

Anacortes City Council Minutes - August 5, 2024

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of August 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers TJ Fantini, Ryan Walters, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, and Bruce McDougall were present. Councilmember Amanda Hubik was absent.

Ms. Moulton moved, seconded by Mr. Young, to excuse the absence of Ms. Hubik. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Session

At 6:02 pm, Mayor Miller announced that the City Council and the City Attorney would convene in Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (1) for approximately 15 minutes to discuss a potential real estate transaction. At 6:38 pm, Mayor Miller reconvened the regular meeting and reported that no action had been taken during the executive session.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller thanked fiber customers for their patience and commended staff for their work during an outage over the weekend caused by a cut line. He then reminded the public that tomorrow from 6-8 pm is National Night Out at Storvik Park, announced that the public can participate in the [Washington State Ferries online open house](#) through August 23rd, and that August 6th is election day with ballots due by 8 pm.

Fiber Committee

Administrative Services Director Emily Schuh provided an update regarding an outage to the fiber system on Friday morning that impacted approximately 950 customers and the considerable staff effort required to repair the damaged line, reporting that the majority of customer service was restored by Saturday night and service was completely restored by 8:18 pm on August 3rd.

Mr. Young related his previous experience working for a large fiber utility company and noted that outages are unfortunately an expected occurrence in the course of business.

Ms. Moulton asked how the line cut occurred. Ms. Schuh responded that an underground line had been cut by an external contractor and that a full investigation into the incident is ongoing for possible restitution to compensate for the additional staff time required to repair the affected area. Ms. Moulton asked that the details of exactly how it occurred be ascertained in order to mitigate similar future incidents.

Mr. Fantini asked about the investigation process and city fiber customer notification protocols in the event of an outage. Ms. Schuh responded that the city is looking at text notification systems that would notify affected customers of outages.

Mr. Walters expressed appreciation for staff efforts to restore service after the outage and suggested that an estimated time of repair would have been helpful to affected customers. He then mentioned possible geographic redundancy measures to provide alternate service pathways in the event of an outage and asked for improvement in the content and methods of communications to subscribers.

Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee

Ms. Moulton reported that the Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee did not meet the previous week.

Finance Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Finance Committee meeting held July 25th. The topics discussed included increased tipping fees for solid waste and how that would affect customer rates, the enterprise resource planning application replacement process, and recent sales tax trends.

Economic Development Committee

Mr. Young reported from the Economic Development Committee meeting held July 26th. The meeting included a discussion with community stakeholders including the Port of Anacortes, Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, Island Health, and Holly Frontier Sinclair regarding the process in cooperation with Western Washington University Institute of Economic Development.

Public Comment

Mayor Miller 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

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

a. Minutes of July 22, 2024

b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$1,300,436.14

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 109999 through 110059, total \$ 1,203,318.08

Check numbers: 110060 through 110093, total \$ 63,366.03

Wire transfer numbers: 351402 through 352105, total \$ 33,752.03

c. Contract Award: WTP Filter and Backwash Study #24-208-WTR-001

d. Contract Award: WWTP Pump Station 4 Flowmeter Vault #24-209-SEW-001

e. Contract Award: WWTP Pump Station 14 Replacement Pump #24-210-SEW-001

f. Reimbursement Agreement IAA25207 for Blake Decision 7/1/24-6/30/25 #24-211-MCT-001

g. Resolution 3161: Establishing a Docket for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations Periodic Update

h. Contract Award: Commercial Ave Corridor Plan Phase 1 WSDOT Project Reviews #19-095-TRN-004

i. Contract Award: 22nd Street Pedestrian Improvement Project #24-216-TRN-001

Public Hearings

2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan Amendment

At 7:01 pm, Mayor Miller opened the advertised public hearing for the proposed amendment to the 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan. Finance Director Steve Hoglund detailed the proposed amendment to the 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan, referring to a slide presentation that was included in 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.

At 7:03 pm, Mayor Miller closed the public hearing.

Other Business

Ordinance 4084: 2024-2029 CFP Amendment

Finance Director Steve Hoglund detailed the provisions of proposed Ordinance 4084 that would amend the 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan to accelerate a project to replace discharge meters at the water treatment plant

and a reduction in the Finance Department professional services budget.

Discussion topics included:

- How amending the budget would negate the spending on the OpenGov subscription.
- Other areas where budget efficiencies could be realized.
- Operating conservatively during times of economic uncertainty.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency funding coverage for 2024 discharge meter project costs.

RYAN WALTERS moved, seconded by ANTHONY YOUNG, to waive the two-read rule for ordinances and approve Ordinance 4084.

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

Ordinance 4085: 2024 2Q Budget Amendment

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

RYAN WALTERS moved, seconded by CAROLYN MOULTON, to waive the two-read rule and adopt Ordinance 4085.

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

Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Relocation Project Update

City Engineer Logan Lee provided an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Relocation 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.

John Wilkinson of Anacortes mentioned that there are communication challenges regarding the project, that he and other neighbors had not received a pre-blast survey, and that there was a bit of anxiety and confusion in the neighborhood regarding the project timeline.

Discussion topics included:

- Properties on the list for notification for blasting activities.
- The current construction schedule on the website.
- Reassuring the neighborhood even if there is no new information.
- Advance notice for blasting activities.
- Number of households within 200 feet of the blast zone.
- When pipe sinking will occur.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 7:35 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of August 5, 2024 was adjourned.