

Anacortes City Council Minutes - December 4, 2023

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of December 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Christine Cleland-McGrath, and Bruce McDougall were present. Councilmember Amanda Hubik participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom. Councilmembers Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, and Carolyn Moulton were absent.

Ms. Cleland-McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Carter, to excuse the absence of Mr. Young, Mr. Walters, and Ms. Moulton. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller congratulated the Anacortes High School football team for their 2A state championship and announced a celebratory parade on Sunday, December 10th at 11am. He then provided a rundown of upcoming community events, including the Ben Root Skate Park ribbon cutting on December 7th at 3:00pm, a repair project on the downtown arch, the Wonderland Walk December 8th and 9th from 5-8pm at Washington Park, Celebrate the Season Holiday Family Fair December 9th and 10th at the Port Transit Shed, and the lighted boat parade on December 16th at 6pm.

Public Works Committee

Mayor Miller announced that the Public Works Committee did not meet as scheduled due to non-availability of committee members.

Personnel Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Personnel Committee meeting held earlier in the day. The topics discussed included recruiting updates for the fire and police departments and a plan for staffing the Anacortes Community Forest Lands during the summer months, the 2024 budget, NeoGov implementation, and the new performance appraisal process.

North Star Project

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the North Star Project City and County Leaders work session held on November 29th. The topics discussed included an update from the county commissioners and other local leaders on how they are cooperatively addressing social issues.

Public Comment

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

Public comment was given as follows:

Michael Schermerhorn of Mount Vernon commented on his efforts to advocate for cannabis patients and his experience of having five break-ins at his place of business and the subsequent response of the Anacortes Police department.

Individuals who signed up for public comment using aliases and false addresses disrupted the remainder of the public comment period of the agenda with racist and anti-Semitic statements made remotely over Zoom. Audio connections to the Council Chambers were muted once the speakers began yelling racial slurs and anti-Semitic statements, and their connection to the meeting was terminated per RCW 9A.84.030 Disorderly Conduct.

Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes of November 27, 2023

b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$500,708.57

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 107967 through 107995, total \$177,189.88

Check numbers: 107996 through 108013, total \$315,969.11

Wire transfer numbers: 335756 through 336080, total \$7,549.58

c. Resolution 3138: Update of Tourism Promotion Strategic Plan

d. Contract Award: 24th and H Avenue Sidewalk Improvements #23-138-TRN-001

e. Special Event Application: Community Championship Football Celebration

Public Hearings

2024 Operating Budget

At 6:29 pm Mayor Miller opened the public hearing on the 2024 Operating Budget.

Other Business

Community Action of Skagit County

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Director, John Coleman introduced Sandi Phinney, Community Action of Skagit County Chief Strategy Officer, who gave an update on the organization's activities in the community, mentioning the recent opening of their office in Anacortes.

Discussion topics included:

- How to volunteer for Community Action.

Ordinance 4065: Updating Title 13 Division IV of the Anacortes Municipal Code to Eliminate the Ambulance Service Fund

Senior Accountant, Philip Steffen, introduced Ordinance 4065: Updating Title 13 Division IV of the Anacortes Municipal Code to eliminate the ambulance service fund, outlining the reasons for its elimination and integration into the general fund.

CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH moved, seconded by AMANDA HUBIK, to approve ordinance 4065 as presented. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Ordinance 4064: 2024 Operating Budget

Senior Accountant, Philip Steffen, introduced Ordinance 4064 2024 Operating Budget, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Environmental impact study funding for the Guemes Channel Trail via interfund loan.
- Equipment rental and replacement funding.
- Reasons for a larger budget when compared to municipalities of similar size.
- Removing a half-time employee from municipal court.
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion and anti-harassment training.
- Local development initiatives.

- General fund fiber "other improvements".
- Senior Center Administrative Assistant hours.

Ordinance 4066: 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan

Senior Accountant, Philip Steffen, introduced Ordinance 4066: 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan (CFP).

Discussion topics included:

- The Environmental Impact Study for the Guemes Channel Trail.
- Overall list of full-time employee positions being included in the budget.
- Priority ranking legend for capital projects.

Interlocal Agreement #24-020-STM-001 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Public Education and Outreach 2024

Public Works Director, Andrew Rheaume, introduced the interlocal agreement #24-020-STM-001 with the Skagit Conservation District for NPDES Phase II Public Education and Outreach 2024, outlining the requirements to comply with the city's permit for storm water discharge.

BRUCE MCDOUGALL moved, seconded by JEREMY CARTER, to authorize the mayor to execute interlocal agreement #24-020-STM-001 with the Skagit Conservation District.

Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Interlocal Agreement #23-306-GIS-001 with Skagit County for Digital Aerial Photos Licensing

Public Works Director, Andrew Rheaume, introduced the interlocal agreement #23-306-GIS-001 with Skagit County for Digital Aerial Photos Licensing.

AMANDA HUBIK moved, seconded by JEREMY CARTER, to authorize the mayor to execute interlocal agreement #23-306-GIS-001 with Skagit County. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Interlocal Agreement #24-019-MCT-001 for Indigent Defense Screening Services for In-Custody Clients between County and City

Administrative Services Director, Emily Schuh, introduced the interlocal agreement #24-019-MCT-001 with Skagit County for Indigent Defense Screening Services for In-Custody Clients.

JEREMY CARTER moved, seconded by AMANDA HUBIK, to authorize the mayor to execute interlocal #24-019-MCT-001 with Skagit County. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Contract Award: Police Department Virtual Reality (VR) Training System #23-303-APD-001

Police Chief, Dave Floyd, introduced contract #23-303-APD-001 for the purchase of the Police Department Virtual Reality (VR) Training System from InVeris Training Solutions, detailing the system's purpose and utility for his department. He pointed out that the purchase would be funded by casino impact funds and private donations.

Discussion topics included:

- Cooperative purchasing agreement.
- Virtual reality training vests and their lifespan.

JEREMY CARTER moved, seconded by CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, to authorize the mayor to sign contract #23-303-APD-001 with InVeris Training Solutions. Vote: Ayes - JEREMY CARTER, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 7:39 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of December 4, 2023 was adjourned.