization](#) regarding how to express collective disapproval of Russia's action but discouraging severing of Sister City relationships.

Duane Clark shared an email chain submitted through the Anacortes Sister Cities objecting to displaying the Russian flag at the Sister Cities gateway displays. Mr. Clark argued in response that the Russian flag represents the Russian citizens, who are overwhelmingly opposed to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

No other members of the audience wished to address the Council on this topic.

After continued discussion, Mayor Miller observed the unanimous support on Council to cease display of the Russian flag. He suggested that Mr. Walters to draft a resolution to that effect and bring it back to Council on the Consent Agenda the following week.

CAROLYN MOULTON moved, seconded by BRUCE MCDOUGALL, to remove the Russian flag from all city displays without delay. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 8:15 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of March 7, 2022 was adjourned.