

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
6:30 p.m.**

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

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Phay, second by Councilmember Clay, to excuse Dianne Binder. The motion passed 4-0.

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

CHANGES AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Phay, to approve the agenda with one addition to add a Discussion item regarding Downtown Parking Update. The motion passed as amended 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of November 24, 2009

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 24, 2009, were approved, as amended by Councilmember Dannhauer, with one correction to page 5, seventh line from bottom of the page, should read, ‘...which regulations they were talking about. ~~whether environmental regulations and/or economic health, which seem to go hand-in-hand.~~ If they were talking about environmental regulations, it’s interesting that numerous studies have shown a close correlation between (the) economic health and environmental health of a state, that they tend to go hand-in-hand.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- Mayor Conard attended a meeting with representatives from three counties regarding climate action. The focus of this group is similar to the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition. NW Clean Air Agency is taking the lead to provide information to a broader audience and get funding for agencies, for climate protection programs.
- Earlier today she attended the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition meeting and they will have a steering meeting on December 23rd and give an update to the Council of Governments in January 2010.
- Last week she attended the AWC mayors’ meeting in Olympia. Governor Gregoire’s chief of staff explained what to expect in the governor’s budget, which will be out on December 9th. There is no new revenue proposed and they have had to cut \$2.9 billion from the state budget; with human services and higher education being cut by approximately 20%. There is less revenue from gas taxes which affects cities. The meeting was a great opportunity to network with met with mayors from around the state. About 60 mayors attended and they agreed that they would like to have four meetings per year; possibly piggy-backing with other meetings.
- There will be a second Council meeting on December 22nd and she expects that will be a short meeting.
- Town Hall will be closing at noon on Thursday, December 24, 2009.

- She received a call from the prospective buyer of the old fire hall building. We are looking at a legal description for the property and will meet with him next week.
- Next week, she will meet with the likely contractor on the Rec Hall kitchen remodel.
- She will meet with Mark Preiss and Hank Florence to look at replacing the siding and front windows of Town Hall, to comply with design standards of historic structures.
- Regarding the Ebey's Design Guidelines, the Town Planning Commission met on Dec 1st and they've developed a list of 15 items to be considered by the Town Council and Island County Commissioners at the joint meeting on January 13th; which may be from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This will be a fairly comprehensive meeting with recommendations from the Planning Commissions, Town Planner Larry Kwarsick and Island County Planning Director Bob Peterson. The Town Council and County Commissioners will meet, take the recommendations, then make any revisions, then conduct a community workshop. There will be a public hearing prior to approval of the final document.
- The Council of Governments will not meet in December, but will meet on January 27, 2010, and will focus on emergency preparedness.
- The NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team) met and they are planning another annual meeting with community organizations scheduled for January 12th at noon, at the Rec Hall. These are organizations and individuals who provide resources during an emergency. Eve Parrish, Chair of the NET, will give an update to Council in January. Also, members of NET will be going door-to-door distributing emergency information cards and signs, to be placed in front windows during an emergency, to indicate if they are OK or need HELP.
- January 14, 2010 meeting of the Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce will have the installation of new officers.
- January 15, 2010 is the AWC training for newly elected officials and she and Tom Tack will be attending.
- The Committee that has been working on the plans for the municipal parking lot has been on hiatus but will start meeting again, after the first of the year.
- The Tree Committee will reconvene in January.
- The Parks and Rec Commission will meet on December 9th and will be talking about street trees and fees for the Rec Hall.
- She expressed her appreciation to all who helped with the Greening of Coupeville activities on December 5th.
- Due to previously scheduled holiday plans, the next Town Council meeting on December 22, 2009, will not be video recorded.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Gary Piazzon, Coupeville, was pleased that the flyer about the condition of Penn Cove was included with the utility bills. He discussed a study (in 2002) from the National Academy of Sciences that determined at what point, the rate we use resources, would surpass the rate that they could be regenerated; the point was 1981; and by 2002 we were using resources at 30% higher than can be reproduced. He thanked Council for including funds in the 2010 budget for bike racks. He explained that Robert Pellant, director of the Pacific Rim Institute, gave an update on the transition of the Au Sable Institute's PR campus to the Pacific Rim Institute, which will be owned and managed locally. Their mission remains as environmental stewardship through research and education.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 682 approving the second 2009 Budget Revision to include the sale of the Library Property - *Staff recommends adopting Ordinance No. 682 amending the 2009 Budget appropriations.*

Mayor Conard explained that Fund 208 is the fund which received the funds from the Sno Isle Libraries for the purchase of the library property; and expended the funds to pay the balance of the loan to USDA. As explained in the staff report, these changes need to be included in the amendment to the 2009 budget.

Mayor Conard declared the public hearing open at 7:07 pm. There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Clay, to approve Ordinance No 681, amending the 2009 Budget - Fund 208 to include the sale of the Library Property. The motion passed 4-0.

Ordinance No. 682

An ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Coupeville, amending Ordinance No. 676, by amending the 2009 budget appropriations for Fund 208 - 1988 GO Bond.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Town Attorney Agreement for 2010

Mayor Conard explained that the rates in this agreement are the same as the 2009 agreement. She is very pleased with the service they have provided and recommends renewing the agreement.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Phay, to approve the Town Attorney Agreement for 2010. *Discussion:* Commissioner Clay commented that Grant Weed's law firm provides excellent representation and when asked a question they respond immediately. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Conard is working with Grant Weed to provide training in January on quasi-judicial matters.

Reappointment – Bob Clay to Island Transit Board – *Mayor recommends confirmation of reappointment of Bob Clay to the Island Transit Board of Directors.*

Mayor Conard explained that each year, the Town Council appoints a councilmember to represent the Town on the Island Transit Board. Bob Clay has served on the board for several years and would like to continue and she recommends Council confirmation to reappoint Bob Clay to the Island Transit Board. Councilmember Clay added that he has enjoyed serving and would like to continue; it is enjoyable and rewarding and provides a good service to the community.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Phay, to reappoint Bob Clay to the Island Transit Board for 2010. *Discussion:* Councilmember Hughes added that he is doing a great job on the Board. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Clay abstained).

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

Mayor Conard explained that we used to rotate the mayor pro tem among council members, but recently have based it on seniority. She added that Councilmember Clay has experience serving as mayor pro tem.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Phay, to appoint Councilmember Clay to serve as mayor pro tem for the period of January through June 2010. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Clay abstained).

Mayor Conard called for short recess at 7:15 pm and reconvened at 7:25 pm.

DISCUSSION

Libbey House - Possible Option for Relocation

Mayor Conard explained that as a result of the Libbey House being included on the Endangered Historic Properties listing she has been contacted by someone who is interested in restoring the house, possibly on-site or relocating it to another commercial lot. He has inquired about the Town-owned property on the north side of Town Hall (northwest corner of Center Street and NE 8th Street). She would like to hear the Councilmembers thoughts on this possibility. Councilmember Clay was not sure this was what was intended for this property when it was purchased and felt that it was a pretty valuable piece of property; but if there was no other way to save the house then yes, but he prefers that the house is restored on its current site. Councilmember Dannhauer commented that, as a last resort the house could be relocated to the Town-owned property, which she would prefer for this property (rather than a new hotel or something possibly being built on this site). Councilmember Phay asked if 4th Street could go through the Libbey House property without moving the house. Mayor Conard said it is not the most efficient use of the property, but it is technically possible. Mayor Conard explained that the interested person would like to talk with Ted Clifton (owner of the Libbey House) and she is willing to facilitate the meeting. Council discussed the possibility of selling the property for this purpose; and suggested that we get an appraisal on the two Town-owned lots; and Mayor Conard agreed to get appraisals on both lots.

Tom Tack, Coupeville, spoke about his experience in moving the small structure previously located behind the Libbey House, and thought that the house could probably be more easily moved about 15 feet to the right, rather than down the street.

Year to Date Tax Collections

Mayor Conard provided up-to-date charts and discussed the revenue collections for Sales and Use Tax, Hotel/Motel Tax, and REET (Real Estate Excise Tax). What we've budgeted is achievable for the Hotel/Motel Tax and the Sales and Use Tax. There is still a big drop in the REET but fortunately it won't really affect us, as we are stable in that fund.

Update on Downtown Parking

Mayor Conard explained that she has had some conversations about the lack of handicapped parking in downtown. She spoke with a traffic engineer and handicapped parking spaces have certain requirements for the driver; and there really are only a couple places on Front Street that might work for fully accessible handicapped parking spaces. One space that was suggested is the last parking space on the south side of Front Street, in front of the Hunter Gallery, and she suggested they paint the space for handicapped parking and see how it goes for a month; and Ms. Hunter will monitor the space. Currently, there are two handicapped spaces, one in the Rec Hall parking lot and one in front of the Museum.

Mayor Conard discussed parking in the downtown area and she has been asked about using the Johnson Building lot for parking, or the property lot on the north side of Town Hall. However, we encourage using the municipal parking lot but one of the problems is that there is no lighting in that lot. She suggested coordinating some improvements with the opening of the library in March. The library lot will have cars exiting their lot into the municipal lot. The municipal lot could be designed to include, or allow for: the circulation of the cars from the library; curb stops; bike racks; and lighting of the lot that protects the night sky. We have about \$26,800 set aside for municipal parking lot improvements. Councilmember Clay suggested the same kind of lighting as is on the Wharf. Mayor Conard said we could have someone come in and give suggestions. She hopes that the employees will park their cars in the municipal lot so the downtown parking spaces can be used by the customers.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

Nancy Conard, Mayor