City Council Minutes – August 6, 2007

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Maxwell called the regularly scheduled meeting of August 6, 2007 to order. Roll call found present Loren Hoboy, Nick Petrish, Erica Pickett, Brad Adams, Bill Turner, Cynthia Richardson, and Brian Geer. Roll call was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Petrish moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, to approve the minutes of July 2, 2007 as if read. Vote: Ayes – Petrish, Pickett, Adams, Turner, Richardson, Geer, and Hoboy. Motion carried.

Citizen Hearings

No citizens present wished to testify on matters not on the agenda.

Greeting from Nikaho City (Kisakata Town) Sister City Exchange Participants

Mr. Duane Clark, Anacortes Sister City President, introduced Ms. Cora Lijeck, co-chair of the Nikaho City/Anacortes Sister City youth exchange. She shared that there are 14 Japanese students participating in this year's exchange with four chaperones and 12 Anacortes host families. She then asked Mr. Chisea Ikeda from the Nikaho City Planning Department to read a message from Mayor Tadanaga Yokoyama. Mayor Yokoyama first thanked Brian Geer for participating in the 10th anniversary of the Kisakata/Anacortes exchange. Recently, when Kisakata merged with two other cities in Akita Prefecture, the population doubled and sister city relationships in China, New Zealand, and Oklahoma were added to the list our international friendships – friendships that definitely contribute to world peace. Mayor Yokoyama also said that the hope is to learn from each and to develop sincere relationships that will last forever. Mayor Maxwell then thanked Ms. Lijeck for her dedication to make this important exchange a success. The audience applauded the students and guests.

The Mayor announced that the League of Women Voters will sponsor a Candidates Forum on August 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers – this will provide an opportunity for the public to meet the next Council representatives for Wards 1 and 3.

The Mayor reported that the City's Police Department Records Division is audited every three years; the recent audit reported 100% compliance. Ms. Christine O'Leary and the records staff are responsible for this significant result; in fact, the City's Records Division will be used as a model for other jurisdictions.

The Mayor announced that Ms. Kathy Janke, Planning Department, recently completed 30 years of service with the City of Anacortes.

The Mayor then introduced Mr. Gary Robinson, Parks and Recreation Director. Mr. Robinson announced that the City has reached its preservation easement goal of conserving 1,500 acres. He remarked on the overwhelming generosity of the community in its support of this conservation program. In particular, Mr. John Tursi has donated $375,000 to this program in memory of his wife Doris. Mr. Robinson introduced Mr. Tursi who made a ceremonial presentation to the Mayor of the final $25,000 securing the 1,500 acres. Mr. Tursi said that he had been taught to protect our natural resources and that it gave him great pleasure to donate the final contribution to protect the City's forestlands in perpetuity. On behalf of the Council and community, the Mayor thanked Mr. Tursi for his sincere and profound philanthropic contributions to Anacortes citizens of all ages. A thunderous standing ovation followed.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Appointment: Marcia Hunt

Mr. Hoboy moved, seconded by Mr. Turner to confirm the appointment of Ms. Marcia Hunt to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and to the ACFL Board. In this dual position Ms. Hunt will functions as a liaison between the two Boards. Vote: Ayes – Pickett, Adams, Turner, Richardson, Geer, Hoboy, and Petrish. Motion carried.

San Juan Passage: Landscape Plan/Grading and Clearing Proposal

Mr. Ian Munce, Planning Director, recognized the significant features of the San Juan Passage final development plan project including a shoreline trail (constructed by the City but funded by Gilbane); transfer of wetlands to the City; donation of a 3-acre open space parcel; two parks and access trails; parks, while privately owned and maintained, will be open to the public. One of the project conditions asks that mature trees be retained where feasible. The applicant has reported that, given the road and utility construction, it would not be possible to keep 21 mature trees; the applicant said they would mitigate for those tree losses. The Council has before them a proposal for the required landscaping plan; replacement trees include 75 mature pines and 31 maple trees. The Landscaping Plan was previously discussed with Council in Study Session. The biggest issue is the area along Oakes Avenue – conditions require berm with landscaping. The proposal before Council meets staff concerns and with the mitigation proposed, the Plan meets City requirements. This evening's meeting provides an opportunity for discussion as this is the last step before construction begins.

Mr. Hoboy asked about the height of retaining walls; the answer was 2' to 7'. Mr. Geer said that the City is characterized and defined by trees and waterfront; saving mature trees is consistent with that definition and he appreciated the applicant's efforts at mitigation. Mr. Adams clarified the definition of mature trees and confirmed that the current proposal conforms to and exceeds current and updated landscaping criteria. Mr. Hoboy appreciated the progress made on the proposal; while it is regrettable that trees will be removed he proposed that the re-plantings be blended to create more natural appearing tree heights. Mr. Petrish said the intent of the Council was to save trees but doubted that was Gilbane's objective; he also inquired about the buffer at the northern end of property. Mrs. Pickett suggested that the Council study the arborist report; she was pleased with the proposal and underscored that the public benefits from this project are immense. The Mayor asked when the landscaping berm will be completed; the applicant needs to move ahead with site work to complete the berm by November. Mr. Adams pointed out that while there will be a loss of 22 trees, there will be a gain of 100. Mr. Turner suggested that future developers make note of the City's intent to save and protect trees; with that, Mr. Turner moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, to approve the San Juan Passage Landscaping Plan with the proviso that plantings be arranged to provide for a variety of heights. Mrs. Richardson, discussed the landscaping material choices, asked that English laurel be removed from the planting list, asked for more of a variety of species; and asked for plans for natural backyards. Vote: Ayes – Adams, Turner, Richardson, Geer, Hoboy, Pickett. No – Petrish. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Geer moved, seconded by Mr. Adams to approve the following Consent Agenda items. Vote: Ayes – Turner, Richardson, Geer, Hoboy, Petrish, Pickett, and Adams. Motion carried.

Approval of Vouchers/Cancellation of Warrants

Council voted unanimously that the following vouchers/warrants audited and certified by the City's Auditing Officer (Finance Director) and subsequently reviewed and approved by the Council Finance Committee on July 19, 2007, July 26, 2007, and August 2, 2007.

Claims Warrants

Aug. 2007: Warrant Numbers 42188 through 42441 in the total amount of $1,117,105.23

EFT

Aug. 2007: EFT Numbers 42186 through 42187 in the total amount of $594.80

Prewritten Claims

July 2007: Warrant Number 42185 in the total amount of $110.00

Payroll # 1 for July 20, 2007 in the total amount of $501,627.72

Warrant Numbers 31040 through 31112 in the total amount of $61,432.50
Direct Deposit Numbers 23006 through 23166 in the total amount of $269,747.43
EFT Numbers 730 through 737 in the total amount of $170,447.79

Payroll # 2 for August 3, 2007 in the total amount of $698,509.49

Warrant Numbers 31113 through 31198 in the total amount of $248,183.92
Direct Deposit Numbers 23167 through 23279 in the total amount of $276,439.97
EFT Numbers 738 through 743 in the total amount of $173,885.60

In the same motion Council accepted the Waterline Inter-tie at Longview Avenue project (07-016-WTR-001) as complete thereby initiating the mandatory 30-day lien period; and

Approved the Special Event Application for a multi-church community picnic on September 2, 2007 at Storvik Park from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Resolution: Adopting Project Specific Policy for Mayor's Signature (Segments 5 and 6 Waterline Project 2007-2008)

Mr. Fred Buckenmeyer, Pubic Works Director, presented a Resolution to Council for review and adoption. If adopted, the Resolution would increase the Mayor's signature authority specifically with regard to the Segments 5 and 6 Waterline Project. The Resolution was reviewed by the Public Works Committee; the project cost is in excess of $10 million and staff is concerned that with the $30,000 change order threshold project delays could occur that would seriously accelerate costs. Mayor Maxwell added that any significant change orders will be brought back to the Council for a full briefing. Mr. Turner clarified that this Resolution is job specific and supported taking this action; with that he moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, to adopt **Resolution No. 1743** entitled "A Resolution Adopting a Project Specific Amendment to the Policy for City Contracts (Segments 5 and 6 Waterline Project 2007-2008). Vote: Ayes – Richardson, Geer, Hoboy, Petrish, Pickett, Adams, and Turner. Motion carried.

Public Hearing: CDBG/2007-2009 Consolidated Plan and 2007 Action Plan Review/Approval

Mayor Maxwell initiated the Public Hearing to take comments on the CDBG 2007/2009 Consolidated Plan and 2007 Action Plan. Mr. Ian Munce, Planning Director, set the context for this Hearing. The Community Development Block Grant Funding, initiated by the Federal Government over 40 years ago, would annually appropriate funds to larger metropolitan areas; over time smaller cities the size of Anacortes were able to compete for funding – specifically for projects assisting low income citizens. The City received its first allocation 5 years ago and the new Wilson Hotel remodeling, create 25 low income units. The City also earmarked 15% for Skagit County Community Action Agency for direct service delivery. Mr. Munce explained that every three years the City must update its CDBG Plan by identifying particular projects, taking public input, and submitting a plan to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD. After review the HUD could disperse funding; however, any project/contract implementation will come back to Council for approval. In that regard, the City received three contract requests for funding (amounts are approximate): (1) $18,000 to Skagit County Community Action Agency; (2) a new request from the regional food distribution center for $12,000 per year for 3 years to address storage and distribution issues; and (3) Anacortes shelter project in the amount of $75,000. An existing shelter is already established; a new family shelter is proposed. If approved, Council could condition the project contracts. The shelter is located in the appropriate zone so there are no land use issues.

Mr. Steve Burton - 1012 27th St. spoke against the Shelter appropriation; he lives near the Shelter and stated that the neighborhood quality of life has deteriorated since the shelter was established; he said that criminal activity has occurred. Ms. Valerie Gleason, 5209 Maritime Court spoke in favor of the shelter project; through her own experience her family was assisted and encouraged through a similar shelter project. She said people need a safe haven to make a fresh start. Mr. Bob Thurkelson, 1018 27th St., lives across from the shelter and said the quality of life has suffered and property values have decreased; security is an issue. Mr. Bob Marriott 1015 26th St., suggested that the shelter program does not help people in the long term; the City needs educational opportunities so people can learn to support themselves; this is harming the neighborhood and provides for increased crime. Mr. Warren Tessler, 1417 6th St. spoke in favor of the shelter project; he said that it is the community's responsibility to respond to the homeless issues. He spoke against making stereotypical judgments against people who suffer financial hardships. Mr. John Curtis, 3216 Commercial, spoke against the shelter project and said that it invites trouble to the neighborhood. Mr. Richard Bergner 1515, Yokeko Drive, spoke in favor of the all three projects, and specifically supported the shelter project and its organizational team. Ms. Cheryl Lee, 5606 Rosario Way, Shelter Board Member, spoke in favor of the project, and praised individuals from the shelter who have gained employment in the community. Ms. Rosemary Orr, 1617 32nd St., spoke in favor of the family shelter project that would provide protection and accommodations for children. Ms. Jeanne Robinette, 2521 17th St., is familiar with the shelter plan and is convinced that the incentives are in place to encourage residents to live responsible lives; she spoke in favor of the project. Ms. Sally Balmer, 418 4th St., spoke in favor of the project and encouraged the Council to approve this opportunity – the need is there. Mr. Terry Kilo, 7555 Crescent Lane, Vice President

Shelter Board, discussed the search to find a facility and spoke in favor of the project. Ms. Mary Thurkelson, 1018 27th St., said that those who were speaking on behalf of the shelter do not live in the neighborhood. Property values have decreased; there's only limited contact with shelter representatives; neighborhood safety is threatened; and there is a more appropriate place elsewhere. Ms. Jill Burton 1012 27th St., submitted letters against proposal and asked where funding will come from to pay for salaries and facility upkeep; the facility has not been fully utilized. Mr. Francis Orr, 1617 32nd St., member of the Noon Kiwanis Club, supports a facility that will provide decent living quarters and hope to children; he spoke in favor of the project. Mr. Keith Rubin, 915 Haddon Road, shared his experience about emergency housing for a homeless family; there is a need in this community. He spoke in favor of the shelter. Ms. Patty Santangelo, 2510 M Avenue, suggested developing a housing land trust (Orcas Island has developed just such a trust); without a shelter families are separated. She spoke in favor of the project. Mr. Milton Lewis business owner at 27th and Commercial, said that conditions regarding security need to be implemented. Mr. Michael Curtis, 15190 Gibraltar Road, said that this project is a lot of responsibility; there should be strict guidelines to protect the neighborhood. He said that the shelter should not draw people from other communities. Mr. Eric Johnson, Shelter Board President, 2001 Piper Circle, addressed the security concerns. He explained that the Shelter will have complete full time staff; budget and action plans are available to the public; security concerns will be addressed in a number of ways including card key locks, and built-in security features; residents will be screened; 64% of the Shelter residents are from Anacortes; and the success rate is 65%. Mr. Johnson praised the community for providing much needed funding for this project - $100,000 annually. The Shelter is looking forward to working with the neighbors and community on making Anacortes a better place to live. The Mayor thanked everyone for their comments; the comment period is open and written comments are welcome including suggestions for contract conditions.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the regularly scheduled August 6, 2007 Council meeting.