

Anacortes City Council Minutes - July 1, 2024

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of July 1, 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 reminded the public that the Anacortes Parks Foundation is still accepting [online donations](#) for the 4th of July fireworks display. He then shared an update on Independence Day events, reminded the public that fireworks are prohibited within city limits, and announced the city office closure and associated solid waste service holiday schedule. Mayor Miller then announced the email and website domain change to [anacorteswa.gov](#) effective July 2nd. He then welcomed visitors from Anacortes' newest sister city, Comarnic, Romania. He then announced that Fire Station 1 has a second unit thanks to citizen support through Proposition 1, and the impending delivery of the new ladder truck. He concluded by announcing intermittent trail closures on the Tommy Thompson Trail from 8-12 July for geo-technical research and that the Washington State Office of Financial Management updated Anacortes population to 18,270 residents.

Fiber Committee

Mr. McDougall reported from the Fiber Committee meeting held June 27th. The topics discussed included subscriber numbers and take rates, a construction and funding update for the ongoing network build out, and financing options and revenue projections for fiber internet service beyond construction completion.

Finance Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Finance Committee meeting held June 27th. The topics discussed included a review of wholesale water rate reconciliation, fiber financing, solid waste rates in light of recently published increased county tipping fees, June sales tax revenues, and the Enterprise Resource Planning application replacement initiative.

Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee

Ms. Moulton reported from the Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee meeting held June 27th. The topics discussed included a cold weather shelter, a recap of the North Star meeting about countywide efforts to reduce homelessness and increase access to services, and the difficulty of getting the message out to the public about housing.

Mr. Fantini asked if there was a plan to have a work session on housing. Ms. Mouton responded that it will be something that the committee would move forward on scheduling in the future.

Public Works Committee

Mr. Walters reported from the Public Works Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included the 12th Street and Commercial Avenue intersection design, how to visually separate bike and vehicle lanes, a traffic-calming project on 16th Street between D Avenue, B Avenue and C Avenue in the vicinity of the Samish Early Learning Center, a possible traffic-calming feature at 10th Street and M Avenue and the planned Kansas Avenue connection to Oakes Avenue, and other requests for traffic and parking improvements throughout the city.

Mr. Young added that the committee discussed the traffic-calming island on M Avenue, but did not reach a conclusion on the issue.

Library Committee

Mayor Miller announced that the Library Committee meeting was moved to a later date.

Police Officer Swearing In

Police Chief Dave Floyd introduced Officer John Monaghan. Mayor Miller administered the oath of office to Officer Monaghan.

Public Comment

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

Dan O'Donnell of LaConner commented on water rates and asked that there be a public hearing on the issue and that the Council review the three main points in his written comments. He pointed out that the city charges too much for water.

Xuhua Mu of Anacortes addressed communication challenges associated with city government related to the proposed Habitat for Humanity project and affordable housing. She requested that councilmembers hold town hall meetings to address housing affordability, planned capital projects, and the 2025-2045 Comprehensive Plan update. She suggested that notice of these events be provided via residential utility bills and email.

Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes of June 13, 2024

b. Minutes of June 24, 2024

c. Approval of claims in the amount of \$586,796.39

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 109746 through 109781, total \$440,781.88

Check numbers: 109782 through 109806, total \$138,005.74

Wire transfer numbers: 349729 through 349952, total \$8,008.77

Public Hearings

Ordinance 4080: Port of Anacortes Vacation / Dedication Application for a Portion of 9th Street

City Attorney Darcy Swetnam re-introduced Ordinance 4080, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting. Adam Morrow of Pacific Surveying and Engineering, representing the Port of Anacortes, stated that the Port agrees with the revised ordinance and pointed out that the action represents an important step in the redevelopment of Cap Sante Marina.

Mayor Miller invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item. No one present wished to address the Council.

At 6:37 pm, Mayor Miller closed the public hearing.

Discussion topics included:

- Assurance that this will be a public park and open space through recording in the county land records.
- Collaboration between the Port and City staff to enhance the public quality of life.
- A net benefit to the city is trading park land for park land.
- Care in construction of the document to ensure reversion if land is not used as a public park.

RYAN WALTERS moved, seconded by AMANDA HUBIK, to approve Ordinance 4080.

Vote: Ayes - ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, CAROLYN

MOULTON, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK, TJ FANTINI. Nays - None. Result: Passed

Other Business

South Commercial Avenue Corridor Phase 1: 11th Street - 13th Street

Public Works Director Andrew Rheume provided a report on the South Commercial Avenue Corridor Phase 1 project, 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.

Suzanne Rohner of Anacortes suggested that traffic be required to turn left or right only from eastbound 12th Street onto Commercial Avenue, thus requiring this traffic to enter the Safeway parking lot from either 11th Street, 13th Street, or Q Avenue.

Discussion topics included:

- The effect of a single through - right turn lane on Commercial Avenue on the signal light timing.
- Signal technology includes sensors.
- Raised intersection at 11th Street and Commercial Avenue.
- Cost savings and better view of downtown.
- Separating bike and pedestrian traffic.
- Loss of southbound lane between 11th Street and 12th Street on Commercial Avenue.
- Stop lines being moved back reduces stacking capacity and truck turning space.
- Project funds in the 2024 budget.
- Opportunity to discuss the project and parking lot stall orientation with Safeway.
- Connectivity of bike lanes southward down the rest of Commercial Avenue.
- Avoiding the Traffic Improvement Board delay list.
- Pedestrian warning lights at 11th Street and 13th Street intersections.
- Two-stage bike lanes for bikes turning from northbound Commercial Avenue on to 12th Street.
- Limiting turn direction from Sebo's to southbound on Commercial Avenue.
- No left turn from southbound Commercial Avenue into Safeway parking lot.
- Access to the bank parking lot from southbound Commercial Avenue between 12th Street and 13th Street.

Email and Website Domain

Administrative Services Director Emily Schuh provided an update on the July 2nd transition of city website and email domains from cityofanacortes.org to anacorteswa.gov, 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. No one present wished to address the Council.

Discussion topics included:

- Subdomains such as docs.cityofanacortes.org
- Re-directs from the old domain to the new domain.
- cityofanacortes.org email will be forwarded to anacorteswa.gov indefinitely.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 7:30 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of July 1, 2024 was adjourned.