

**Town of Coupeville  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 23, 2007  
6:30 p.m.**

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Nancy Conard, Councilmembers Dianne Binder, Marshall Bronson, Bob Clay, Molly Hughes, and Jim Phay.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Public Works Director Malcolm Bishop, Town Marshal Lenny Marlborough, Clerk Treasurer Judy Thomas

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2006 were approved as submitted.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Mayor Conard noted two discussion items to be added to the agenda, as follows:

1. Discussion of request from WSU Beachwatchers for project at the Coupeville Wharf
2. Discussion of choices on new police cars

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Conard congratulated Lenny Marlborough for his achievement in receiving the executive management certification through the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. She noted that the certification is a great contributing factor to the Town and the Marshal's department.
- She thanked Councilmember Molly Hughes for donating a large bin, which was filled with games for use at the emergency shelter.
- She gave a short report of the court decision on the Oh Oh, Inc. vs. The Town of Coupeville which was heard on January 19, 2007. The judge ruled that the Town's decision to rezone the site was legal and that Oh Oh, Inc. did not provide any facts to support their claim that there were 31 violations by the Town against the comprehensive plan. The case has been resolved unless Oh Oh, Inc. decides to appeal the court decision.
- She noted that businesses along Front Street are working to develop a Main Street organization and have applied to the State of Washington. CTED (Community Trade and Economic Development) will be making a site visit to Coupeville in February. The name of the new organization is Coupeville Historical Waterfront Association, and they will be working with Penn Cove Shellfish Company to run the upcoming mussel festival in March.
- Puget Sound Energy (PSE) will be making a presentation to the Council of Governments, tomorrow (January 24<sup>th</sup>) to discuss power on Whidbey Island, how to manage power outages, and underground power lines. PSE will be meeting in Langley tomorrow evening to discuss power issues on South Whidbey.

**AUDIENCE INPUT**

Matt from Oak Harbor Boy Scout Troop 465 introduced himself and explained that he was observing a council meeting and was here with his troop leader.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of the Special Event Permit Application for the Whidbey Island Marathon on April 15, 2007** - *Staff recommends approval of the 2007 Whidbey Island Marathon Special Events permit with recommendations as listed in 1 through 8 of the Marshal's Staff Report.*

Marshal Marlborough explained that this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the marathon and that it has grown every year, with last year having approximately 2,300 participants, and this year they expect about 3,000 participants. Councilmember Hughes suggested adding a requirement to the application that the applicant must provide dumpsters and portable toilets (these will be provided by applicant for this event). Councilmember Clay noted that the marathon is good for the Town and for businesses.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Bronson, to approve the 2007 Whidbey Island Marathon Special Events permit with recommendations as listed in 1 through 8 of the Marshal's Staff Report. The motion passed 5-0.

**Approval of January Claims Vouchers** - *Staff recommends approval of January 23, 2007 claims vouchers/warrants #19411 through #19476 for \$168,369.98.*

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the January 23, 2007 claims vouchers/warrants #19411 through #19476 for \$168,369.98. The motion passed 5-0.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Ms. Thomas explained that she expects to close out the year by Thursday of this week.

Marshal Marlborough explained that they had 257 cases in 2006 and the majority of those cases are closed. He noted that people feel safe in their homes and that is our goal. Councilmember Bronson noted that our police department works very hard and they have integrated well into the community.

Mr. Bishop explained that divers will be checking and cleaning the diffusers for the wastewater treatment plant. He explained that the recent power outages provided good practice for a disaster; as we went through all the steps from putting generators on-line, setting up the emergency shelter, and adding an electrical connection for a generator at the Rec Hall. He added that the maintenance crew is chipping the downed branches from the storm.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Hughes attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting which included the installation of new officers and noted that they all seemed enthused. She met with the Water Festival Association and they've begun planning for this year's Water Festival, scheduled for May 12, 2007.

Councilmember Binder spoke about the county tourism committee and that they are waiting for the figures from the State on the 2% hotel/motel funds for this year. The committee chair is

currently at a tourism conference and she noted that that we are promoting ourselves, together with the San Juan Islands, as the Washington State Islands.

Councilmember Bronson announced that Ebey's Landing National Trust has hired a new director, Mark Price, and he will begin on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted that Professor Don Petering from the University of Oregon will be leading a study on the historic buildings within the Ebey's Reserve, which will be completed by this summer.

Councilmember Clay gave the Island Transit report through November 2006. He added that they welcomed John Dean to the Board, he replaced Bill Byrd. He noted some of the 2006 statistics with Ridership being up 11%, to 3,463 people per day, on the entire system; which includes the new run from Camano to Everett. The total miles traveled by the buses and van pools from January through November were 2,333,740 miles. The cost of diesel fuel was up 3.5% and unleaded fuel was up 23%. Ridership is up and everything is going pretty good with Island Transit. He will be attending the Law and Justice Council meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>. He responded to a question about the use of bio-diesel for the buses, that the buses were unable to operate with bio-diesel, and therefore Island Transit can not use bio-diesel. Mayor Conard noted that the Town is looking at converting the maintenance vehicles so they can use bio-diesel.

### **AUDIENCE INPUT**

David Day explained that he was amazed at the work Malcolm and his staff do and he thought that many people would be interested in getting a tour of the water treatment and the wastewater treatment facilities.

Mayor Conard called for a recess at 7:57 p.m. and they reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Request from WSU Beachwatchers to expand Coupeville Wharf discovery center**

Mayor Conard explained that WSU Beachwatchers are working to expand the Wharf Discovery Center, similar to the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor. They have purchased underwater cameras and microscopes to look underwater; and they have raised some money but are looking for approximately \$4,300 to pay for materials to develop a kiosk on the wharf. She noted that this type of activity may qualify for funding from the Hotel/Motel 2% tax. She added that the Port of Coupeville is so committed to WSU's plan for the discovery center on the wharf, that they have included it in their comprehensive plan. She asked if Council was interested in hearing a presentation from the WSU Beachwatchers, and they agreed that they would like WSU Beachwatchers to submit a request and make a presentation to Council at the next meeting on February 13, 2007.

#### **Discussion on choices for police vehicles**

Mayor Conard spoke about last year's community meetings on global warming and the use of fossil fuels and would like the Town to be environmentally responsible when purchasing any new vehicles. She had asked Marshal Marlborough to look into alternatives that may be available with the purchase of a police vehicle, such as a hybrid or a fuel efficient patrol car.

One of the challenges we face is that our patrol officers, with all their gear, need more room in the driver seat. There needs to be adequate space for their all their equipment in the front seat and space for a passenger in the back seat. Marshal Marlborough looked at fuel efficient vehicles that were reasonably comfortable and that could carry all their gear, and equipment and he was only able to find two vehicles met that all their requirements, the Dodge Charger and the Ford Crown Victoria.

Councilmember Clay noted that he was interested in being environmentally responsible and was interested in exploring alternatives and had originally though a Toyota Prius would be perfect, except there was not enough space inside for our officers and all their equipment; and there was only room for a half-cage in the back seat. He found that other police departments are using the Monte Carlo, Dodge Charger and Crown Victoria's.

Councilmember Bronson had also expressed an interest in finding a more environmentally friendly vehicle. He had thought this would be a great place to implement this type of vehicle but the problem with hybrids is that they are not built for the rugged work that is required of a patrol car. After considerable review, he didn't think we were ready at this time for a hybrid but there are a couple possibilities that may be considered, one is the Mercury Mariner which gets 34 mpg and he would recommend that or the Crown Victoria. He felt that this was a step in the right direction.

Marshal Marlborough explained that he had looked at all the vehicles mentioned and he discussed some of the issues they are faced with retrofitting a patrol car. When the shield between the front and back seat is installed you loose about 50% of the leg room; also you can't put anything but a passenger in the back seat, plus there is the issue of getting someone in and out of the back seat and there must be adequate room to do so. The trunks of the patrol cars are filled with a variety of equipment that is needed to address a variety of issues, such as first aid kit, crime investigation kit, and other necessary equipment. He added that Chevrolet will have a hybrid Chevy Tahoe available, by the end of 2007 that will get 30-35 mpg, and ergonomically this will be the largest hybrid available. He added that there are ways to reduce gas costs, such as we don't need a V-8 engine, a 6-cylinder would be fine. Other options would be the rear wheel drive Charger or the front wheel drive Chevy Impala, but the Impala was not as maneuverable. He suggests the car that best meets our needs would be the 6-cylinder Dodge Charger.

Mayor Conard explained her goal is to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel, get better gas mileage and/or use bio-diesel fuel. She is concerned that we do the right thing to be environmentally responsible but ergonomics is very important. She asked Council to contact Marshal Marlborough over the next few weeks and we will discuss further at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** - 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

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Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

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Nancy Conard, Mayor