

**Town of Coupeville  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, September 25, 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 Dave Penrod, Clerk-Treasurer Judy Thomas

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 11, 2007 were approved as submitted.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Mayor Conard asked that item #3 be added to the agenda, under New Business for approval of the contract for Phase I of the NW Front Street Lift Station Improvements Project.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Conard explained that the grant application for the Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study was submitted to the Department of Ecology. A grant with Whidbey Island Conservation District for low impact development is still in the works which will be submitted to the Department of Ecology.
- Kristen Cooley with WSU will attend the October 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to discuss the Climate Action Plan implementation proposal.
- She and Larry Kwarsick met with the sub-committee from Ebey's Reserve to review and get technical support on a couple of Design Review Board applications.
- The first draft of the data base on historic structures in Coupeville is almost complete. The Design Standards and Guidelines (Draft of 9/10/07) will be discussed at the next Design Review Board meeting. Copies of the Design Standards and Guidelines will be sent to all owners of historic structures and they will be invited to attend a community workshop.
- We are in the process of hiring a Deputy Marshal to fill the vacancy which occurred with the promotion of Marshal Penrod. Ms. Thomas invited all applicants from the Public Safety Testing (PST) list to apply for the position and received four applications. The four were interviewed by the Oral Board on September 19<sup>th</sup> and scored on their answers to the questions. A list of three was developed from the combined PST and Interview scores and submitted to the Civil Service Commission for certification on September 21<sup>st</sup>. A selection will be made and we hope to get the new deputy into the Police Academy by December.
- She attended the Library Board Building Committee meeting and there will be a couple more meetings before they are ready to submit a proposal to the Town Council.
- At the Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>, Jon Roberts and a representative from Windermere Real Estate discussed the current real estate market. Although the market has changed from a 'seller's market' to a 'buyer's market', Central Whidbey is still selling about 12 homes per month; which has been the average for the past several years, except in 2005 when the average was 14 homes per month.
- The Uniquely Whidbey Business Expo will be held on October 13 and 14, 2007, at the High School.
- The Coupeville School District will hold an open house at the new High School at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- She has received several complaints at Town Hall about the new crosswalk divider on South Main and we are still working on that. We are also looking into flashing lights at crosswalks around the schools. Councilmember Hughes suggested something be done at the crosswalk at the crest of the hill on North Main.
- The League of Women Voters will hold a candidate forum at the Coupeville Rec Hall on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### **AUDIENCE INPUT**

Buell Neidlinger, Coupeville, spoke about the poor condition of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and asked when it would be fixed. He asked if the property where the Johnson building was located was going to be a park or parking lot, and if it was made into a parking lot, would only provide about 8 parking spaces. He discussed low budget housing, the sub standard housing at the trailer parks in Coupeville. He felt there was a lot of confusion about the Mayor's salary and asked her what it was. Mayor Conard responded that it is about \$60,000 per year. Mr. Neidlinger asked what the total salary was with benefits and Mayor Conard responded that she would have to get back to him with that total. *(Mr. Neidlinger called Ms. Thomas on Wednesday morning, September 26, 2007, asking for the total amount of the Mayor's salary, including benefits. Clerk-Treasurer Thomas responded that the Mayor's annual salary, including benefits was \$72,642.48.)*

Peggy Burton, Coupeville, spoke about door-belling at the trailer parks and was surprised to find the terrible housing conditions and stated that it was a real eye opener. Mayor Conard responded that staff would look at these areas, to see if there were evident code violations.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**2007 Budget Revision** - *Staff recommends a motion to adopt Ordinance #665 amending Ordinance #664 by changing 2007 budget appropriations.*

Mayor Conard explained the public hearing process. She noted that the budget revision was discussed line by line at the September 11<sup>th</sup> review of the budget revision.

Mayor Conard declared the public hearing open at 7:03 p.m. There was no public comment and the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Thomas explained that she had received an email from Will Jones requesting a change (reduction) in the amount of the 2007 Administrative Transfer. She provided copies of the email correspondence which included her explanation and his response, that the administrative transfer included the purchase of the public works truck. Mayor Conard added that capital expenditures have been included in the administrative transfer, in the past.

Councilmember Clay was astounded that there were no citizen comments and noted that we are fortunate to have conservative budgeting, to afford some of these changes. He noted that we are taking the next steps to spend the money necessary to implement the Climate Protection plan.

Councilmember Hughes suggested that lighting in the public parking lot be included in the 2008 budget. Mayor Conard added that grant funding may be available for the parking lot if it is selected as one of the low impact development sites.

**Council Action:** A motion was made by Councilmember Bronson, second by Councilmember Clay, to approve Ordinance No. 665 amending Ordinance No. 664 by changing the 2007 budget appropriations for the General Fund, Street Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, 1979 Water & Sewer Fund and Utility Fund. The motion passed 5-0.

## ORDINANCE NO. 665

AN ORDINANCE of the Town Council of the Town of Coupeville, Washington, amending Ordinance No. 664 by changing 2007 budget appropriations for the General Fund Street Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, 1979 Water & Sewer Fund and Utility Fund

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of September Claims Vouchers and August Payroll** - *Staff recommends approval of claims vouchers/warrants #20114 through #20191 for \$228,611.95; and August payroll warrants #11662 through #11701 for \$83,616.79.*

**Council Action:** A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the September 25, 2007 claims vouchers/warrants #20114 through #20191 for \$228,611.95; and August payroll warrants #11662 through #11701 for \$83,616.79. The motion passed 5-0.

**Approval of the contract with Sturdeweld Construction for NW Front Street Pump Station Improvements Project - Phase I** - *Staff recommends approval of awarding the contract to Sturdeweld Construction, as low bidder for the NW Front Street Pump Station Improvements Project - Phase I.*

Mr. Bishop explained that the Front Street Lift Station was installed in 1959, refurbished in 1984 and is due for replacement; and replacement of the Front Street Lift Station was included in the Sewer Comprehensive Plan. The bids for Phase I of the project were opened on September 11<sup>th</sup> and Sturdeweld Construction was the low bidder.

**Council Action:** A motion was made by Councilmember Bronson, second by Councilmember Binder, to authorize the Mayor to sign a public works contract with Sturdeweld Construction for the NW Front Street Lift Station Improvements Project - Phase 1. The motion passed 5-0.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Ms. Thomas submitted a written report and offered to answer questions.

Marshal Penrod submitted a written report with the agenda packet but was called out on a police call. Mayor Conard noted that Deputy Jim Covert was presented with a letter of commendation from Island County Sheriff Mark Brown on September 24<sup>th</sup>, for outstanding service in assisting the Island County Sheriff's Department and Washington State Patrol on an accident.

Mr. Bishop explained that phase one of the West Commons project is nearly complete. All five structures at Krueger Commons are under construction. The High School project is almost complete and should be finalized soon. The paving of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street was done on September 17<sup>th</sup> and still needs two manholes adjusted. Councilmember Clay asked when the extension of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and Gould Streets would be opened and Mr. Bishop replied that it will be brought to Council for approval in about a month.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Hughes noted that the Food Bank Board will meet next week and begin their busiest time of the year. The Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring this year's Scarecrow Alley with a Harry Potter theme. The Food Bank and Water Festival Association are working on grant funding for 2008. Regarding the Rec Hall, the refinishing of the floors is done and looks great; the exterior of the building is being painted and they are doing a great job; the Parks and Recreation Board selected the colors and it should be done in the next couple of weeks. The interior of the Rec Hall will be painted in November.

Councilmember Binder spoke about the great article about Whidbey Island that was published in the travel section of the *New York Times* (published September 21, 2007). She added that the tourism committee had completed their budget for 2008.

Councilmember Bronson explained that U.S. Senator Patty Murray visited Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve on September 14<sup>th</sup> and was given a tour of the Reserve, Jacob Ebey's House and the Ferry House. They also went to the Smith Farm and met with farmers to discuss the challenges for farmers on Ebey's Reserve. He noted that Ebey's Reserve is preparing for their 30 year anniversary.

Councilmember Clay explained that the Island Transit Board met last week and discussed a final site for the Coupeville facility. They are working on the 2008 budget. He noted that ridership is up and gave statistics on ridership, and bus service hours on the road which was up by 5% from last year. He is involved with the Keystone Ferry group which continues to work on a proposal for submittal to the State Legislature by January 1, 2008, to find a ferry to use in the Keystone Harbor. He will leave in the morning to attend the AWC Sustainable Communities Conference in Vancouver, Washington.

#### **AUDIENCE INPUT**

Gary Piazzon, Coupeville, complimented the Council on approval of the funding for climate protection, adding it was long over due. He stated that the Washington State Ferries were penalized for ineptitude and waiting for viable plans.

**ADJOURNMENT** - 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

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Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

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Nancy Conard, Mayor