

Anacortes City Council Minutes - March 24, 2025

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of March 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers TJ Fantini, Ryan Walters, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, and Amanda Hubik were present.

Councilmember Hubik participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Councilmember McDougall was absent. Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Young to excuse Mr. McDougall, motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

The Mayor reminded everyone that March 31 was a 5th Monday and no Council meeting would be held. He also told citizens the US Navy was welcoming comments on the draft amended analysis of the Environmental Impact Statement related to the E-18G Growler of NAS Whidbey; There will be 2 open houses on April 1 and 2 in Oak Harbor, and a virtual meeting on April 3rd. More information can be found at: www.nepa.navy.mil/growler.

Falconer - Caitlyn O'Neill

Public Works director Andy Rheume introduced the Falconer Caitlyn O'Neill with AirStrike, who then introduced the falcon Crash, who is a Harris hawk, and is being used to non lethally mitigate the congregation of seagulls around city hall, and should effect a radius of several blocks. She explained that she brings Crash around City Hall multiple times a week, and the birds (seagulls) are predator averse, and are reluctant to nest in areas that they consistently see these birds of prey. Kaitlyn answered a number of questions from the council, and Crash endured pictures from the staff.

Planning Committee

Mr. Walters reported from the Planning Committee meeting held directly before the Council meeting. The topics discussed included the local sub division process; the prior weeks Comprehensive Plan open house; and the Planning Commission briefing on the Climate oriented Planning Committee on the new Climate Element of the Comp Plan. He also talked about a Northstar housing symposium on Friday June 6 at the Swinomish Casino. Mr Walters also said he would be hosting an open house the following day Tuesday the 25th at 4:00 PM at the Library to discuss the upcoming hospital special levy, and the Guemes ferry haul out.

Public Comment

Theresa Baker of Anacortes shared that some people in the community believe that the council operated in an opaque manner. She suggested perhaps the Council could provide a written update monthly to let the community know the actions that the Council has taken. She suggested many topics are discussed in public forums but the final outcomes to those issues are sometimes not evident to the community.

Xuhua Mu of Anacortes made comments related to the Comp Plan open house the prior week, as well as the climate element that will be coming up later in the week. She suggested that more effective community interaction would be obtained if the consultant's materials are provided in advance for future open houses; this would enable more meaningful discussion and interaction.

Consent Agenda

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

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 112024 through 112058, total \$380,833.01

Check numbers: 112060 through 112075, total \$231,293.29

Wire transfer numbers: 365695 through 3665798, total \$23,500.72

Minutes of March 17, 2025

Approval of claims in the amount of \$635,627.02

Contract Award: Eagle View Court Sewer Service Project - Survey & Analysis #25-097-SEW-001

Special Event: Anacortes Waterfront Festival and Car Show

Special Event: Whale of a Sale

Other Business

Parks and Recreation Update

Mr. Lunsford addressed the Council with a slide deck that provided a number of pictures, as well as statistical and other information about the Parks Department. Divisions within the Parks department that were covered by the update included the Anacortes Senior Activity Center (ASAC), and he explained the many events put on at the ASAC. He also presented Recreation events, including the upcoming Egg Dash on April 11, kids fishing derby on May 31, Bark in the Park on June 14, and Kids R Best July 12. He also showed pictures and explained the activities of the Arts Commission. He also explained the Forestland Issues, and development of the ACFL Plan are currently underway. The Grandview Cemetery policy update was also taking place. Mr. Lunsford also talked about the Skatepark, and the status of the as-of-yet unbuilt parking lot and restroom, for which the MJB corporation gave the city \$1M to help accomplish those projects. Mr. Lunsford also talked about the Maritime Plaza, presenting a design concept. That project has a grant lined up, and will go to bid later in the year after the festival season. He also talked about the Thompson Trail project, and on April 7 there will be a cooperative meeting held, presented in conjunction with the tribe. He also touched on work being done on the Ship Harbor trail that was destroyed by a King tide a few years back, and staff are currently searching for grant funding to repair that area. He also touched on Heart Lake shoreline restoration. He also talked about the Community Recreation Center, and informed the Council of an April 8 meeting at City Hall to further discuss the concept. The Altair Americus park was discussed and future plans for the "long overdue work" to be done there. Storvik small courts work will begin in the next 30 to 60 days. Mr. Lunsford answered questions about how the Parks department has communicated with local citizens about that upcoming work. He also gave an update on the Cap Sante lookout and the planned April 16th opening of the lookout. He also provided a pickle ball update. Mr. Lunsford wrapped up with discussion about the West End park, which is currently in the design / concept stage, results of which will be taken back to the public, likely within the next 8 weeks.

Contract Award: 2025 Waterline Replacements #25-036-WTR-001

Public Works Director Rheaume introduced the contract for the annual waterline replacement program, the contract award to low bidder SummitX. Mr. Rheaume explained the areas of the City that will be replaced, and how the selection was made. Mr. Walters clarified that these areas have a history of breaking pipes, and were planned for future overlays. Mr. Walters also asked why other areas in the same neighborhood of the same pipe vintage were not included in the area, and further discussion of pipe area selection was discussed. Mr. Young made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Fantini, the motion passed unanimously.

Contract Award: Chevrolet Trucks Purchase #25-074-ERR-001

Operations Manager WiL Ludeman presented the contract for the purchase of 5 Chevrolet pickups. These are replacement vehicles and replacement funds out of the ERR fund are being used for the purchase. Ms. Moulton clarified these would not increase the City fleet. Mr. Walters also clarified that one of the vehicles is a hand me down that was surplussed out of the ERR budget in the past, and is being replaced as a Fleet vehicle that will actually get added to the ERR budget.

Contract Award: Microsoft Enterprise Agreement - Office 365 Renewal #25-093-ITS-001

Administrative Services Director presented the Microsoft agreement for Office 365. This is the 3rd year of a 3 year agreement, and is a budgeted expense. She also explained it is a SaaS agreement (Software as a Service). Ms. Cleland-McGrath made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Fantini, the motion passed unanimously.

Contract Modification: March's Point Road Water Main and Bike Lane Project – Design #24-159-ENG-001

Public Works Director Andy Rheaume presented a contract modification related to the March's Point waterline project. He explained the project has been complicated by the eroding road conditions. Mr. Walters asked for clarification on the status of bike lanes on the project which Mr. Rheaume clarified. Ms. Hubik made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Ms. Moulton, motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 4097: Adopting AMC Chapter 10.14 Regarding Temporary Street Closures and Restrictions

City Attorney Darcy Swetnam presented some slides as well as a draft ordinance regarding the closure and restriction of street usage for heavy hauls through the City of Anacortes, and how to deal with street clearing and closures that need to take place from time to time. The presented ordinance will allow the City to close streets, and police to clear the area when necessary, without the Council having to adopt emergency resolutions as seen in the past. Council had discussion on the issue generally with City staff on the topic. Mr. Walters recognized there was a heavy haul scheduled for the coming week, and he made a motion to waive the 2-read rule, seconded by Mr. Young, the motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Walters then moved to adopt the ordinance with the following changes: replace section 2 with an emergency enactment clause to make it effective immediately; remove sections 10.14.040(A)(1) and 10.14.040(A)(2), and remove the word "regular" from Section 10.14.040(B). Ms. Hubik seconded the motion. The ordinance passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 7:56 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of March 24, 2025 was adjourned.