

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 27, 2010
6:30 p.m.**

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

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

CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Tack, to amend the Agenda to add item #6 Bike Racks. The motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of April 13, 2010 and Joint Workshop of April 13, 2010

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2010 and Joint Workshop of April 13, 2010, were approved as submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Conard met with representatives from KWPA, the local radio station. They requested a letter of general support to create and support a local radio station. The Council will discuss at the next Council workshop, on May 6th.
- She, Rex Porter and Malcolm Bishop interviewed two firms who submitted proposals for the Aquifer Storage and Retrieval Study, on April 15th, and selected a firm. We will work with the engineering firm to negotiate a contract; and we will meet with the Department of Ecology and the engineering firm to guide the way the study is done. Then we will submit the contract for Council approval.
- Cathy d'Almeida will give a status report on the climate protection plan at the next council meeting; and continuation of funding of her position will be discussed at the Council workshop.
- Eve Parrish has agreed to work as a temporary employee to complete the Town's Emergency Plan, and she has a lot of technical writing experience.
- She attended the EDC luncheon last week with state revenue forecasters, it was also a good networking opportunity to discuss some issues of interest to the Town.
- She met with Helen Price Johnson and Bob Pederson about the Joint Workshop on May 4th, and we will review a draft of the Unified Code at the next Joint Workshop. Discussion on the design guidelines will be in June.
- Tomorrow is the Skagit Island Regional Transportation Policy Organization meeting, which Councilmember Clay is a member and will be attending.
- Tomorrow, April 28th, the Council of Governments will meet at 2:00 to review the proposals for the solar grant (\$25,000 grant). Also they will continue discussions about use of the 2% lodging tax.

- Thursday, April 29th, a certified arborist will meet with staff, and members of the Tree Committee. He will talk with representatives of the Parks and Recreation Commission to see where trees have been removed and what should be planted in place of them. The Garden Club also has some questions about trees at the Cook's Corner Park.
- Friday, April 30, 2010, she will meet with members of the Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce and the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association to discuss plans for the arrival of the new ferry, the Chetzamoka.
- She reminded everyone to be sure and go online to 'Vote' for Ferry House to get funding for historical preservation. The Ferry House will be open from noon to 3:00 pm on Sunday May 2nd.
- The next Joint Workshop of the Town Council and Board of Island County Board of Commissioners will be on Tuesday, May 4th at 9:00 am.
- At 5:30 pm, on May 4th there will be a composting demonstration at the Community Garden.
- The Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) has scheduled a presentation at 2:00 pm on May 1st, with a representative from Lewis County, who was very involved with emergency management during the floods that occurred in Lewis County a few years ago.
- The owner of a small, unbuildable lot on the north side of Front Street is interested in donating the lot to the Town. She will meet with him, and also discuss it with the Town Attorney.
- She received a letter from the Whidbey Camano Land Trust requesting the Town Council submit a letter of support to purchase the Trillium property on south Whidbey. We will discuss it further at the Council Workshop on May 6th.
- The Downtown Revitalization Conference will be held in Port Townsend on May 19th to 21st; and the topics look great. Councilmember Hughes will attend on May 20th.
- The 2010 AWC Conference will be in Vancouver, Washington, on June 23rd to the 25th. Councilmembers Clay, Tack and Binder plan to attend.
- We have advertised for Request for Proposals for the Sale of the Old Fire Hall. So far we have given out six packets and hope to receive two or three proposals. The deadline date is May 13th and will bring proposals to Council on May 25th.
- The Council Workshop is scheduled for May 6th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm to discuss general topics, and she asked Council to let her know of any topics they wished to discuss.

PRESENTATIONS

Coupeville Mussel Festival – Report on the 2010 Event

Mary Alice Sterling and Cindy Olson, from the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association (CHWA) gave a report on the 2010 Mussel Festival. This year's event began on March 5th with the Mussel Mingle at the Rec Hall. Over the weekend they served chowder to 1,500 people from 12 restaurants. They purchased 18,000 paper cups, seven bands performed; five dozen participated in the mussel eating competition. Several participated in the Mussel Hustle; approximately 500 people rode on the Mystic Sea and the Cutty Sark. Over 8,000 people attended the Mussel Festival; over 3,000 pounds of mussels were consumed. Mary Alice thanked the police department for their help. About one-third of the chowder contest ballots were returned. They estimated about 20% came from off island, and 20% from Seattle and surrounding Seattle area. The total cost was \$18,000, and they received \$18,100. This was the CHWA's 3rd year to plan and organize this event. From the feedback, it was suggested to have

more activities. They estimated that if 8,000 spent \$10 each, in Town, then \$80,000 was brought into the community over the weekend. The largest age group to attend were the 25-35 yr olds. All the rooms were full in the hotels and B & Bs. The biggest thing that was suggested was for more food in the future. Their goal is to get equal numbers of visitors on both days. It is not just about the food, but they want more activities and things to do, while they are here.

Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce – Update on Current Events

Lynda Eccles, director of CWCC, gave statistics for the first quarter of 2010 for the Visitor Information Center, they received: 3,684 visitors, 499 phone calls for information, 2,790 walk-ins, and probably 1,000 during the Victoria Clipper (VC) visits. They sent nine relocation packets; and logged 599 volunteer hours. She added that the VC has been great for Coupeville and thanked Jim Patton and Marshall Bronson, for making it possible. The VC made eight stops in Coupeville, bringing about 1,500 visitors to town. Representatives from the CWCC greeted all the visitors and guided them to the restaurants and shops. QVC, the shopping channel, will be here for one week, to start their “See America Tour”. They will be visiting several areas around Whidbey Island; and it will be aired on Memorial Day, May 31st. Entries for the Memorial Day Parade are still coming; it will be followed by the Remembrance Ceremony and a concert by the Army Band. CHWA, Mayor Conard and Nichols Brothers will get together to discuss how to celebrate the new ferry. The CWCC is proposing to change the name from Keystone to Coupeville for the ferry route to Port Townsend. Council members agreed that they would like see the name of the ferry run changed to Coupeville/Port Townsend. Councilmember Hughes thanked Lynda Eccles for all the connections she has made with other organizations; and noted that Mary Alice Sterling just completed six years as president of the CHWA. It was added how great the two organizations, CHWA and CWCC, work together; and with everyone in the community.

Mayor Conard called for a short recess at 7:50 pm and reconvened at 7:58 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Special Event Permit Application for the Penn Cove Water Festival on May 22, 2010 - Staff recommends approval of the special event permit.

Councilmember Hughes added one change to the application that Grace Street from Coveland to Front Street will be closed. This year’s event will include a Native Art Show in the Rec Hall, on Saturday and Sunday. Story teller, Ted Vigil, is coming as a featured artist; the 74 ft Luna motor-sail boat will have tours of Penn Cove native sites. Councilmembers Clay and Binder, Mayor Conard, Marshal Penrod, and Malcolm Bishop will serve burgers to the participants of the boat races.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Binder, second by Councilmember Clay, to approve the Special Event Permit Application for the Penn Cove Water Festival on May 22, 2010. The motion passed 5-0.

Set dates for the next five Joint Meetings of the Town Council and the Island County Commissioners to continue review of the Ebey’s Reserve Unified Code. - Suggested dates are Tuesday, May 4th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm; Friday, May 14th 1:00 - 5:00 pm; Thursday, June 3rd, 1:00 - 5:00 pm; Monday, June 7th, 1:00 - 5:00 pm; and Thursday, July 1st 1:00 - 5:00 pm.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Tack, second by Councilmember Clay, to set the next five Joint Meetings of the Town Council and Island County Commissioners to continue review of the Ebey’s Reserve Unified Code for Tuesday, May 4th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm;

Friday, May 14th 1:00 - 5:00 pm; Thursday, June 3rd, 1:00 - 5:00 pm; Monday, June 7th, 1:00 - 5:00 pm; and Thursday, July 1st 1:00 - 5:00 pm. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of April Claims and March Payroll Warrants - *Staff recommends approval of the April 23, 2010 claims vouchers/warrants #22874 through #22968 for a total of \$184,560.97; and March payroll warrants #12837 through #12874 for a total of \$94,723.41.*

Several questions were asked and answered and no changes were made.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the of the April 23, 2010 claims vouchers/warrants #22874 through #22968 for a total of \$184,560.97; and March payroll warrants #12837 through #12874 for a total of \$94,723.41. The motion passed 5-0.

Bike Racks

Councilmember Dannhauer explained that the bike racks that will be ordered are different from the ones she had suggested at the Council Budget Workshop. These are actually less expensive, much heavier bike racks, and look like they are better quality than what was originally recommended. Council had no objection to the change.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Thomas provided a written report that included March financial reports and answered questions asked. The new server and computers were installed at Town Hall and we are working with Cascade Computer Maintenance to work out a few kinks, and all is going well.

Marshal Penrod provided a written report and noted a few things that are coming up in May, to include a guest speaker at NET meeting (previously discussed in Mayor's report). He will attend the WASPC Conference in Spokane and they will devote one-day to the Lakewood shootings.

Malcolm Bishop explained that over one-third of the touch-read meters have been installed (approximately 375); this is a big job and one person is doing it all. The Keystone Hill Well Outfitting project is coming along pretty well and the well house is complete, electrical installation is almost complete, the piping is complete, vault in place, PSE has to set the transformer, and the fencing has to be installed. Well testing will begin next week. Two underground fuel tanks have been removed at the Johnson Building site and the hole will be open until the soil testing is complete, and all contaminated soil is removed and incinerated. Telemetry is working very well and haven't received any false alarms since we went live.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dannhauer attended the April 1st Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, and they discussed the following: a report on the Tree Committee and mention of an arborist who is scheduled to visit; there be an 'Ivy Pull Day' at the Town Park, on May 8th, 10 am to Noon to remove ivy; the berm and screening on Main Street and Highway 20. Regarding the Rec Hall they are working on fee proposals, two new signs for the Rec Hall; almost ready to order the kitchen equipment; and discussion on vegetation around the Rec Hall. They talked about the parking lot, near the Post Office; and they still plan to talk with Larry Kwarsick about the proposed revisions to the Comp Plan, Park Impact Fees, and Capital Facilities Plan; then they talked about the open space zone and the current use of open space, especially by the community garden parking. She attended the Welcome the Whales parade and celebration in Langley on April 24th.

Councilmember Clay attended the Law & Justice Council meeting about transitional housing; providing housing to people coming out of incarceration; and there may be funding available for this program. Another program that available is the living classroom, to get people involved in a community garden to grow vegetables; the work is supervised work to transition from jail. He acted as Mayor for one week in early April and there were no crises. He participated in the interview process for Island County to hire an Island County Transportation Planner, and they hired Donna Keeler. There was a Tree Committee meeting to catch up on what they are doing next and start the heritage tree program; some people on the committee are canvassing the town to see what trees may fit with the program, then they will bring a proposal to Town Council. He attended a meeting about the ferry system with the contractor who will develop the reservation system. Island Transit Board met and their stats are about the same as last year, except Paratransit is up; fixed routes down slightly but it is stabilizing; now fuel prices are going up. Attended the Economic Development Council (EDC) meeting at Useless Bay and heard speakers from Olympia. Last week he met with the Farmhouse Gang to discuss regional transportation, they received a report on the transportation budget by Senator Haugen; there was a presentation about a light train light rail system, that can run on existing rails. Tomorrow is an RTPO meeting and a Law & Justice Committee meeting.

Councilmember Tack commended Lynda Eccles (CWCC) and Laura Blankenship (Whidbey General Hospital Foundation) on the great work they do. Last year, WGH received \$19,000, and this year \$99,000 in grants through the WGH Foundation and explained how the community benefits from these grants. He spoke about the ferry meeting he attended with Councilmember Clay and they discussed the ferry reservation system; it was a good meeting and he learned a lot.

Councilmember Binder noted that she also attended the EDC meeting and the two economists from Olympia discussed the budget, and it sounds like we won't be having a full recovery until 2012. On tourism, we had a fabulous spread about Whidbey Island in *Western Art and Architecture Magazine*; also several radio ads repeated on several stations. Also, Whidbey Island is included in several Canadian travel magazines. They are in the process of interviewing for public relations person for the Joint Tourism Commission, who will be more of a spokesperson.

Councilmember Hughes attended the Library grand opening. At the CWCC meeting they had a guest speaker who owns a marketing company, and discussed how to develop campaigns. She reminded everyone to vote daily for the historical preservation project of the Ferry House, to receive the grant from American Express. There will be an open house at the Ferry House on May 2nd from noon to 3:00; Ebey's Reserve Manager Mark Preiss will give an introduction at noon. She won't be able to attend the NET meeting because she will be at an all day Ebey's Reserve Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:04 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

Nancy Conard