

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2009
6:30 p.m.**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Director Malcolm Bishop, Town Marshal Dave Penrod, Clerk Treasurer Judy Thomas

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Conard revised the agenda to add a presentation from Paul Whalen and Sandy Poust on the Downtown Revitalization conference they attended.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Binder, second by Councilmember Clay, to adopt the agenda, with the revision. Motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting and Workshop of May 12, 2009

The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Council Workshop of May 12, 2009 were approved as submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Conard received an email from Buell Neidlinger, asking why the rocks were removed from the north side of Front Street. She responded that the rocks were removed to make it easier to mow and maintain the area. Buell also stated that there were 15 cars parked along there on Saturday; and she has asked the police to keep an eye on the area, and if cars are parking there, the rocks can be replaced. Councilmember Clay noted that there are 'no parking' signs along there; and Mayor Conard asked that she, or the police, be notified of parking violations. Town Marshal Penrod noted that he had not received one complaint about parking violations over the weekend. In the same email, Buell expressed concern about sandwich board signs that were illegally placed on sidewalks. Mayor Conard discussed this with Mr. Kwarsick and the businesses will be notified.
- Another citizen concern she received was from Gary Piazzon who spoke with an employee about idling a town vehicle for too long. She suggested that complaints should be made to her or the employee's supervisor. She added that she will be discussing this with employees.
- She commended everyone for their work and involvement with the Memorial Day Parade; we had a great turnout. She heard similar compliments about the Penn Cove Water Festival; which also had a great turnout. She added that both weekends had the best weather we've ever had for those events.
- She reported that the agreement with the Deputy Marshals is almost complete with only one or two more meetings to finalize the document.
- Last week, Puget Sound Energy performed an energy audit at the Rec Hall. The information was useful for when she met with vendors about purchasing equipment for the Rec Hall.

- She spoke with Becky Bolte, of Sno-Isle Libraries, and they are working with Au Sable to have a satellite library on their property during construction of the library expansion project.
- At the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting last week they discussed a plan of dividing the town into quadrants, and focusing on trails and parks within quadrants. Coupeville has the opportunity to receive some used playground equipment from NAS Whidbey, and Central Whidbey Lions Club will help with setting it up. The park at 6th and Wilkes Streets may be a good place for the playground equipment. The Parks and Recreation Commission is considering this option.
- She provided copies of a press release issued today from Washington Trust for Historic Preservation (WTHP), identifying the 2009 Most Endangered Historic Properties, which included the Libbey House; the application was made by Town Planner Larry Kwarsick. Inclusion in the list is intended to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing historic resources across the state and encourage collaboration with all stakeholders to develop preservation strategies.
- There are two council positions that are up for election in November, currently filled by Dianne Binder and Jim Phay. Dianne Binder intends to run again but Jim Phay will not. The filing period for interested persons is June 1st through the 5th.
- Tomorrow, May 27th she will attend the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition meeting in Coupeville.
- Also tomorrow, she will attend the RTPO meeting in Oak Harbor to hear about transportation issues addressed by the State Legislature, during this session.
- She attended the visitor survey meeting at Ebey's Reserve; it was a great opportunity to hear the survey results which included the demographics of visitors to the reserve.
- She attended the first, of three, ACHIEVE meetings before their training in July; and they discussed what communities are doing to promote healthy living; and what is working in different communities.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Gary Piazzon, Coupeville, discussed the environmental effects of idling vehicles and read parts of a flyer, 'No-Idle Zones', published by the Northwest Clean Air Agency. Mayor Conard stated that we will be discussing 'idling' of vehicles with town employees.

PRESENTATION

Sandy Poust and Paul Whelan, Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association, attended the 23rd Annual Downtown Revitalization Training Institute in Vancouver, Washington, on April 29th to May 1st. Ms. Poust thanked Council for facilitating her attendance at the conference. CHWA is working toward becoming a Main Street Association; with one of the major benefits being that it can be a draw in bringing businesses to town. She provided copies of the conference agenda and noted some of the aspects that were focused on, such as: historic preservation and commercial success; and the importance of buying local. Mayor Conard thanked them for their report.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of appointment of Bruce Williams to the Library Board - *Mayor Conard requests Council confirmation on the appointment of Bruce Williams to the Library Board.*

Mayor Conard explained that there are two positions on the Library Board; and we received two applications for these openings. We advertised for openings on Boards and Commissions and the applications were due on May 22, 2009.

She explained that Mr. Williams has previous experience as a member of the city council of Coronado, California and has served on many boards and commissions. He is a member of the Friends of the Library and has served on the Library Expansion Committee. He can bring a great set of skills, as well as a demonstrated interest in the Library.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Binder, to confirm Mayor Conard's appointment of Bruce Williams to the Library Board, position 3, for term ending December 31, 2013. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of appointment of Kristi Ezzell to the Library Board - Mayor Conard requests Council confirmation on the appointment of Kristi Ezzell to the Library Board.

Mayor Conard explained that Ms. Ezzell has experience working with a variety of organizations; and her affiliation with those organizations means she has access to a variety of public input.

Councilmember Dannhauer thanked Mayor Conard for including the applicant's applications in the agenda packet.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Clay, to confirm Mayor Conard's appointment of Kristi Ezzell to the Library Board, position 5, for term ending December 31, 2009. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of May Claims and April Payroll Vouchers - Staff recommends approval of the May 26, 2009 claims vouchers/warrants #21911 through #22000 for a total of \$124,761.23; and April payroll warrants #12418 through #12456 for a total of \$95,720.31.

Several questions were asked and answered, and no changes were suggested.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the May 26, 2009 claims vouchers/warrants #21911 through #22000 for a total of \$124,761.23; and April payroll warrants #12418 through #12456 for a total of \$95,720.31. The motion passed 5-0.

Set a date for a Joint Meeting of the Town Council and the Island County Commissioners - Suggested date is June 1, 2009 at 5:00 pm, at the Island County Hearing Room.

Mayor Conard explained the purpose of the special meeting is to consider a draft Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) on the parameters of the design review process, to agree on some guidelines of the process, such as forming a joint committee and establishing a three-tiered approval process. The suggested date is Monday, June 1 at 5:00 p.m.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Binder, to set the date of June 1, 2009, at 5:00 pm, at the Island County Hearing Room to consider the draft MOU on the design review process. The motion passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Thomas provided a written report and offered to answer questions. She thanked Councilmember Binder for her assistance in the final review of the 2008 annual financial report. She answered Councilmember Clay's question about the Annual Street Report that is submitted to the Washington State Department of Transportation; that is mostly a financial report on the

Street Fund, and it includes total miles of roads (improved and unimproved) within the Town of Coupeville.

Town Marshal Penrod thanked all who were involved with the Penn Cove Water Festival and the Memorial Day Parade, and noted that he did not receive one complaint about parking or disorderly conduct during either event; everyone did very well. There was ample shuttle coverage for the Water Festival. The Memorial Day Parade went off great and he received lots of positive comments about not allowing parking on Front Street. We received a new 2009 Crown Victoria police car earlier this month.

Mr. Bishop reported that Island County is working on their 6th Street parking lot. Last week he attended the first biosolids management meeting at city of Oak Harbor's Public Works facility and the subject was how to deal with biosolids; and setting the stage for the next meeting. He explained that the issue is that we are producing more and more biosolids and it is becoming harder to dispose of it, and where to dispose of it. Mr. Bishop responded to Councilmember Binder's question, that we are working together to develop some regional solutions. The closer to home that we can deal with this, the better. Councilmember Dannhauer asked if the 6th Street parking lot would be paved and Mr. Bishop responded that there is some paving in the center, there are bioretention cells, and they will follow the Town Code for trees per spaces. Mayor Conard noted that his is a LID site and Mr. Bishop invited Councilmember Dannhauer to come in and look at the plans.

Mayor Conard called for a short recess at 7:54 pm and reconvened at 8:03 p.m.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Hughes attended the opening of the Community Garden on May 1st, and since the opening, two people have rented plots to plant vegetables for the Gifts from the Heart Food Bank (Food Bank). The Ebey's Trust Board met for their retreat on May 12th, and set priorities for each of the sub-committees of the board. She attended the Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce meeting and Patty Paige gave a State of the School District address; and Susan Harris from Washington State Ferries discussed the ferries and the reservation system. The Penn Cove Water Festival was great with a record number of food and craft vendors this year. She received rave reviews on the boat tour of Penn Cove. The Friday evening event was changed at the last minute and they ended up watching some old movies of the first Indian boat races in Penn Cove and Susan Berta talked about the history of the Water Festival. The dinner went well and she thanked the Council members for all they did. The Water Festival Association received 150 completed surveys and they will compile the information and present it to the Joint Tourism Committee. She and other volunteers from the Food Bank marched in the Memorial Day Parade. She reported that the food bank served/distributed 40% more food in the first quarter of this year than in the first quarter of last year. Two people have bought shares from the Greenbank CSA program to receive and donate fresh produce to the Food Bank.

Councilmember Binder reported that the Water Festival and Memorial Day Parade were great; and she enjoyed helping with the dinner, after the canoe races. The Central Whidbey Hearts & Hammers first workday is this Saturday, May 30th. The Joint Tourism committee is still doing a banner on the Q13 Morning News. They have developed some maps promoting tourism, one is the I-5 wildlife viewing map, another is a diving map that identifies all the diving spots on Whidbey Island, and another map is of the Cascade Loop from a culinary tourism group.

Councilmember Phay added that there was a great turnout for the Penn Cove Water Festival; he had a great time and the Indian Nations were very appreciative. The Memorial Day Parade had beautiful weather and was fantastic.

Councilmember Clay attended a special meeting of the Island Transit Board and explained that they have been closely watching the sales tax revenue, and the projection to the end of the year is not what they had expected; and they won't be able to continue to operate with the same services next year, if there is not some kind of increase. Therefore, the Island Transit Board will put forth a proposed increase in sales tax of three-tenths of one percent (\$.0003), on the August primary election ballot. Island Transit may need to reduce service by approximately 34%; so he hopes the voters see fit to approve this increase. Tomorrow, May 27th is the meeting of the Regional Transportation Policy Organization (RTPO) of Island and Skagit Counties, and they will get input from the State Legislature, Washington State Ferries and they will look at federal funds that may be available. The Law and Justice Committee will meet tomorrow at Noon and there will be a presentation by a recovering meth addict; and he noted that meth (methamphetamine) is still a concern in our communities. He attended the PSE wind turbine tour in Ellensburg on May 9th and it was very informative.

Councilmember Dannhauer went to the visitor survey meeting. She didn't make it to the regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting but went on the field trip to the site where the proposed playground might be placed. So far she was not sure if there was a consensus to accept the playground equipment, but some people were going to go look at it. They discussed where it should be placed, whether landscaping should be done; and questions about the on-going costs of maintenance. Mayor Conard explained that the playground equipment is from the Navy housing area, where the Navy is removing the playground equipment, and rebuilding houses.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Gary Piazzon, Coupeville, commented that Bruce Williams will be an excellent Library Boardmember. He spoke about the benefits of composting toilets and suggested the Town consider using them when possible. He felt that if we support Island Transit, we will be saving money, if we use the buses. He talked more about CO² emissions that are created with idling of vehicles; and energy usage.

DISCUSSION

Inviting Dan Burden to discuss walking audit

Councilmember Dannhauer explained that the cost for Dan Burden to come to Coupeville and do a walkable audit, would be \$2,950 plus expenses. He did walking audits on Whidbey Island in Langlely, Clinton, Bayview and Freeland. Mayor Conard asked about the audits that have been done and maybe we could use that information. Councilmembers discussed the many aspects of a walkable town, that Coupeville already has, such as a trail system throughout town, parks and open spaces, and they agreed that Coupeville is a very walkable town. Councilmember Dannhauer agreed with that but would like to see more on-street parking, instead of parking lots; streetscaping with trees, bicycle lanes on both sides of the streets, and bike racks. After further discussion, Council consensus was that a walkability audit for Coupeville, was not necessary; the cost is not in the budget; and was not a good use of tax dollars this year. Councilmember Dannhauer noted that the Town averages about \$2,000 per year, per councilmember, for education and thought this could count for 1-1/2 yrs, for one councilmember. Mayor Conard suggested people (in audience or viewing on Channel 10) could 'Google' Dan Burden's website

and look at Clinton's walkability audit; and please email her or a councilmember, if they are interested in having a walkability audit done in the Town of Coupeville.

Sister City for Coupeville, in Afghanistan

Councilmember Dannhauer explained that she received an email from Randy Bracket suggesting the Town participate in the 'sister city organization', to 'sister' with a city in Afghanistan. There is a formal process for cities to participate with dues of \$150 per year. Two cities in Afghanistan that would like to partner/sister with an American city are Kabul and Charikar. Mayor Conard asked what was involved and Councilmember Dannhauer explained that it is really up to you, you can do very little, more in name or respect, or exchanges, and travel or visit. Councilmember Hughes thought the concept was interesting but was not really interested in it politically; but was very interested in it culturally and maybe a connection to our school district. Mayor Conard asked what kind of exchanges Randy Bracket is interested in and Councilmember Dannhauer was not sure. Mayor Conard suggested Mr. Bracket might like to form a group of interested people; and maybe Councilmember Dannhauer could meet with him and come back with some sort of proposal of what they would like to do. Councilmember Hughes asked what the goal of having a sister city is, and whether these cities were the right cities to 'sister' with Coupeville.

Councilmember Dannhauer responded that the mission and goals of Sister Cities International is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation, one community at a time. She named several of the activities members enjoy, which include access to the best practices data base featuring economic development, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, art projects, and more. Councilmember Binder was only interested in participating with a city of similar size to Coupeville. Mayor Conard asked Councilmember Dannhauer if she would like to meet with interested persons, or organizations, and bring back some type of proposal to the Council for further consideration; and Councilmember Dannhauer responded that she would.

Update on Tree Committee report

Mayor Conard explained that Larry Kwarsick is working on an outline from what was discussed at the Town meeting on April 30th; and a work plan will be given to the Tree Committee in June. Mr. Kwarsick is also working on code amendments that will be discussed at the Town Council workshop on June 16th. She spoke with the Parks and Recreation Commission about what role they might play with regards to where trees could be placed around parks and open spaces.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

Nancy Conard, Mayor