

Anacortes City Council Minutes - June 10, 2024

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of June 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers TJ Fantini, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall, and Amanda Hubik were present. Councilmember Ryan Walters was absent.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller shared a recap of his participation in ribbon cutting ceremonies for the RV Park at Cap Sante, First Command Financial and Wellness for Life, and he thanked the Daughters of the American Revolution for the D-Day commemoration on June 6th. He then reminded the public of the [online budget survey](#) for the 2025 budget development process. He then announced that the Anacortes High School Senior Parade will be on Tuesday, June 11th, at 4pm, Anacortes High School graduation at 6pm on Wednesday, June 12th, and congratulated the recent graduates of Cap Sante High School. He then announced a joint City Council - Skagit County Commissioners meeting on June 11th at 5pm at McIntyre Hall, the upcoming Bark in the Park event on Saturday June 15th from 10am-1pm at Storvik Park and a Skagit County burn ban effective from June 15th. Finally, Mayor Miller announced that Washington State Ferries will host public meetings on Monday, June 17th at noon and Tuesday, June 18th at 6pm.

Planning Committee

Ms. Moulton reported from the Planning Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included low-income housing with tenant-landlord issues, the environmental impact study for the Guemes Channel Trail project, the Comprehensive Plan update and Planning Department staffing issues, departmental process optimization for permitting, and land capacity analysis.

Port/City Liaison Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Port/City Liaison Committee meeting held June 4th. The topics discussed included the anticipated availability of two full units at Fire Station 1 starting July 1st, the port and city working together to repair damage to Ship Harbor, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall project, the 12th Street and Commercial Avenue intersection project, the proposed event center, the port's 9th Street vacation application, and port grant applications for T-Dock and federal Environmental Protection Agency grants for Fidalgo Island marinas.

Mr. Fantini announced that on June 25th from 6-8pm he would conduct a town hall at the Anacortes Library Community Room.

Public Comment

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

Public comment was given as follows:

Xuhua Mu of Anacortes commented on affordable housing in Anacortes, referring to a slide presentation.

Joseph Coomer of Oak Harbor commented on designing structures to better withstand large earthquakes.

Linda Jennings of Anacortes commented on the World Economic Forum as it relates to what she termed as a false narrative regarding climate change.

Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes of June 3, 2024

b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$514,451.25

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 109564 through 109613, total \$344,308.02

Check numbers: 109614 through 109639, total \$157,733.61

Wire transfer numbers: 348547 through 348793, total \$12,409

Public Hearings

Ordinance 4082: Transportation Improvement Plan

At 6:27 pm Mayor Miller opened the public hearing. Public Works Director Andrew Rheume introduced Ordinance 4082 - Approving the Six-Year (2025-2030) Anacortes Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), 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.

Teresa Baker of Anacortes asked about the 12th Street and K Avenue intersection improvement project, and if the plan involved road resurfacing in Old Town.

Discussion topics included:

- Candor and showing appreciation for the plan reflecting Council's desires.
- H Avenue Anacortes Community Forest Land project timeline and status.
- Kansas Avenue area project update - are sidewalks included?
- Future opportunities for City Council input on TIP projects.
- Priority of projects.
- 12th Street and K Avenue plan.
- Will the plan be published on the website?
- Necessity for grant application.
- Funding update for the 12th Street and Commercial Avenue intersection.
- Oakes Avenue curb, gutter and sidewalk plan.
- Shannon Point trail - Is Western Washington University on board?
- State funding and timeline for Commercial Avenue Phase II-V for resurfacing from 13th Street to 34th Street.

At 6:44 pm Mayor Miller closed the public hearing.

Other Business

Resolution 3158: Lodging Tax Funding for The Rick Epting Foundation of the Arts Christmas Concert

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Director John Coleman introduced Resolution 3158 that would provide lodging tax funding to the Rick Epting Foundation of the Arts to support a Christmas Concert.

Discussion topics included:

- Encouraging visitors to come to a vibrant downtown.
- Donation of proceeds to Anacortes High School arts programs.
- Scarcity of Lodging Tax Advisory Committee funds.
- Invite the organization to give the Council a presentation

AMANDA HUBIK moved, seconded by TJ FANTINI, to approve Resolution 3158.

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

Interlocal Agreement #23-092-PRK-004 with Skagit County for Thompson Trail Trestle Feasibility Study Funding

Parks and Recreation Director Jonn Lunsford introduced the proposed interlocal agreement #23-092-PRK-004 with Skagit County for the Tommy Thompson Trail Trestle feasibility study funding, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Appreciation for the detailed presentation.
- Bringing multiple stakeholders to the table.
- The purpose of the signage is educational.

CAROLYN MOULTON moved, seconded by BRUCE MCDOUGALL, to authorize the mayor to execute interlocal agreement #23-092-PRK-004 with Skagit County for the Tommy Thompson Trail Trestle feasibility study funding. Vote: Ayes - ANTHONY YOUNG, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK, TJ FANTINI. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Land Capacity Analysis

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Director John Coleman introduced the Land Capacity Analysis as performed by the Leland Consulting Group, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting. He suggested that councilmembers and the public view the May 22nd Planning Commission meeting to review the consultants' presentation and detailed remarks, and reminded the Council and the public that documents related to land capacity analysis were available on the [city's website](#).

Discussion topics included:

- Expansion of the city limits.
- Changing zoning of re-developable land.
- Land capacity analysis shows available land and takes into account the underlying zoning.
- Jobs classification data.
- Removing redlining provisions or discriminatory language in the municipal code.
- Mix of housing and affordability.
- Increase in density to meet housing goals.
- Average family size.
- Where accessory dwelling units could be built.
- Results for progress toward housing goals thus far.

- Ramifications if housing projections are not met.
- The council is not responsible for the affordability of housing.
- Cottage housing should be broken out as a separate type.
- Is the R4 zone appropriate for redevelopment (Skyline)?
- Deep dive into higher density areas.
- Improvement in affordability and capacity since 2019.

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

Teresa Baker of Anacortes asked about the MJB development area.

Sara Holahan of Anacortes asked if future additional parks or transportation corridors are considered with the addition of more housing.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 7:51 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of June 10, 2024 was adjourned.