

## **Anacortes City Council Minutes - April 15, 2022**

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the advertised special meeting of the Anacortes City Council at 8:08 a.m.

Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Ryan Walters, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Amanda Hubik were present. The retreat was facilitated by Kevin Meenaghan of Wardroom Success Strategies. Planning Director Don Measamer, Administrative Services Director Emily Schuh, Finance Director Steve Hogle, Fire Chief Bill Harris, Police Chief Dave Floyd, Children's Librarian Leslie Wilson, Parks Director Jonn Lunsford, Public Works Director Fred Buckenmeyer, City Attorney Darcy Swetnam, and Museum Director Bret Lunsford also participated. Members of the public connected to the meeting via Zoom at various points during the day. ["Charles" "Cyndi Walters" "Charles"]

Mr. Meenaghan reviewed the agenda for the day which included:

- Team development
- Governance and OPMA discussion
- Pre-retreat interview feedback
- Skill-building
- Budget priorities discussion

### **Team Development**

Attendees participated in small group icebreaking and team building exercises introduced by Mr. Meenaghan .

### **Governance and OPMA discussion**

Mr. Meenaghan invited councilmembers to share their reasons for undertaking elected public service.

Mr. Meenaghan guided a discussion of legislative and administrative/executive roles, communication between branches of government, and the mechanics of agenda setting. Several councilmembers requested that regular look ahead agendas be made available to councilmembers and the public. City Attorney Darcy Swetnam briefly reviewed the Open Public Meetings Act and recent legislative updates regarding OPMA.

### **Pre-retreat interview feedback**

Mr. Meenaghan shared with the group the trends and observations that appeared in his one-on-one pre-retreat interviews with each of the elected and staff participants.

### **Budget Update**

Finance Director Steve Hogle shared a slide deck summarizing 2021 budget performance, revenue trends and the 2023 budget development.

The attendees broke for lunch from 12:10 to 12:55.

### **Skill-building**

Mr. Meenaghan led the group through an active listening exercise.

### **Budget priorities discussion**

Mr. Meenaghan asked each councilmember to share their top three focus areas. He then asked each department head and then each councilmember to share their top three budget priorities for 2023.

Amanda: housing, the environment and its impact on human health and wellness, and jobs  
Carolyn: infrastructure including parks and trails, housing and social services, and local business  
Anthony: economic development, local retail opportunities, and community diversity, and a convention center  
Bruce: municipal fiber, carbon neutrality, affordable housing, and economic diversity  
Christine: pavement, housing, early childhood care, fiber, and setting realistic community budget expectations, Guemes Channel Trail, and the city website  
Ryan: housing and human services, building back better from COVID, capital project planning, and governance through the municipal code  
Jeremy: public safety, transportation infrastructure, economic development

Department Head budgetary priorities:

Don: fill open staff positions, create an economic development strategic plan, the next comprehensive plan update, add one FTE for stormwater plans review and inspection  
Emily: adequate resources for risk management, transitioning back to live court proceedings including community court  
Bill: additional FTEs at Station 1, a standards of coverage study, exploring partnerships with Fire District 13, and construction of Fire Station 3  
Dave: building officer staffing to at least the statewide level of 1.7 per 1000 residents, animal impound planning, and staffing support for expanding court sessions including city prosecution services  
Bret: re-establishing full staffing and full programming following COVID  
Darcy: continuing support for all departments for contracting, records management including Laserfiche, and legal representation, staff development, and prosecution services  
Fred: stormwater, wastewater, specifically the incinerator, and water rights  
Jonn: maintain staffing levels, and accommodating donor generosity for new facilities  
Leslie: maintaining the supplies/book budget, maintaining the relationships with the foundations that fund programs, and maintaining the training budget  
Steve: maintain services without increasing costs, and implementing OpenGov efficiently

Councilmember budgetary priorities:

Ryan: fund pavement management at or beyond established level, fiber funding per plan  
Bruce: ditto, and police and fire FTEs  
Christine: pavement, fiber, staffing needs in other departments  
Jeremy: community center, police and fire staffing and equipment, Guemes Island Trail  
Carolyn: meet current commitments for pavement and fiber, keep parks and library and museum strong  
Amanda: staffing levels, community center, fiber  
Anthony: economic development

Ryan: what about looking at new revenue? Like a library district, and stormwater review fees...

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at approximately 2:55 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of April 15, 2022 was adjourned.