

Anacortes City Council Minutes - July 5, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of July 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Amanda Hubik were present.

Councilmembers Carter, Cleland-McGrath and McDougall participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Councilmember Anthony Young was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller shared current COVID-19 case statistics in Anacortes and Skagit County, reporting a decrease in case numbers from last month and an increase in hospitalizations county-wide to 10 per 100,000, including 1 in Island Hospital. He then provided a recap of the Independence Day festivities including the winning groups from the parade, including the best marching group winners: Twisted Pixies - 3rd place, OARS - 2nd place, Soroptimist International of Anacortes - 1st place. He then announced the awards for best floats: Anacortes Masonic Lodge - 3rd place, Mermen of Anacortes - 2nd place, Anacortes Rotary Centennial Float - 1st place. All six groups will be recognized at the July 11th City Council meeting.

Mr. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall, to excuse the absence of Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Committee meeting held the previous Thursday. The topics discussed included the influx of RV's into Old Town, using surplus church property for affordable housing or addressing homelessness. Preliminary results of a survey of Skagit County churches show some churches in Skagit Valley hosting RVs with no participation thus far in Anacortes. Ms. Cleland-McGrath mentioned that previous Councilmember Eric Johnson, a member of the Episcopal Church, reported that they are looking at options for converting the Gentry House to assist the homeless, which is currently closed due to recent water damage. Other items discussed included the possible purchase of a shower trailer to be positioned at the Salvation Army in Anacortes for public use in late July, committee member participation in a recovery-based model of behavioral health presentation hosted by the City of Mount Vernon, a rapid re-housing grant application to be submitted in August, low barrier shelters in Skagit County, and the 22 North project in Bellingham. Ms. Cleland-McGrath concluded by mentioning the committee is considering holding meetings on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

Public Works Committee

Ms. Moulton reported from the Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included the Whistle Lake Dam and possible solutions for site improvement, including a Department of Ecology recommendation to apply for a disaster mitigation grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to perform a planning study that will assess current conditions and recommend possible courses of action. Additional topics included a contract modification to be presented and discussed later on the agenda, an update on the June 22nd Fifth Street water main emergency, and a pending contract with Robinson Brothers Construction for aerial fiber construction on State Route 20 near Campbell Lake.

Public Safety Committee

Mr. Carter reported from the Committee meeting held earlier during the day. Topics discussed related to the Fire Department included no injuries from fireworks or fires, Chief Kennedy's announced retirement at the end of July, an imminent budget amendment, and the Community Paramedic agreement with Island Hospital. Topics related to the Police Department included all recent promotions settling in and earning accreditation for their new roles and a new hire eligibility list coming soon.

Personnel Committee

Ms. Moulton reported from the Personnel Committee meeting held the previous week. The topics discussed included labor relations and the Police collective bargaining update moving forward with mediation, changes of outdated job titles and descriptions for Teamster positions, and current employment openings.

Port - City Liaison

Ms. Hubik reported from the Port-City Liaison meeting held earlier during the day. The topics discussed included the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Project, the Economic Development Plan and the establishment of the Economic Development Committee, recreational vehicles being used for housing, an update on summer events, fiber expansion, the ferry system, and MJB property development.

Public Comment

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

Pat Gardner thanked the City and Mother Nature for a beautiful 4th of July celebration and commended the teamwork that went in to putting on a successful event. She then commented on the waterfront development, recommending that a billboard sign describing the development in statistical and geographic terms, including height limits, be posted at the end of the roundabout on 22nd Street and the end of 17th Street to help defray misleading or false information about the project.

Mayor Miller responded that the Planning Department has issued curb-gutter-sidewalk permits thus far and that there are no known identified businesses for the area. He continued that the City has platted the area and that the area is zoned as Marine Mixed Use.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes of June 27, 2022
 - b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$655,538.40
- The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 103568 through 103608, total \$445,276.08

Check numbers: 103609 through 103616, total \$24,861.56

Wire transfer numbers: 306048 through 306347, total \$185,400.76

- c. Street Fair Application - Rock Ridge Chili Cook Off
- d. Street Fair Application - Anacortes Gut Run
- e. Interlocal Agreement: Economic Development Grant Award for Guemes View Fiberoptic Expansion Project #22-175-FBR-001
- f. Resolution 3094: Updating Council Procedures to include new Council Committees

Other Business

Contract Modification: Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Permitting Services #20-032-SEW-003

Engineering Services Manager, Tim Hohmann, introduced Jordan Widener, President of Widener and Associates, who provided a presentation on her business, including its history and development as an environmental consultant firm. She detailed the company's project history with the City of Anacortes and associated permitting and emergency response services they provide. Mr. Hohmann then pointed out how Widener and Associates' expertise helps the City respond to disasters or emergency events through coordination FEMA funding and the associated documentation and environmental permitting requirements. These services help to ensure reimbursement for emergency construction projects subsequent to a disaster. He then detailed the contract modification for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Permitting Services (#20-032-SEW-003) with Widener and Associates, explaining that that this contract is for the marine portion of the project. He added that the project was recently selected by FEMA for reimbursement, and thus there will be multiple contracts coming before Council for design, construction management, and permitting. He concluded that the current modification was an expected change in contract scope and corresponding fee increase, and recommended Council approve the contract modification.

Mayor Miller reminded the public and Council that the City does not have adequate funds to execute these multimillion dollar projects without federal assistance. He invited members of Council to comment on this agenda item.

Ms. Moulton commented that they had discussed project timing and received details on the amount of FEMA funding coming to support the project at the recent Public Works Committee meeting. She asked Mr. Hohmann to provide more details on federal funding. Mr. Hohmann responded that FEMA approved the new outfall alignment and will fund \$16.1 million for the project plus project cost overruns, which comprises approximately 90 percent of the project cost and will be supplemented by an additional 5 percent from the state.

CAROLYN MOULTON moved, seconded by JEREMY CARTER, to Approve contract modification to Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Permitting Services (20-032-SEW-003) with Widener and Associates. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, Amanda Hubik. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Ordinance 4023: Source Control Program

Stormwater Program Manager, Diane Hennebert, presented draft Ordinance 4023 establishing a Source Control Program. Ms. Hennebert reviewed the plan and the schedule for adoption, which had been included in the packet materials for the meeting.

Mayor Miller invited the public to comment on the agenda item. No one present wished to address the Council on the Source Control Program.

Mr. Walters commented that the draft ordinance looked good overall, and mentioned desired revisions including a new definition of 'illicit discharge', code numbering reference changes and other changes specified in committee. He expressed concern about citizens reading the code changes who are not familiar with the Stormwater Management Manual might be unaware that their activity or business might be affected by the code section. He also clarified that the Source Control Program is not a change to development regulations and that there will be no 'grandfathering' for concerns that do not comply with the new code.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 6:44 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of July 5, 2022 was adjourned.