

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2009
6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Bob Clay, Councilmembers Dianne Binder, Ann Dannhauer and Molly Hughes.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Binder, second by Councilmember Hughes, to excuse Councilmember Jim Phay and Mayor Nancy Conard. The motion passed 4-0.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Binder, second by Councilmember Hughes, to adopt the agenda, as submitted. Motion passed 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of June 9, 2009 and Workshop of June 16, 2009

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2009 and Council Workshop of June 16, 2009, were approved with one change to the June 9th meeting, as follows: Page 3, fourth paragraph, second sentence should read, 'In response to a second question, she added that there were no other proposals requested, Ecolotree, Inc. was already...'.

PRESENTATION

Update from Whidbey Island Conservation District

Karen Bishop, Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) Manager, gave a brief history of the WICD which formed in 1967, and only includes Whidbey Island. Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) formed in 1941; and Camano Island landowners joined the SCD in 1961.

Washington State adopted RCW 89-08, providing a policy to provide for the conservation of the renewable resources of the state of Washington.

She explained the purpose of WICD and several of the programs they provide: Natural Resource Planning and Technical Assistance; Low Impact Development; Preserving Sustainable Farms and Forest Lands; and Public Outreach, Education and Partnerships. She explained that Special Assessments are authorized to be imposed for conservation districts as provided in RCW 89.08.400; Activities and programs to conserve natural resources, including soil and water, are declared to be of special benefit to lands and may be used as the basis upon which special assessments are imposed. Special Assessments for Natural Resource Conservation, Chapter 135-100 WAC - Rule approved in May of 2007 to "interpret and clarify RCW 89.08.400 in this rule in order to assist conservation districts and county legislative authorities in their efforts to develop and impose a system of assessments for the conservation of renewable natural resources." She explained that 95% of the WICD Budget comes from grant funding (WSCC, DOE and other interlocal sources) and 5% of their funding is through WSCC. WICD and SCD are proposing a Special Assessment to be included in the county system of assessments, as follows:

- 1) Two land classifications - assessed lands (those receiving benefits) and non assessed lands (those not receiving benefits).
- 2) An annual fee of \$5.00 per parcel plus \$.05 per acre be assessed for the parcels within Island County.

- 3) Forest land will be assessed at the rate set by RCW 89.08.400.
- 4) The proposed system of assessments shall be for ten years with annual budgeting and reporting.

WICD plans to present the special assessment proposal to the Island County Commissioners in early July. The Special Assessment will be on every assessed parcel; and 76% of the revenue from the assessment will go to Whidbey Island, and 24% to Camano Island. There are lots of land owners who want help and the assessment will allow to better serve their needs. Island County Commissioners will conduct public hearings and have the authority to approve the special assessment. In response to a question, Ms. Bishop explained that the special assessment will not increase their budget, but it will stabilize their budget. Also, with the special assessment (and a more stable budget) WICD will be able to actively pursue funding/grants that have matching funds requirements. Councilmember Dannhauer asked if the summit meetings were open to the public, and Ms. Bishop responded that the minutes of the meetings are available; but these are really working committee meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Clay called for a recess at 7:03 pm and reconvened at 7:09 pm.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Gary Piazzon, Coupeville, spoke in support of Councilmember Dannhauer's efforts to make the town a more walkable community with more non-motorized vehicles. He discussed the sister cities idea and global warming. He would like to see the Council meeting time changed back to beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Jerome Rosen, Coupeville, asked if there was any way that Council would consider audience input at presentations; and Mayor Pro Tem Clay responded that yes, that is possible, he only needed to request to ask a question. Mr. Rosen asked for copies of the 'written' reports that Councilmembers reported on, at the April 28th Council meeting, about the NLC Green Cities Conference. He asked if anything they learned at the conference had been implemented. Mayor Pro Tem Clay responded that they were exposed to what is available to build sustainable communities, and it is up to us on how Coupeville can use some of those ideas; and Cathy d'Almeida is implementing many of the ideas. Mr. Rosen asked Council to consider having speakers come to Coupeville.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Special Event Permit Application for the 2009 Coupeville Arts & Crafts Festival on August 1 - 2, 2009 - Staff recommends approval of the special event permit.

Marshal Penrod is meeting with the Arts & Crafts Festival Association. Ann Hallam explained that this year the library will be under construction and they would like to use the vacant lot behind Town Hall, for downtown merchants to park their vehicles.

Tessa Gavin, President of the Coupeville Festival Association, explained that they are looking for volunteers to help with the festival and interested persons can call or go to their website. She explained the reason for the date change of this year's festival was due to the Anacortes 3-day Art Festival which is held on the first full weekend of August (that begins with Friday) so this (date change) will happen every seven years. Next year, the Coupeville Festival will be on the second weekend of August.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the Special Event Permit application for the 2009 Coupeville Arts & Crafts Festival, August 1 - 2, 2009, as recommended by staff. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Agreement with Coupeville Deputy Marshals' Association - Mayor recommends approval of three-year employment agreement

Mayor Pro Tem Clay explained that this agreement was discussed at the July 16th Council workshop and the suggested changes have been made to the agreement. Councilmember Binder expressed her appreciation of all the work that went into developing the agreement.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Binder, second by Councilmember Hughes, to approve the agreement between the Town of Coupeville and Coupeville Deputy Marshal's Association for January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011. The motion passed 4-0.

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem - Council appoints Mayor Pro-Tem every six months.

Councilmembers Hughes and Binder commended Bob Clay for his willingness to continue to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to appoint Bob Clay to continue to serve as mayor pro tem for July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Clay abstained).

Approval of June Claims and May Payroll Vouchers - Staff recommends approval of the June 23, 2009 claims vouchers/warrants #22001 through #22075 for a total of \$123,157.57; and May payroll warrants #12457 through #12494 for a total of \$94,632.97.

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 June 23, 2009 claims vouchers/warrants #22001 through #22075 for a total of \$123,157.57; and May payroll warrants #12457 through #12494 for a total of \$94,632.97. The motion passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

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

Town Marshal Penrod attended a law enforcement training last month which included new 'search and seizure' requirements. He met with Tessa Gavin of the Coupeville Festival Association about the Arts & Crafts Festival and they have a good handle on this year's event. He plans to attend the Law and Justice meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Bishop has been busy with the Prairie Station project and the telemetry project. The Johnson Building demolition project contract is ready to go out to bid. The annual water quality report is complete and will be mailed out this week.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Hughes attended CWCC (Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce) meeting this month; they had a speaker from the Northwest Agriculture Center, who is working on a logo for Whidbey Island products, and he is working on services that are available to small farmers on the island. Ebay's Trust Board is working on getting sponsors to help with expenses and speakers for the Ebay's Forever Conference; the farm tour brochure, which includes 17 farms within the Reserve, they hope to have it ready to go out in September; and they are working on the 2010 budget. She noted Coupeville events for this weekend are the Annual Lions Garage Sale (Saturday and Sunday), the Wharf Festival (Saturday and Sunday), and Strawberry Festival (Saturday).

Councilmember Binder responded to Jerome Rosen's request for the written reports; that she had a written report of the NLC Green Cities Conference and would email her report to him. Regarding the Joint Tourism Committee, she explained that the City of Oak Harbor has decided to provide a flat rate, and remove \$20,000 from Joint Tourism; but the Joint Tourism Committee can still proceed with the campaign.

Mayor Pro Tem Clay attended the Regional Transportation Planning meeting in which they discussed highway projects, the ferry system, and stimulus funds that may come available. He attended (with Mayor Conard and the mayor of Oak Harbor) a meeting in Port Townsend, and a representative of the Washington State Ferries discussed the new ferry that is being built; and long term funding for the Washington State Ferries. Island Transit Board met last Friday continue to watch the financial situation and proceed with the plan to ask voters for a tax increase, at the primary election. Ridership for Island Transit was down slightly in April, but up for year to date.

Councilmember Dannhauer has been attending the joint meetings of the Coupeville Design Review Board and the Island County Historic Reserve Committee in which they are reviewing the draft guidelines for Ebey's Reserve. The Library Committee will announce the contractor for library expansion project, tomorrow. The library will close for construction, at 3:00 pm on July 7th and will open at the temporary facility (Au Sauble Institute) at 10:00 am, on July 8th. The hours of the library will be a little different, while at the temporary facility. The Library construction ground breaking will be on July 11th at 10:00 am. She is gathering input on where bike racks could be placed around town. There was a good turnout for the 'Good Food' film and potluck. The Parks and Rec Commission is working on some policies for trees in the parks and right-of-ways. As a follow up on a topic at the last workshop about pasturing and trees she had a pamphlet from the Conservation District on how they can co-exist.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Jerome Rosen, Coupeville, questioned why the Town Marshal and Public Works Director stayed for the meeting and if they were paid extra for that. Councilmember Hughes responded that they are here because they are department heads; to answer questions; and they aren't paid extra to attend. Mr. Bishop added that he likes to attend to stay involved with what is going on in town. He asked the status of the bike rack issue and Councilmember Dannhauer responded that she is looking into this and getting prices for bike racks, and she gave a list of where the bike racks are around town. Councilmember Dannhauer responded to his question about how a councilmember is selected to serve as liaison to a committee; that each volunteers at the beginning of the year following election of a new councilmember.

Gary Piazzon, Coupeville, discussed alternative means of moving around town (non-motorized) and that we need to encourage bicycling. He listened to the presentations and asked Council what they got from the NLC Green Cities Conference.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

Nancy Conard, Mayor