Anacortes City Council Minutes - June 9, 2025

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the June 9, 2025, Anacortes City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. Council members Ryan Walters, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, and Carolyn Moulton were present.

Councilmembers TJ Fantini, Amanda Hubik, and Bruce McDougall were absent.

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

Ms. Moulton moved, seconded by Ms. Cleland-McGrath, to excuse the absence of Mr. McDougall and Ms. Hubik. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller announced a Fiber outage over the weekend and referred to Ms Schuh for more details, who went onto explain the department has an expectation for a high level of service and took significant effort to resolve the issue. She went on to explain how staff worked straight through until after midnight Friday, and were back in the office by 8:00 AM, and finally resolved the issue by Saturday afternoon. She explained it was all hands on deck for answering phones and working the issue, as the City Fiber department is local in all aspects, including local city staff up to and including the department director, answering the phones, taking messages, responding to email, and working toward issue resolution.

Mr. Miller also reported a successful waterfront festival, as well as a successful Northstar meeting the prior Friday. Mr. Walters also commented on the Northstar housing issue, as did Ms. Moulton and Ms. Cleland-McGrath.

Mr. Miller also announced Tuesday June 10 is the high school parade, and this coming weekend is the Bark in the Park festival, celebrating dogs of all types, at Storvik Park.

Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee

Ms. Moulton reported from the Housing Affordability and Community Services Committee meeting held June 4th. She reported they met with the Anacortes Housing Authority, and discussed the Bayview property, and the complex tax credit program that enables the property to be rented out at low-income rates. She also reported there was $380K in potential CDBG funding potentially available in the coming year. She also talked about the cold weather shelter, and the distribution of county awards for housing assistance.

Planning Committee

Mr. Walters reported from the Planning Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included discussion of changing the square footage requirements for private structures, currently at 144 Sq Ft, with the Committee ultimately deciding to bring the changes forward for further discussion. Also discussed was the state building code and how it relates to the City building code; as well as refunding permit fees, as described in HB2023, which will be discussed further in the future.

Port/ City Liaison Committee

Mr. Walters reported from the Port / City Liaison Committee meeting held June 3rd. The topics discussed included the interlocal for the events center; and an update on the large tanks being stored near the Port waterfront.

Public Safety Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Public Safety Committee meeting held June 3rd. The topics discussed included the Police department being able to make progress on staffing and finally filling the first of 5 positions that were authorized with the additional funding from Proposition 1 property tax levy lid lift.

She also explained the issue with Sig Sauer handguns, and the Criminal Justice Center in Arlington banning them from their premises, as there is a perception of involuntary discharge of some of those handguns, although it's widely accepted that it is impossible for a handgun to spontaneously go off. Be that as it may, the *CIC* is where the city sends its new officers for training and therefore must comply with the change to continue using the Center. The APD is therefore in the process of transitioning from Sig Saur handguns to a different service weapon. She also reported that the school district has indicated they cannot afford to pay its portion of the school resource officer salary in the future, so there will be more discussion about funding for that discussion during the upcoming budget season.

Mr. Young explained that Pride month is coming up with a parade, and to mitigate concerns about some elements of the population that could be involved, and to ensure everyone feels taken care of, he reached out to the Public Safety chiefs, and was assured the City public safety officers will do what is necessary to ensure anyone coming to town will feel safe.

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

a. Minutes of June 2, 2025

b. Approval of claims in the amount of $670,645.01

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
EFT numbers: 112673 through 112717, total $563,927.44
Check numbers: 112718 through 112732, total $47,522.59
Wire transfer numbers: 370289 through 370586, total $59,194.98

c. Contract Award: Ben Root Skate Park Restroom & Parking Lot Project - Design #25-136-PRK-001

Closed Record Decision Hearing

Closed Record Decision Hearing for SDP-2025-0001 - Curtis Wharf Shore Powe1· & Pump Out (Port of Anacortes)

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Director John Coleman introduced the closed record decision hearing for SDP-2025-0001 - Curtis Wharf Shore Power and Pump Out for the applicant, the Port of Anacortes, and referred to a slide presentation that was included in the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Shore Power, to power boats while at the dock to avoid diesel motors running to run generators.
- Installing a pump out, to pump effluent out of the boats to the city wastewater plant.
- He explained the zoning in place fits the request.
- He presented a timeline of the application, which started in February of this year.

Staff recommended approval with conditions, most of which are boiler plate, and are included in the Council packet. The permit would have a 5-year timeframe for the permit to be completed, otherwise the project would require reapplication. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval of the permit.

Ms. Moulton asked if there was a hookup or GFC charge for use of the pump out. Mr. Coleman outlined the cost requirements identified in the city code that would be effective, and city attorney Ms. Swetnam explained the process for developing industrial waste charges. Mr. Walters asked the estimate cost of the project, which is $2.5M.

Ryan Walters moved, seconded by Anthony Young, to approve Shoreline Substantial Development Permit SDP-2025-0001 subject to the conditions of approval recommended by the Planning Commission as they are written in the staff report dated May 22, 2025.
Vote: Ayes - Carolyn Moulton, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath. Nays - None. Abstentions - None. Result: Passed

Other Business

2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update - Progress Update

Planning, Community, and Economic Development (PCED) Director John Coleman provided a progress update on the 2025 Comprehensive Plan periodic update process.

He started out by providing the City's website explaining all material related to the Comp Plan update that was available on the City's website. Mr. Coleman then went on to explain why the update was taking place, and what elements of the Comp Plan were being reviewed and updated. He went on to explain how the updates that are implemented make their way into city development regulations.

Mr. Walters pointed out there was not a lot of time left in the year, and it would be wise to maximize the council et al efforts to make the best use of that limited time.

Mr. Coleman reiterated the communication options the public must stay informed on the Comp Plan update, and including the PCED Facebook page.

Mr. Coleman provided a full list of next steps, laying out the current timeframe for final adoption.

Mayor Miller invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item. Ms. Courtney Orrock from Anacortes asked if the new documents released would have track changes to make it clear what is changing. Mr. Coleman confirmed that indeed track changes was standard practice for this process and would be adhered to.

Mr. Walters expressed appreciation of the clarity of the robust population of documents provided, as well as the summary topics from the various events. He expressed the importance of councilmembers reviewing the update independently prior to it coming before the full Council for consideration.

Contract Award: WTP Intake Station Condition Assessment #25-165-WTR-001

Water System Manager Terry Nemeth introduced proposed contract #25-165-WTR-001 with HDR Engineering, Inc. to perform a condition assessment of the existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Intake Pump Station, including the structural and mechanical features identifying deficiencies and the associated criticality of the project along with the consequences of failure.

Mr. Nemeth explained some of the pumps have been replaced over the years, but the structure itself, built in the 1970's, has not been evaluated before. Mr. Walters identified the intake as a single point of failure of the water treatment process and asked if there were others. Mr. Nemeth responded that he thought this was the last single point of failure. Mr. Walters expressed his support for ensuring redundant systems in the water treatment process.

Carolyn Moulton moved, seconded by Anthony Young, to authorize the Mayor to sign contract 25-165-WTR-001 with HDR Engineering, Inc. for $132,884.00 to perform the WTP Intake Pump Station Condition Assessment.
Vote: Ayes - Carolyn Moulton, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath. Nays - None. Abstentions - None. Result: Passed

Contract Award: 17th Street Drainage Improvement Project- Design #25-166-STM-001

Stormwater Manager Aaron Esterholt introduced proposed contract #25-166-STM-001 with Osborn Consulting, Inc. to provide design services for the 17th Street Drainage Improvement Project. Mr. Esterholt explained this project was approved in the city budget and is a critical drainage for a large basin along Q Avenue. He went on to explain once MJB finishes their construction in that area, the city will lose access to that drainage through the easement currently available to the city. This project would also move the pipe to a preferable location, allowing future access. Mr. Esterholt went on to demonstrate the location on a map and answer several questions from Council members. Mr. Walters expressed his support for the project for a variety of reasons.

Anthony Young moved, seconded by Carolyn Moulton, to authorize the mayor to sign contract 25-166-STM-001 with Osborn Consulting, Inc. in the amount of $144,660.00 to perform the design of the 17th Street Drainage Improvement Project.
Vote: Ayes - Carolyn Moulton, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath. Nays - None. Abstentions - None. Result: Passed

Amendment to Interlocal Agreement #24-282-PLN-001 with the Washington State Department of Commerce for Paper to Digital Permitting Grant

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Director John Coleman introduced a proposed amendment to interlocal agreement #24-282-PLN-001 with the Washington State Department of Commerce for Paper to Digital Permitting Grant. This is a no-cost modification to change the end date of the contract. Mr. Coleman pointed out the reason it's being presented as other business as opposed to the consent agenda is because interlocal agreements, as opposed to standard contracts, at this time require presentation under other business, according to the current Council Procedures.

Ryan Walters moved, seconded by Christine Cleland-McGrath, to authorize the mayor to execute Amendment A to Interlocal Cooperation Agreement 24-282-PLN-001 between the City of Anacortes and Washington State Department of Commerce.
Vote: Ayes - Carolyn Moulton, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath. Nays - None. Abstentions - None. Result: Passed

Adjournment

The mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:25 PM.