

Anacortes City Council Minutes - May 28, 2024

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of May 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers TJ Fantini, Ryan Walters, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Amanda Hubik were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller thanked American Legion Post 13, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12220, and Anacortes Masons Lodge 77 for recognizing Memorial Day. He then reported on last week's quarterly meeting with the Samish Indian Nation, where topics included the cottage housing project, the Early Learning Center on D Avenue, and an update on the Memorandum of Understanding as more land goes into trust. He then provided an update on the North Star meeting held earlier today. The topics discussed included having member city councilmembers participate in the advisory group, an upcoming joint City Council meeting of the North Star group, the group's website is live at www.northstarskagit.org, and funding for the Skagit County Stabilization Center.

Ms. Moulton thanked Mayor Miller for appointing her to the advisory group, expressing positivity regarding the collaboration and level of energy, and that Volunteers of America has received funding to develop and construct 48-54 units of housing in Burlington.

Mayor Miller continued by announcing the launch of an [online budget survey for the 2025 budget](#), that there will be a Community Action ribbon cutting tomorrow at 3:30pm, the Anacortes Waterfront Festival will be held this weekend, and congratulated the Anacortes High School boys baseball team for reaching the state 2A semifinals and the track and field team for winning the 2A state championship.

Fiber Committee

Mr. McDougall reported from the Fiber Committee meeting held earlier in the afternoon. The topics discussed included a subscriber update, take rate, the replacement of an upstream internet router for redundancy and service interruption mitigation, an Economic Development Administration area construction and funding update, and revenue projections.

Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee

Ms. Moulton and Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee meeting held May 23rd. The topics discussed included the Land Capacity Analysis as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update, a deep dive into the data at the June 10th Council meeting, Community Action voucher programs for food and hygiene, energy assistance for seniors, the utility discount program, the exhaustion of the rental assistance program at the Salvation Army, and the awarding of a \$200,000 grant for motel vouchers to the Anacortes Family Center.

Planning Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Planning Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included the public participation plan for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update, extending the docketing for amendments to June 30th, a hearing about docketing in July, the Climate Policy Advisory Team, and the proposed Habitat for Humanity project on West 5th Street.

Museum Committee

Mr. Fantini reported from the Museum Committee meeting held May 23rd. The topics discussed included a tour of the WT Preston, the surrounding area, and possible impacts of the proposed event center.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Ms. Hubik reported from the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held May 23rd. The topics discussed included the Whistle Lake Dam study, the Heart Lake Plan and a \$1 million grant application to improve the parking lot, the interlocal agreement with the Anacortes School District for facilities use, the recent fundraiser at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center and an encore scheduled for June 6th, ongoing cleanup efforts and mowing at various parklands, a memorandum of understanding with Rotary for the Cap Sante Outlook project, work with the Samish Indian Nation on a sign project for the top of Mount Erie, and the Tommy Thompson Trail trestle replacement project.

Information Technology Committee

Mr. McDougall reported from the Information Technology Committee meeting held earlier in the afternoon. The topics discussed included the anacorteswa.gov domain change at the end of June, having city staff use multi-factor authentication for network use, and the upgrade of the city to tier 1 on the Washington Cities Insurance Authority scale due to implementation of and adherence to cyber security best practices.

Anacortes Pride Poster

Mr. Young spoke about being a member of the LGBTQ+ community, expressing pride and thanks for the organic effort to bring the Pride Festival to Anacortes. Natalie Clark, Board Chair, and Cid Blase, Parade Chair, of Anacortes Pride presented the Mayor and Council with the poster for Anacortes Pride 2024.

Public Comment

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

Public comment was delivered as follows:

Richard Walker of Anacortes addressed injured animals on the city's roadways, expressing dismay regarding motorists' apathy toward wildlife in the community. He urged the Council to designate 12th Street and Oakes Avenue as a wildlife corridor.

Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes of May 20, 2024

b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$1,145,854.54

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 109472 through 109513, total \$891,222.95

Check numbers: 109471 through 109525, total \$233,535.65

Wire transfer numbers: 347642 through 348080, total \$21,095.94

Public Hearings

Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2024 Action Plan

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Coordinator Stephanie Snyder introduced the CDBG 2024 Action Plan, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Mayor Miller invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item.

Mary Jo McArdle asked about the cost of curb cuts on H Avenue and 24th Street.

Discussion topics included:

- Community Action future opportunities to receive CDBG funding.
- Reporting requirements.

- Anacortes Housing Authority source(s) of supplemental funding for the re-roof project.
- Timeline for spending the funds.
- Leftover funds for 2021 and 2022.

Mayor Miller continued the public hearing until the next regular meeting of the City Council on June 3, 2024.

Other Business

Appeal of Shoreline Substantial Development Permit SDP-2024-0001

City Attorney Darcy Swetnam outlined the appeal process and hearing procedures for Shoreline Substantial Development Permit applications, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting. The appellant, Ashlan Chidester, was not present at the hearing. Mayor Miller read the appearance of fairness doctrine and swore in the hearing participants.

Discussion topics included:

- Receipt of an incomplete appeal and timely filing.
- Appellant recourse if appeal is denied.

RYAN WALTERS moved, seconded by CAROLYN MOULTON, to ask staff to return with a resolution that there was not a valid appeal.

Vote: Ayes - ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK, TJ FANTINI. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Contract Award: WTP North Line Repair & Flowmeter Upgrades - Design #24-166-WTR-001

Public Works Director Andrew Rheume introduced the proposed contract #24-166-WTR-001 with HDR Engineering for the Water Treatment Plant north line and flowmeter upgrades, detailing the temporary repairs, the scheduled replacement timeline, and funding source.

Discussion topics included:

- How this contract fits into the entire project.
- How much of the project will be covered by Federal Emergency Management Agency funds.

CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH moved, seconded by AMANDA HUBIK, to authorize the mayor to sign contract #24-166-WTR-001 with HDR Engineering.

Vote: Ayes - ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK, TJ FANTINI. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Contract Award: March's Point Road Water Main and Bike Lane Project – Design #24-159-ENG-001

Public Works Director Andrew Rheume introduced the proposed contract #24-159-ENG-001 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the March's Point Road water main and bike lane project, detailing the project area, design progression, pending funding, and construction timeline.

Discussion topics included:

- Price difference between 60% and full design.
- Previous widening in the project area.
- Encroachment of the refinery on the project area.
- Approaching the refineries for financial assistance with the project.
- Connecting Washington grant funds in the project.
- Geographic area of the project.

- Which Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) Parks and Recreation project will be this project.
- Amend Council procedures to identify which CFP project is linked to the project.
- Cost effectiveness of including the bike lanes while replacing the water main.
- Refineries are wholesale customers and funds for infrastructure is included in their funds.
- Bike lanes necessary for safety and increased traffic and activities.

CAROLYN MOULTON moved, seconded by TJ FANTINI, to authorize the mayor to sign contract #24-159-ENG-001 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Vote: Ayes - ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK, TJ FANTINI. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Resolution 3156: Public Participation Plan for 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Director John Coleman introduced Resolution 3156: Public Participation Plan for 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update, reviewing the changes that the Council requested at the May 20th regular meeting, referring to a draft that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Mayor Miller invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item.

Mary Jo McArdle asked that the broad community understand how to participate, urging that mailings and news releases "shall or will" be accomplished instead of "may" be accomplished as provided in the draft public participation plan.

Brian Wetcher of Anacortes commented regarding the process on the Comprehensive Plan land use requests, asking if there will be public comment at the docketing hearing and how the proposed docketed items would be processed after adoption until consideration by the Planning Commission. He advocated that proposed amendments all be included for Planning Commission review.

Discussion topics included:

- Docketing approval timing.
- Incorporation of Anacortes Community Forest Lands.
- Climate Policy Advisory Team role in the process.
- Mailings of Comprehensive Plan updates in utility bills.
- Direct mail outreach on a postcard or half sheet of paper.
- On the cover of A-Town magazine.
- Council work session with consultants.
- Listserv subscriptions and QR code links to the plan.
- Council assisting with public outreach.
- Public participation touch points.
- Required notice for public hearings.
- Broad high level discussion of the reason for Comprehensive Plan update.
- Language accessibility for workshops and open houses.
- Timing of work session with the Council and the consultant.

TJ FANTINI moved, seconded by AMANDA HUBIK, to adopt Resolution 3156 with the addition of a work session with the Council and the consultant in the third quarter of 2024.

Vote: Ayes - ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK, TJ FANTINI. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 8:45 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of May 28, 2024 was adjourned.