

City Council Minutes – February 27, 2017

Mayor Laurie Gere called to order the regular Anacortes City Council meeting of February 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Eric Johnson, Ryan Walters, Erica Pickett, Brad Adams, Liz Lovelett, John Archibald and Matt Miller were present. The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Finance Director Steve Hoglund reported that at its meeting the prior Wednesday the committee began reviewing year end figures for 2016. He said he would report on that topic to the full Council in March.

Planning Committee: Mr. Walters reported from the committee meeting earlier in the evening at which the members reviewed hearing examiner applications. He said two of the applicants would be invited to interview.

Following her trip to southern California, Ms. Lovelett expressed her appreciation for the clean water and air Anacortes enjoys.

Public Comment

No one present wished to address Council on any topic not already on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Lovelett removed Item 5d from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve the following Consent Agenda items. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- a. Minutes of February 21, 2017
- b. Approval of Claims in the amount of: \$433,807.89
- c. Contract Award: Heart Lake Road Repair

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
EFT numbers: 83862 through 83933 and 83977, total \$181,547.11
Check numbers: 83934 through 83976, total \$219,403.06
Wire transfer numbers: 212695 through 213468, total \$32,314.58

- d. **Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision: CUP-2016-1004, Conditional Use Permit Application to Permit Lot #2 of a Proposed Two-lot Short Plat to be Served by a Twenty Foot Wide Private Street within a Twenty-two Foot Wide Private Easement**

Ms. Lovelett said that because she had not been present at the February 21, 2017 meeting at which Council voted to approve the subject CUP application, she would abstain from voting on the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision. Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Ms. Pickett, to approve Consent Agenda Item 5d. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Ms. Lovelett abstaining.

OTHER BUSINESS

Conservation Easement Program Update

Operations & Forestlands Manager Jonn Lunsford presented a proposal to prepare Conservation Easement documents for an additional 124 acres of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Referring to

his memorandum included in the packet materials for the meeting, Mr. Lunsford recalled Council discussions in 2013 and 2014 regarding protection of 160 acres purchased from the sewer fund. He reported that recent generous bequests to the CEP had provided sufficient funding to also issue easements for the Udd and Van Buren properties that had been purchased and added to the ACFL since that time. Ms. Pickett summarized the history of the easement program and explained the dual aims of the program, to permanently protect the ACFL from sale or development and to build an endowment to generate future revenue to support forestland stewardship. Mr. Lunsford responded to councilmember questions regarding the current size of the endowment fund, annual forestland operating expenses, and opportunities for future land purchases. He said that if Council concurred, staff would work with the Skagit Land Trust to create easement documents for the 124 acres, then bring those back to Council for final approval prior to recording them with Skagit County.

Mayor Gere invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item.

Rick Haley, 6001 Sands Way, a member of the Forest Advisory Board when the CEP was instituted in 1998, called the program one of the best ideas the town had ever had. He said the intent was to build the endowment so that its interest earnings could help support forestland expenses if the city's finances were one day to require that but that current interest rates did not allow that. Mr. Haley said the program continued to mirror the community's support of the forestlands and he thanked Council for supporting it.

There being no further business, at approximately 6:30 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of February 27, 2017 was adjourned.