

Anacortes City Council Minutes - January 27, 2025

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tempore Carolyn Moulton called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of January 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers TJ Fantini, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, and Bruce McDougall were present. Councilmember Amanda Hubik participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom. 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 Pro Tempore Moulton announced that the Anacortes Senior Activity Center published a survey to understand community needs related to social programming, which will be available through February 28th via mailers with a QR code in utility billing, fliers with the QR code distributed at various locations throughout town, paper copies at key community partner locations, and on the [city](#) and [Senior Center](#) website. She then announced an upcoming community meeting regarding the potential park at West 6th Street and Minnesota Avenue on Thursday January 30th at 6pm at the Senior Center. Mayor Pro Tempore Moulton concluded by announcing that the Skagit Habitat for Humanity, who are building eight homes in town, will hold an affordable housing orientation Saturday March 1st at 11am at the Senior Center.

Planning Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Planning Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included the Habitat for Humanity Parkside Cottages project (more information can be found at skagithabitat.com), which includes eight units located across from Storvik Park, and the shoreline substantial permit process and possible exemptions related to a port electrification grant. Mayor Pro Tempore Moulton added that the Habitat for Humanity cottages are open to single individuals and couples.

Public Comment

Mayor Pro Tempore Moulton invited the public to comment on any item not on the agenda.

Public comment was given as follows:

Linnea McCord of Anacortes spoke about government budget priorities in light of the recent California wildfires, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes of January 21, 2025

b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$2,118,939.99

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 111541 through 111547, total \$1,253,260.69

Check numbers: 111575 through 111590, total \$783,327.91

Wire transfer numbers: 362259 through 362333, total \$82,351.39

c. Special Event: Open Streets

Other Business

Stormwater Master Plan

Public Works Director Andrew Rheume introduced Tarelle Osborn, PE, Project Manager, Jessica Christofferson, Senior Stormwater Planner, and Dave Jacobs, PE, Senior Stormwater Modeler, of Osborn Consulting, and Stormwater Manager Aaron Esterholt, who presented the 2025 Stormwater Master Plan, referring to a slide presentation that was included in the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

Overview

- Definition of an unknown barrier for fish passage.
- Department of Transportation has until 2030 to address fish passage barriers.

Modeling

- Data for rainfall - use of Department of Ecology versus City of Anacortes sources.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Compliance

- Tree canopy plans are needed and required.
- Stormwater management for existing development.
- Street sweeping
 - Target high priority areas.
 - Keeps dirt and sediment out of water ways and stormwater system.
 - Improves water quality.
 - Inexpensive compared to other capital facilities.
- Public involvement for overburdened communities
 - Areas still to be identified

Capital Facilities Projects

- Not all capital facilities projects are included in the Capital Facilities Plan.
- Stormwater utility revenue
 - Storm utility increased to a total budgeted amount of \$766k for 2025.
 - Where is the remaining funding for utility revenue that would equal the total annual operating budget of \$3.1 million.
- Stormwater survey
 - 24 responses thus far.
- What the public can do to affect stormwater quality and be less impactful.

Next Steps

- Public engagement and importance of caring about stormwater.
- Maximize resources that we have to address the issues.
- Plan action item priorities.
 - Schedule a Council work session to determine.
- Stormwater pipe inspection priorities.
- Reactive stormwater handling processes.
- Updated inventory of projects is important.

- Important due to increased density.
- Exemption requirement for the downtown core.
- South Commercial Avenue - stormwater system is not prone to flooding.
- Appreciation for scientific data that considers climate change effects on the system over the next 75 years.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 7:13 pm the Anacortes City Council meeting of January 27, 2025, was adjourned.