

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 22, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to excuse Marshall Bronson from this meeting. The motion passed 4-0.

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 May 8, 2007 were approved as corrected. The two corrections were: Page 1, third paragraph from the bottom of the page should read, 'The Coupeville Lions have agreed to upgrade the lighting electrical in the kitchen...'; Page 4, second paragraph from the bottom of the page should read, 'Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember...'. '

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Conard reported that the meeting with Larry Cort to review the Historic Preservation Plan has been postponed and will be rescheduled.
- The Council of Governments (COG) will meet tomorrow, May 23rd, to discuss low impact development and how Bellingham was able to go 'green'. Next month representatives from Puget Sound Energy will meet with the COG to discuss ways to conserve energy.
- She noted that Whidbey Island Conservation District is preparing a cost estimate to train staff on low-impact development techniques, and expects to have a proposal in the next few weeks.
- She met with members of the Neighborhood Emergency Teams who have volunteered to help with emergency planning on May 14th and they will meet again on June 11th.
- Regarding Marshal Marlborough's upcoming retirement, she will be advertising for the Town Marshal position and a Deputy Marshal Lateral Entry position. The target date for appointing a new Marshal is July 1st.
- She noted that the preliminary short plat application for 702 N Main has been approved.
- All members of the Town Council are registered to attend the Association of Washington Cities Conference in Tacoma, June 12-15, 2007.
- Scott Harbour finished his thesis about potential use of reclaimed water from the wastewater treatment plant and she will meet with him and Malcolm Bishop on May 24th to discuss the report.
- Council has been invited to attend a community presentation on May 24th. Students and faculty of ~~Oregon State~~ the University of Oregon, along with Ebey's Landing NHR, will present their work in Coupeville and seek input on a new historic preservation guide.
- There is a conference being put together by Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and NW Energy Efficiency Alliance, in Vancouver, Washington, September 26-28, 2007, on sustainable communities for local government agencies. Topics to be discussed will be exploring benefits of building a sustainable community in terms of saving taxpayers money, building local economy, air quality, building 'green' and renewable resources.

- In response to a comment about the new sign at Mariner's Court, it should have been removed by today. We are aware of some other sign violations and are working to address the issue.
- Ms. Thomas has contacted Island County about getting additional microphones for the Commissioner's Hearings Room, but has not heard back from them yet.
- She will meet with the person who is developing the Town's website next week and Ms. Thomas is working to get the Town's Municipal Code posted on the MRSC website, until our website is up.
- In response to the sign at the Foursquare Church, that is a temporary sign and our Town Code does allow for temporary signs. Also, they are still working on the trees and the landscaping. Staff is tightening up on landscaping requirements and won't be issuing occupancy permits until landscaping is done or we've received bond payment.

Mayor Conard noted that there will be an executive session for approximately one hour at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel and potential property acquisition, with no action to follow.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Gordon Burton, Coupeville, spoke about the significance of the historic plan, shoreline master plan, tree ordinance, and low impact development in the Town; particularly, over-water development and how the current Council's decisions will affect future generations. The decision is up to them and he asked the Council, "What do you want?"

Buell Neidlinger, Coupeville, noted that the trees at the church were supposed to be planted four years ago. He asked several questions about claim vouchers and his questions were answered. He asked that the rope on the flag pole be wrapped around the pole, after the flag is taken down, to keep the metal clips from banging on the pole all night long.

Roxallanne Medley, Coupeville, noted that the sign (at Mariner's Court) was still in the window but it was not turned on. She asked if her copy of the Draft Design Standards and Guidelines from 2002 were the same being used by the Town. She supports Ann Dannehauser's suggestion for the Town to become a Tree City and adopt strong standards, and would like to pursue that, beginning with a tree inventory. She voiced concerns about historic structures and the recent demolition of the Vaughn home. Mayor Conard responded that she and staff are working with Ebey's Reserve on preservation of historic structures.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Special Events Permit for the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association - Wharf Celebration - *Staff recommends approval of the 2007 Coupeville Historic Waterfront Wharf Celebration for June 23-24, 2007*

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve of the Special Event Permit for the 2007 Coupeville Historic Waterfront Wharf Celebration for June 23-24, 2007, as recommended by staff. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of May Claims Vouchers and April Payroll - *Staff recommends approval of the May 22, 2007 claims vouchers/warrants #19705 through #19766 for \$61,714.99; and April payroll warrants #11517 through #11552 for \$84,666.45.*

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the May 22, 2007 claims vouchers/warrants #19705 through #19766 for \$61,714.99; and April payroll warrants #11517 through #11552 for \$84,666.45. The motion passed 4-0.

Cancel Town Council Meeting of June 12, 2007 - Council will be attending the Association of Washington Cities Conference in Tacoma, June 12-15, 2007

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Phay, to cancel the Town Council meeting of June 12, 2007, as all members of the Council will be attending the Association of Washington Cities Conference in Tacoma, June 12-15, 2007. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Conard explained that she is trying to set a date for a Council workshop with the Department of Ecology on the Shoreline Master Plan. She suggested Thursday, June 21st or Thursday, June 28th at 7:00 p.m. and asked Council to let her know.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Thomas submitted a written staff report and added that she has completed the 2005-2006 Annual Operations Report, and noted that it proved to be a very informative exercise and she learned a lot about the Town.

Marshal Marlborough provided a written report and noted that criminal activity is down and people are feeling safe in Coupeville. The new patrol car should be here by mid-August and he explained the delay is due to the low orders on the Dodge Chargers with V-6 engines. The same car with a V-8 could arrive sooner because there is a higher demand but they don't get quite as good gas mileage.

Mr. Bishop gave a video slideshow update on some of the current projects that included the following: 1) The Black Road Water Extension Project; 2) Coupeville Reserve which is proceeding along very well and he showed pictures of the 3rd and 4th Streets between Gould Street and Albion Street.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Hughes noted that the graphics on the new Food Bank van are getting done. She attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting and commended Mayor Conard on the State of the Town address given at the meeting. She attended the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association meeting and noted some of the projects they are involved with including the Mussel Fest in March and organizing the Wharf Fest scheduled for June 23 and 24th, and developing a Main Street Plan. The latest on Channel 10 is that one part has arrived and the other part should be here by the end of this week, then Comcast will schedule a time to install the updated equipment.

Councilmember Binder was unable to attend the last tourism meeting. She spoke about a proposal to issue a special Washington Drivers license that would allow crossing the border into Canada without a passport and hopefully it will pass before the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, B.C.

Councilmember Clay attended the Island Transit Board meeting last week and they are considering purchasing some additional park & ride lots; and are looking at some areas in the Freeland area; and noted that there are Federal Funds available to purchase land. He mentioned that the City of Seattle recently purchased hybrid buses, which are about two-thirds more

expensive than a regular diesel bus, approximately \$750,000 for one bus; and in comparison with Island Transit buses, the wear and tear and the number of miles they travel, the costs would be unbelievable. The Law and Justice board is working on mental health programs and have identified where funding is needed and their proposal will be presented to the Island County Commissioners at the end of June.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Buell Neidlinger asked where it says in the Town Code that there are four signatures required to approve a demolition. He spoke about the 1900's Myrtle Jones report that was prepared by the United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey on seawater intrusion, which he purchased at a garage sale, and noted that it was quite different than Doug Kelly's report, and asked, "Who should you trust?"

DISCUSSION - 2005-2006 Annual Operations Report

Mayor Conard discussed the 2005-2006 Annual Operations Report. Sales & Use Tax History has steadily increased since 1998 but that is affected by new construction and as that slows down, so will the revenue. She reviewed several businesses from the Front Street area and found that there was no consistent trend in sales over the past four years. She discussed the property tax history from 1998-2006 and how Coupeville compares with other cities on the Island, for 2006 with Coupeville at \$1.62/\$1,000 AV; Langley at \$1.83/\$1,000 AV; and Oak Harbor at \$2.78/\$1,000 AV, and if you add in the other taxing entities the rates were: Coupeville at \$10.275/1,000 AV; Langley at \$9.10/\$1,000 AV; and Oak Harbor at \$9.02/\$1,000 AV. She invited questions from Council and the audience.

RECESS: Mayor Conard called for a recess at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened to regular session at 8:20 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Personnel and Potential Property Acquisition

Mayor Conard called for executive session for approximately one hour to discuss a personnel matter and potential property acquisition. Mayor Conard, Councilmembers Binder, Clay, Hughes and Phay recessed to executive session at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened to regular session at 10:20 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT - 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

Nancy Conard, Mayor