

Anacortes City Council Minutes - October 16, 2023

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tempore Anthony Young called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of October 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Bruce McDougall and Amanda Hubik were present. Councilmember Carolyn Moulton participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Pro Tempore Young shared an update on the following topics:

The recent open house at the Anacortes Fire Department on October 15th; the opening of the Community Action Resource Center at 819 Commercial Avenue on weekdays from 9am-3pm; Community Action of Skagit County will be providing free firewood to veterans, seniors and adults with disabilities on November 10th; the Parks and Recreation department are seeking volunteers for the Haunted Forest on October 28th at Washington Park; and October 30th is the deadline for online or mail registration in the upcoming November 7th general election. Citizens can register in person on election day at the Skagit County Auditor's office in Mount Vernon.

Finance Committee

Mr. Walters reported from the Finance Committee meeting held October 11th. The topics discussed included city-wide property assessments increasing 8.5%, finance department sales tax revenue projections for 2024, sewer and wastewater project funding, OpenGov software and potential integration with the new Enterprise Resource Planning software, and budget planning.

Public Works Committee

Mr. Walters reported from the Public Works Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included the pending police car purchases, a sole source resolution for the purchase of sewage grinders for the wastewater treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant funding, and traffic and parking issues in light of the recent code update.

Downtown Event Venue

Mr. Walters mentioned touring the Integra Building as a potential venue to replace the Transit Shed as a downtown event venue, adding that other sites such as the Majestic Inn parking lot and the Depot Plaza should also be considered. He requested a discussion item be added to an upcoming City Council agenda on the event center issue. Mr. Young pointed out that it would be in the city's interest to have a downtown event venue discussion with the public and stakeholders.

Economic Development Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath and Mr. Young reported from the Economic Development Committee meeting held October 10th. The topics discussed included a debrief on a discussion with Mr. McCafferty of Western Washington University, the goals and needs for the strategic plan, how to improve the quality of life for the community, and the importance of access to local intellectual resources in guiding the city on a path forward.

Public Comment

Mayor Pro Tempore Young 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

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

a. Minutes of October 9, 2023

b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$1,096,411.32
The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
EFT numbers: 107561 through 107626, total \$786,544.69
Check numbers: 107627 through 107650, total \$286,372.97
Wire transfer numbers: 332802 through 333253, total \$23,157.31

Other Business

Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) 2024-2029, General Government

Finance Director, Steve Hoglund, introduced the Capital Facilities Plan 2024-2029 for the general government, referring to a slide presentation that was included in the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

Fire / Emergency Medical Services - Chief Bill Harris

- Medic unit replacement number and timeline, grant financing strategy for the ladder truck with Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, alternative uses for those funds (vehicles, trails), Guemes Channel Trail, and corresponding changes to the CFP.

General Government – Finance Director Steve Hoglund

- Community Recreation/Youth Center - removing from CFP, possible locations, stakeholders, funding sources.
- Downtown Alliance - support needed in light of the MJB development.
- Downtown Streetscape - moving planning funds from 2025 to 2024 to provide ideas informing public opinion.
- Downtown Welcome Arch - electrical, structural, and irrigation issues funded via real estate excise tax.
- Museum storage workshop (Museum Director Bret Lunsford) - design integration with the Carnegie building and area zoning requirements, climate control measures.
- Pedestrian link between downtown and the marina - moving planning funds from 2025 to 2024, improvements for pedestrian safety.

Parks and Recreation - Director Jonn Lunsford

- Depot Pavilion Planning - all-weather structure for the Farmers' Market in shoulder season, not an event center, planning process.
- Parks Infrastructure - appropriate funding level.
- Pocket Park - next location.
- Ace of Hearts - irrigation improvements and funding sources.
- Little Cranberry Lake Shoreline - water access improvements and shore erosion control.
- Shannon Point Trail - funding for an easement, reprogramming funds for the Guemes Channel Trail.
- Ship Harbor Wetland Interpretive Trail - reasons for the project.
- West Side Park - project funding timeline and planning, achieving reduced construction costs, moving planning funds to 2024.
- Guemes Channel Trail - funding for environmental impact study and planning.

Fiber - Administrative Services Director Emily Schuh

- Highway 20 light manufacturing corridor - gauging market interest, Sharpe's Corner development, refining costs, further discussion before commitment to buildout in 2025.

Mr. Hoglund concluded the discussion by outlining the next steps in the budget review process.

Resolution 3132: Waiving the State Competitive Bidding Requirements for the Purchase of JWC Environmental Sewage Grinders for the WWTP

Public Works Director, Andrew Rheume, provided an overview of the proposed resolution that would waive the state competitive bidding requirements for the purchase of sewage grinders from JWC Environmental.

RYAN WALTERS moved, seconded by AMANDA HUBIK, to approve Resolution 3132. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Contract Modification: FEMA Coordination – February 2020 Event FEMA-4539-DR #23-202-ENG-001

Public Works Director, Andrew Rheume, introduced the proposed modification to contract #23-202-ENG-001 with Widener and Associates for tracking all purchases related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall project related to FEMA reimbursement expenses.

Discussion topics included:

- Capabilities of city staff to perform the work in the scope of services.

RYAN WALTERS moved, seconded by BRUCE MCDOUGALL, to authorize the mayor to sign the modification to contract #23-202-ENG-001 with Widener and Associates. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Contract Award: Police Department Chevrolet Tahoes #23-285-ERR-001

Public Works Director, Andrew Rheume, introduced the proposed contract for the purchase of five Chevrolet Tahoes for the police department.

AMANDA HUBIK moved, seconded by BRUCE MCDOUGALL, to authorize the mayor to sign purchase order #23-285-ERR-001. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Resolution 3134: Adoption of the City of Anacortes Emergency Operations Plan

Fire Chief, Bill Harris, introduced Resolution 3134: Adoption of the City of Anacortes Emergency Operations Plan, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Including the red-lined version in the packet, headings and annexes need to be updated to make the document more readable.

The Council agreed that editorial revisions should be made to the plan before being considered by the Council

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for final approval.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 7:51 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of October 16, 2023 was adjourned.