

Anacortes City Council Minutes - June 16, 2025

Call to Order

Mayor Matt Miller called to order the June 16, 2025, Anacortes City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers TJ Fantini, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, and Amanda Hubik were present. Councilmembers Anthony Young and Bruce McDougall were absent.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Miller thanked the staff and council for the lively discussion during the budget retreat last Thursday and noted that several members of the public had attended the event. He then announced that Washington State Ferries had recently switched to its summer schedule and that Thursday, June 19th city offices will be closed in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. He also mentioned that Saturday, June 21st will be the Pride Parade from 11am-3pm downtown and ending at Causland Park, and that the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance will host an Experience Day at Seafarers Memorial Park from 10am-2pm.

Mr. Fantini thanked the Parks and Recreation department for a successful Bark in the Park event over the weekend, and he recounted an initial meeting with the new police canine, Zeke.

Public Works Committee

Mayor Miller announced that the public works committee meeting scheduled for earlier in the evening was canceled.

Swearing in of Firefighter-EMT Matthew Rutz and Firefighter-Paramedic Sonny Gibson

Fire Chief Bill Harris introduced Firefighter-EMT Matthew Rutz and Firefighter-Paramedic Sonny Gibson. Mayor Miller then administered the oath of office to Firefighter-EMT Matthew Rutz and Firefighter-Paramedic Sonny Gibson. Many members of the Fire Department and their families were present at the event.

Public Comment

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

Public comment was given as follows:

Courtney Orrock of Anacortes addressed the 'committee of the whole' concept and suggested that the council consider changing the general committee structure to improve knowledge within the council and transparency with the community.

Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes of June 9, 2025

b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$822,186.52

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 112733 through 112785, total \$561,724.43
Check numbers: 112786 through 112810, total \$223,566.56
Wire transfer numbers: 370706 through 370980, total \$36,89
c. Contract Modification: Fire Station 1 Remodel - Design #25-035-AFD-001

Public Hearings

Ordinance 5001: Transportation Improvement Program

At 6:11 pm, Mayor Miller opened the public hearing on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Public Works Director Andrew Rheume introduced proposed Ordinance 5001 that would establish the city's Transportation Improvement Program, referring to an electronic copy of the draft plan that was included in the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Annual funding sources - funded or unfunded projects
 - Funded versus unfunded labels are confusing.
 - Funded status by shade color in each cell with color legend
 - Change the color of potential grant funding labels to something other than red.
- Annual pavement management program
 - Not spending funds in 2025 due to repaving the southern part of Commercial Avenue and adding funds for 2026 and real estate excise tax.
 - Breakdown of spending on the South Commercial Avenue project.
- #3 Annual Sidewalks and Bikeways
 - Q Avenue 7th to 11th & 4th to 7th Street
 - Will there be bulbouts? Probably not.
- #5 Kansas Avenue Multimodal Connection
 - Clarify language regarding the design funding.
 - Segment from West 2nd to West 3rd will be done to standards.
 - Including the entire corridor rather than the single block.
 - Traffic safety assessments may change the design.
- #8 Oakes Avenue Active Transportation Safety Improvements
 - Improving the area incrementally
- #10 Anacortes Safe Routes to School
 - How will 22nd Street improvements look? Will there still be parking?
 - Needs to be included for a chance to obtain grant funding.
- #12 Fidalgo Bay Road Reconstruction
 - Is the local funding assured?
 - It is a Samish Indian Nation grant that is not yet certain.
 - Call it out separately from local funding.
- #14 Guemes Channel Trail Phases 2, 3, 4
 - Local funding source?
 - Environmental Impact Study funding did not come through.
- Present the information in the TIP in a similar format to the Capital Facilities Plan.

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

Other Business

Facility Condition Assessment Progress Update

Public Works Director Andrew Rheaume introduced Mark of McKinstry who delivered the Facility Condition Assessment Progress Update, 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. No one present wished to address the Council.

Discussion topics included:

- Support for maintaining the Excel file if it breaks.
 - It will require staff time to maintain the database.

Update on Supreme Court's Decision Regarding Indigent Defense Caseload Standards

Administrative Services Director Emily Schuh provided an update on the Washington State Supreme Court's decision regarding indigent defense caseload standards, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Ordinance 5002 - Amend Municipal Code Chapter 2.18 regarding Indigent Defense Services

Administrative Services Director Emily Schuh introduced Ordinance 5002 that would amend Anacortes Municipal Code chapter 2.18 regarding indigent defense services, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Add a recital that specifies that sections being deleted are covered in the Supreme Court guidance or ethics rules.
- To be brought back on the consent agenda for the June 23rd regular meeting.

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

Contract Award: North Line Repair Project #24-166-WTR-002

Public Works Director Andrew Rheaume introduced proposed contract 24-166-WTR-002 with Strider Construction Co., Inc. for the amount of \$1,835,340.00 to perform the North Line Repair Project, referring to an overhead view of the project location that was included in the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Why did the sinkhole occur?
 - It can happen during flooding events in a river valley due to unstable ground.

Ryan Walters moved, seconded by Amanda Hubik, to authorize the Mayor to sign contract 24-166-WTR-002 with Strider Construction Co., Inc. for the amount of \$1,835,340.00 to perform the North Line Repair Project. Vote: Ayes - Carolyn Moulton, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Amanda Hubik, TJ Fantini. Nays - None. Abstentions - None. Result: Passed

Termination of Latecomer Agreement 18-012-DEV-001 with RR Summit NW, LLC

Public Works Director Andrew Rheaume introduced the proposed termination of latecomer agreement 18-012-DEV-001 with RR Summit NW, LLC.

Amanda Hubik moved, seconded by Ryan Walters, to authorize the Mayor to terminate latecomer agreement 18-012-DEV-001 between the City of Anacortes and RR Summit NW, LLC.

Vote: Ayes - Carolyn Moulton, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Amanda Hubik, TJ Fantini. Nays - None. Abstentions - None. Result: Passed

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 7:16 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of June 16, 2025 was adjourned.