

Anacortes City Council Minutes - June 13, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of June 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, and Amanda Hubik were present.

Councilmembers Ryan Walters and Bruce McDougall were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller shared current Covid hospitalization statistics for Anacortes and Skagit County. He then read a letter from Washington State Department of Ecology commending the Anacortes Wastewater Treatment Plant for its operations and awarding it the 2021 Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award.

CAROLYN MOULTON moved, seconded by ANTHONY YOUNG, to excuse Councilmembers Walters and McDougall for being absent from this evening's meeting.

Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, Amanda Hubik. Nays - None. Result: Passed.

Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported that the Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee did not meet.

Planning Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported on the Planning Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included a cell tower in Skyline and a cellular monopole with a wireless service permit being built near a boat storage building that is subject to compliance verification with the State Environmental Policy Act and Planning Director review. She reminded the public that the comment period expires June 15, 2022. She also mentioned Mr. Walters' desire for a report from the Planning Director about the use of departures related to development regulations. The Committee also discussed the Shoreline Master Plan, specifically overwater piers and related case studies.

Public Safety Committee

Mr. Carter reported from the Public Safety Committee meeting held the previous week. The topics discussed included the newly promoted police officers being trained in their new positions and one new officer graduating from the academy this week. Mr. Carter continued his update with topics related to the Fire Department, including the recently purchased rescue boat, which is up and on line with crew training in progress with the goal of having it operational for Independence Day festivities, and ongoing negotiations with the Port of Anacortes for its moorage. He provided further updates on the completion of the Critical Areas survey for Fire Station 3 and associated efforts for possible cooperative expansion with Skagit County Fire District 13. Mr. Carter concluded his update by citing upcoming Fire Department participation in an integrated emergency course offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency where the City will be evaluated for its disaster preparedness. Mayor Miller reported that the final report to City Council for Fire Station 3 will come back in August and that, depending on the results, could yield adequate land for a training facility and an operational fire station.

Port / City Liaison Committee

Ms. Hubik reported from the Committee meeting held the previous week. The topics discussed included the

maritime strategic plan looking at goals for the next two years, including the Guemes Channel Trail, MJB property development, and the City partnering with the Port of Anacortes and Northwest Marine Trade Association on legislation related to copper bottom paint. She then mentioned a discussion of expanding the development part of the Comprehensive Plan, taking the effects of COVID-19 and other related factors into account. She concluded by mentioning that Jessica Kaiser from the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and John Sternlicht, Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County, joined the discussion and that more than 90% of job growth is from existing businesses.

Public Comment

Anastasia Brencick of Anacortes thanked the City Council and the Safety Committee for alerting citizens about death threats related to the upcoming Pride Parade on Saturday. She mentioned RCW 9A.84 and that she understands there are groups or other people that may come from outside of Anacortes to disrupt the parade. She expressed hope that the community will decide to continue with the parade in spite of the threats and stand up to those threats.

Mayor Miller responded that, as the city's chief law enforcement officer, he takes threats very seriously and that everyone has the right to peaceably assemble but will be subject to arrest if property is damaged or people are injured.

Rochelle Kaloah, expressed thanks to the City Council for their bravery and standing up to hate and passing the resolution of Pride Month for June 2022. She also mentioned that it is important to continue to fight and that the LGBTQ+ community has been targeted for doing so. She specifically asked Mayor Miller to stand up to hate from intolerant parties and violent extremists.

Keiko McCracken of Anacortes thanked City Council for their service and dedication to the public good. As the gender-inclusive schools coordinator for the Anacortes School District, she cited the vulnerability of LGBTQ+ community students, especially students of color. She expressed appreciation for the Council's efforts to change the narrative and Mayor Miller's statement regarding preservation of public safety. She hoped that City leaders would attend the parade and show their support for children and all other members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Shelly Brencick-Hageman of Anacortes thanked City Council for their leadership and making this month's events happen. She commented that she is dismayed that she hears the same arguments she heard decades ago but appreciates that progress has been achieved. She continued to mention that her wife received a credible death threat from a known actor in the community, and asked others to refrain from tolerating or enabling rhetoric that gives safe space for those who hate.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes of May 23, 2022
- b. Minutes of June 6, 2022
- c. Approval of claims in the amount of 791,496.42

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 103436 through 103458, total \$609,995.61

Check numbers: 103481 through 103482, total \$159,424.49

Wire transfer numbers: 305059 through 304985, total \$22,076.32

- d. Contract Award: 2022 Cape Seal Preparation #22-151-TRN-001
- e. Contract Award: 2022 Western Avenue Waterline Project #22-163-WTR-001
- f. Contract Award: AFD Station 3 Lease 2022-2024 #22-165-AFD-001

Other Business

Skate Park Funding Request

Parks and Recreation Director, Jonn Lunsford, detailed a proposal regarding the Skate Park improvement project. He stated his department's goal is to raise \$850,000-\$900,000 for the skate park. Funding already received are a private donation of \$500,000 from an anonymous donor, \$100,000 from the Kiwanis Club of Anacortes and \$50,000 from other community donors. He requested Council consider allocation of \$100,000 from Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funds in order to finish the project and demonstrate to the public that City is fully invested in the project and bringing the City within \$100,000 of the goal. He asked Council to instruct staff to allocate \$100,000 REET funds.

Mayor Miller stated the official action would be to approve the budget amendment. Ms. Moulton asked if the requested funds would contribute to related environmental protection. Mr. Lunsford affirmed that it would go to the general project. Ms. Moulton responded that it would be a good idea to allocate funding to a project that enables our children and wider community to enjoy recreation activities at the new skate park. Mayor Miller mentioned staff efforts to coordinate this project with a community development center and wider area re-development. Ms. Cleland-McGrath agreed that considering significant public donations, allocating REET funds makes sense. She asked Mr. Lunsford about the pump track. Mr. Lunsford responded that the City would love to add it perhaps to a second phase of the project subject to an estimate from the contractor. Mr. Young asked Mr. Lunsford to describe a pump track. Mr. Lunsford gave a brief description of the pump track features.

Ordinance 4021: Amending Title 6 AMC regarding Animals

City Attorney, Darcy Swetnam, reviewed the requested changes to Title 6 of the Anacortes Municipal Code regarding dangerous dogs. She cited two main issues from last week's discussion. Specifically, Mr. Walters' concern about seizure and subsequent testing for rabies of a dog that bites. She confirmed that such procedures are standard practice for the Anacortes Police Department. She then detailed the breakdown of the definition of 'provoked' in the code revision.

ANTHONY YOUNG moved, seconded by JEREMY CARTER, to approve Ordinance 4021: Amending Title 6 Anacortes Municipal Code regarding Animals.

Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, Amanda Hubik. Nays - None. Result: Passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 6:32 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of June 13, 2022 was adjourned.