

## **Anacortes City Council Minutes - August 19, 2024**

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of August 19, 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 of the [Washington State Ferries online open house](#) through August 23rd. He then announced that Fidalgo Bay Day would be held at Fidalgo Bay Resort on August 24th, that Open Streets would be held downtown between 2nd Street and 10th Street on August 25th from 11am–3pm, and that the Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall pipe was safely deposited on the Guemes Channel floor on August 14th.

### **Economic Development Committee**

Mr. Young reported from the Economic Development Committee meeting held August 13th. The topics discussed included a review of the initial findings of informal stakeholder surveys, using the influence of stakeholders to move initiatives forward, and plans for future engagement with community members.

### **Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee**

Mayor Miller announced that the Housing Affordability and Community Services committee did not meet as scheduled.

### **Public Works Committee**

Mr. Walters reported from the Public Works Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included the proposed Habitat for Humanity project on West 5th Street, the R Avenue improvement project wrap-up, the 12th Street and Commercial Avenue intersection improvement plan, and the Whistle Lake dam risk assessment.

### **North Star Housing Task Force**

Mr. Walters reported from the North Star Housing Task Force meeting held earlier in the day. The topics discussed included a planned September 9th meeting with housing developers and non-profits to ascertain what local governments need to do to encourage additional housing in Skagit County and that Mount Vernon adopted an interim ordinance to relax parking requirements in their development regulations.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Ms. Hubik reported from the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held August 15th. The topics discussed included the Whistle Lake dam risk assessment, the proposed interlocal agreement with Skagit County for the extension of the Depot Plaza, Storvik Park facility development, Altair Americus Memorial Park renovations, trail work at the top of Cap Sante on the east side, Fidalgo Bay Day outreach, the Winter Wonderland Walk, interlocal agreement with the Anacortes School District for facility rental and usage, continuing work with the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance, and the partnership between Anacortes Police Department and Parks for enhanced public safety in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands, the upcoming Senior Center Gala scheduled for Memorial Day weekend in 2025, working with the Senior Center Foundation for a needs assessment, and Senior Center programming.

### **Personnel Committee**

Mr. Fantini reported from the Personnel Committee meeting held August 16th. The topics discussed included a hiring and recruiting update, July entry level police oral board results, personnel policy updates to include a formal telecommuting policy, a proposed code of ethics for the City Council, a NeoGov recruitment platform

update, an enterprise resource planning application replacement update, upcoming police guild negotiations, and the Washington state exempt salary threshold update.

### **Public Comment**

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

Public comment was given as follows:

Lori Maul of Anacortes thanked the city and community groups for their support of her businesses during the successful summer festival season.

### **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 August 12, 2024

b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$1,394,658.75

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 110176 through 110219, total \$1,221,613.33

Check numbers: 110220 through 110256, total \$153,672.15

Wire transfer numbers: 352672 through 352950, total \$19,373.27

c. Special Event Application: Anacortes Half Marathon & 5K

### **Public Hearings**

#### **Public Hearing on Increasing Solid Waste Rates**

At 6:23 pm, Mayor Miller opened the advertised public hearing on increasing solid waste rates. Public Works Director Andrew Rheume detailed the increases, 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.

Discussion topics included:

- Yard waste and recycling rates with Waste Management and contract options.
- Proportional versus 50% increase for the 21-gallon tote.
- What is actually recyclable? Education on what is acceptable.
- Legislative action to define recycling - Zero Waste Washington web page.
- Waste Management website Recycling 101.
- The county's website is out of date on the location of county waste - via truck and rail to a landfill in Oregon.
- Organics management - does Waste Management have a program to divert yard and food waste from the solid waste system - a centralized drop-off point for food waste.
- Stepped increases for solid waste.
- Incentivize the public to divert waste from the solid waste stream.
- Other opportunities to adjust rates.

### **Other Business**

#### **Contract Award: 2024 Sewer Mains Replacement #24-112-SEW-001**

Public Works Director Andrew Rheume introduced the proposed contract award for the 2024 Sewer Mains

Replacement #24-112-SEW-001 to RAW Land Construction LLC, referring to a map of the project area that was included in the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Inflow and infiltration annual budget.

BRUCE MCDOUGALL moved, seconded by ANTHONY YOUNG, to authorize the mayor to sign contract #24-112-SEW-001 with RAW Land Construction LLC.

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

**Contract Modification: Water System Plan Update #21-173-WTR-001**

Public Works Director Andrew Rheume introduced the proposed contract modification for the Water System Plan Update #21-173-WTR-001 with Carollo Engineers, Inc, detailing the modifications to the project scope of work, including the addition of the South Fidalgo water service area, revised fire flow requirements, and writing additional chapters of the water system plan that city staff are either unable or unqualified to write.

ANTHONY YOUNG moved, seconded by AMANDA HUBIK, to authorize the mayor to sign the modification to contract #21-173-WTR-001 with Carollo Engineers, Inc.

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

**Contract Award: Whistle Lake High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Risk Assessment #24-229-ENG-001**

Public Works Director Andrew Rheume introduced the proposed contract award for the Whistle Lake High Hazard Potential Dam Risk Assessment #24-229-ENG-001 with Cowling and Company LLC.

Discussion topics included:

- What determines the amount of reimbursement?
- The history of how to approach the dam improvement project.
- Keeping the council informed as the project progresses.
- Ensuring that the dam does not fail.
- Alternatives analysis
- Significant amount of money.
- Building another dam downstream.
- What if the city does nothing?
- Additional funding sources for future phases of the project.
- The water fund also pays for a portion of the project.

AMANDA HUBIK moved, seconded by BRUCE MCDOUGALL, to authorize the mayor to sign contract #24-229-ENG-001 with Cowling and Company LLC.

Vote: Ayes - ANTHONY YOUNG, RYAN WALTERS, CHRISTINE CLELAND-MCGRATH, BRUCE MCDOUGALL, AMANDA HUBIK, TJ FANTINI. Nays - CAROLYN MOULTON. Result: Passed

**Interlocal Agreement #24-228-PRK-001 with Skagit County for Depot Plaza Expansion Funding**

Parks and Recreation Director Jonn Lunsford introduced the proposed interlocal agreement #24-228-PRK-001 with Skagit County for Depot Plaza expansion funding, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Appreciation for staff effort.
- Cost-saving measures could be implemented.
- Project inclusion in the Capital Facilities Plan.
- Additional funding sources for the project.
- Working with the Port to make it an integrated project.
- Where will refuse containers be stored?
- Will conex boxes be part of the conversation?

TJ FANTINI moved, seconded by AMANDA HUBIK, to authorize the mayor to sign interlocal agreement #24-228-PRK-001 with Skagit County for Depot Plaza Expansion Funding.

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

**Ordinance 4086: Amending AMC Titles 15, 17, and 19 for the Purpose of Renumbering and Removal of Expired Provisions**

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Director John Coleman introduced proposed ordinance 4086 that would amend Anacortes Municipal Code titles 15, 17, and 19 for the purpose of renumbering and removal of expired provisions, detailing the specific provisions of the ordinance. Mr. Walters added that it is important to accomplish this now so that the Council is working from a properly numbered code.

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

TJ FANTINI moved, seconded by ANTHONY YOUNG, to waive the two-read rule and approve Ordinance 4086 as presented.

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

**Review of Planning Committee's Housing Action Plan Recommendations**

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Director John Coleman opened the discussion on a review of the Planning Committee's Housing Action Plan recommendations.

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

Discussion topics included:

- Adopted Housing Action Plan as a menu.
- Additional vetting by the Planning Commission and opportunity for public comment.
- When will owner-occupied short-term rentals be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan review process?
- When would the multifamily tax exemption program be discussed?
- Developers would prefer a sales tax exemption.
- Impact fees for accessory dwelling units (ADUs).
- Impact fees are not part of development regulations and will not be part of the Comprehensive Plan review process.
- Not limiting the public from addressing any issue before the Planning Commission.

- The reason not to study integration of work force housing into the industrial zone.
- Group living.
- Single room occupancy housing definition.
- Highest priority impact items of the Housing Action Plan.
- ADUs are a housing type, short-term rental is a use.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, at approximately 08:01 PM p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of August 19, 2024 was adjourned.