

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 13, 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 Hughes, second by Councilmember Clay, to approve the Agenda as submitted. The motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of June 29, 2010; Joint Workshop of July 1, 2010; and Council Workshop of July 8, 2010

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 29, 2010 were approved with the following five changes: **1)** Page 2, mid-page, Council Action, *Discussion*, should read, ‘Councilmember Tack mentioned that there was... and supported adding a right turn lane from North Main to Highway 20, as it would reduce excessive (vehicle) idling in town.’ **2)** Same paragraph, next sentence should read, ‘Councilmember Dannhauer asked about the possibility of a roundabout; expressed concerns about not knowing the current level of service; and asked about traffic...’; **3)** Page 3, third paragraph, should read, ‘Councilmember Tack ~~asked what can be done with~~ was concerned that the program overlooked the Island’s largest employer, and asked what can be done to include employees of NAS Whidbey.’; **4)** Page 5, fourth paragraph, beginning with Councilmember Hughes, fourth sentence should read, “The Conference is being changed to a one-day event...the theme of the conference is “The Next Generation” ~~of farmers;~~ focusing on farmers, preservation and community.”; **5)** Same page, same paragraph, last sentence, should read, “Their new website is up and can be viewed at www.giftsfromtheheart.com www.giftsfromtheheartfoodbank.com.”

The minutes of the Joint Workshop of July 1, 2010, and the Council Workshop of July 8, 2010, were approved as submitted.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- Mayor Conard explained that Donna Keeler’s comments at the last meeting about levels of service were incorrect and she and Larry Kwarsick will provide correct information to the Council at the next meeting.
- She and Don Piercy attended the Washington State Transportation Commission meeting today, on renaming the ‘Keystone’ ferry terminal to the ‘Coupeville’ ferry terminal. She spoke in favor of the name change, and presented the letter of support. The name change was approved unanimously. One of the concerns was the cost, and she has submitted an application for a grant to cover the costs of replacing the signs. There is an educational display proposed about the history of the Keystone name. WSDOT will announce the change at the christening of the Chetzamoka.

- She has initiated discussion with WSDOT to place some (directional) signs when you come off the ferry, and we are looking at a signage plan that directs people to the Coupeville Historic Waterfront.
- WSDOT is still considering reducing the speed limit on Highway 20, through Coupeville.
- She thanked Council members and volunteers for all the help with the Town-hosted barbecue for the Tribal Journey, last Saturday. They had a great turnout and served about 300 people. Special thanks to Molly Hughes for organizing the barbecue.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission met on July 8th, at which Larry Kwarsick gave an update on the proposed amendments to the Parks and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Councilmember Dannhauer referred to a discussion at the last Council meeting about traffic impact fees, and noted that traffic impact fees are allowed in the State of Washington, and she read from RCW 82.02.090 Impact Fees, Definitions. Mayor Conard responded that she had misspoke, and she will get the information from Larry Kwarsick.

NEW BUSINESS

Set date for Council Workshop for Thursday, August 5, 2010 at 4:00 pm.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to set the date for a Council Workshop on August 5, 2010. The motion passed 5-0

Set dates for Joint Workshops with Town Council and Island County Board of Commissioners to continue review of Ebey's Reserve Design Guidelines - *The recommended dates are: Tuesday, August 10th 9:00 am to Noon; Tuesday, August 17th 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm; Thursday, August 26th Noon to 4:00 pm; and Tuesday, August 31st Noon to 4:00 pm.*

Councilmember Tack noted that he will be out of town on August 10th.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Hughes, to set the following Joint Workshop dates for Tuesday, August 10th 9:00 am to Noon; Tuesday, August 17th 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm; Thursday, August 26th Noon to 4:00 pm; and Tuesday, August 31st Noon to 4:00 pm., to continue discussion of the Ebey's Reserve Unified Code. The motion passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION

State of the Town Recap – Mayor Conard

Mayor Conard gave a brief recap of the 'State of the Town' and provided spreadsheets on the following: *Business Recap – January 2010* - There are 137 businesses in Town, of which 56 generate sales tax (government offices, schools, churches, professional services don't generate sales tax).

Town of Coupeville – Sales & Use Tax - Tracking revenue per month, and per year (2000 thru May 2010) and the biggest drop was because of the completion of some large construction projects that were completed in 2007, but sales & use tax revenue is up (by month) in 2010 from 2009, and the streamlined sales tax (aka destination based sales tax) has helped.

Building Permits issued from 2004 thru 2009 indicate a burst in activity in 2004 and 2005, reflecting public projects and the residential 'boom'. *Construction Value* shows the construction value of the construction projects.

Town of Coupeville - Hotel/Motel Tax (2%) is down a little in 2009 from 2008, but we are doing a little better this year (thru May 2010) from last year.

Town of Coupeville - REET (Real Estate Excise Tax) was down \$14,000 in 2009 from 2008, which was down \$33,000 from 2007; and totals for the first five months of 2010 are still low.

Tax Receipts for Downtown Businesses from 2004 thru 2009 were down overall in 2009 from 2008 by less than one percent (0.36%).

Sales Tax Revenue - Monthly Reporters indicate that of the nine businesses that report monthly, some are up and some are down, but overall up by 2.69%.

Town of Coupeville Property Tax – She provided tax rates for all taxing districts in Coupeville for 2009 and 2010, and the total rate for Coupeville in 2010 is 7.53141/\$1,000 Assessed Value; which is low, in comparison to Whatcom County at 8.83-12.75/\$1,000 Assessed Value; and Snohomish County 7.52-11.11/\$1,000 Assessed Value. Island County has the lowest property tax rate of 39 counties in the state.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:21 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

Nancy Conard