

Anacortes City Council Minutes – June 1, 2020

Mayor Laurie Gere called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of June 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Matt Miller all participated in the meeting in absentia via video conference.

Mayor Gere added to the agenda Item 1a, an Executive Session to consider a potential real estate transaction per RCW 42.30.110(1).

Executive Session

At approximately 6:02 p.m. Mayor Gere announced that City Council would convene in Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110(1) for approximately 15 minutes to discuss a potential real estate transaction and that following the executive session the regular meeting would reconvene. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Matt Miller all participated in the executive session in absentia via video conference.

At approximately 6:12 p.m. the Mayor called the regular session back to order.

Ms. Moulton moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall, to amend the agenda to add Item 1b, to consider acquisition of property adjacent to the Anacortes Water Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Authorizing the Mayor to approve a Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Estate of Gerald Thomas Koffel

Public Works Director Fred Buckenmeyer summarized the proposed purchase and sale agreement which staff had discussed with Council during the immediately preceding Executive Session. He said that the property, which is contiguous with the Anacortes Water Treatment Plant property, would be acquired per the condemnation authorized by City Council via Ordinance 3041 on May 13, 2019 and would allow for expansion of the plant in the future. Mr. Buckenmeyer responded to councilmember questions about the property and the terms of the sale.

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to authorize the mayor to execute a purchase and sale agreement in the amount of \$490K for the Koffel property immediately adjacent to the Anacortes Water Treatment Plant. Vote: Ayes – Young, Walters, Cleland-McGrath, Moulton, McDougall, Miller and Carter. Motion carried.

Announcements and Committee Reports

COVID-19 Update: Mayor Gere reminded that she would hold her weekly community briefing at 4:00 p.m. on June 3. She announced that earlier in the day Skagit County had reapplied to the Washington State Department of Health to enter Phase II and that the County expected a response within two days.

Mayor Gere commented on the nationwide and local demonstrations following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and urged addressing systemic racism locally and nationally. Police Chief John Small echoed Mayor Gere's words and said the Anacortes Police Department would not tolerate racism or police brutality. Chief Small summarized the training Anacortes officers receive and the dearth of complaints about racism in the department. At councilmember request, the chief described the two complaints received in 2019, both of which were determined upon investigation to be unfounded.

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee: Mr. Miller reported from the committee meeting on May 27, the results of which would be addressed later on the agenda.

Public Works Committee: Ms. Moulton reported from the committee meeting earlier in the evening. She indicated that the members had discussed options for replacing the aging incinerator at the wastewater treatment plant, the city's recently awarded AWC Municipal Excellence Award, and the new page on the City website presenting information about the A Avenue Landfill.

Public Comment

Per Section 3 of Resolution 2082 Ratifying Proclamation of Emergency and Providing Temporary Procedures to Respond to the COVID-19 Epidemic, adopted by the Anacortes City Council on March 16, 2020, the public comment portion of Council meetings and any scheduled public hearings were temporarily suspended to discourage public in-person attendance of City Council meetings. The public was encouraged to comment via email or written comment addressed to: City Clerk, P.O. Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221. Public comments received prior to the meeting become part of the record for the meeting, just as if presented in person.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Moulton removed Item 3d, Resolution 2093: Waiving the State Competitive Bidding Requirements for Purchase of Parklets from Dero Bike Racks, from the Consent Agenda. She asked to consider that item following discussion of agenda Item 4a.

Ms. Moulton moved, seconded by Mr. Young, to approve the following Consent Agenda items. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- a. Minutes of May 26, 2020
- b Approval of Claims in the amount of: \$757,766.06
- c. Contract Award: WWTP Heat Exchanger Tube Sheet Repair #20-140-SEW-001

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
EFT numbers: 97248 through 97278, total \$149,454.79
Check numbers: 97279 through 97290, total \$604,845.06
Wire transfer numbers: 268933 through 269119, total \$2,829.71

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution 2092: Authorizing Distribution of Tourism Promotion Funds to the City of Anacortes PCED Department for the Purchase of Parklets to Expand Restaurant Seating to Accommodate Distancing Restrictions as Outlined in the Governor's Safe Start Washington Plan

Planning Director Don Measamer said staff had been researching ways to increase space for restaurants to enable serving more customers while meeting social distancing requirements. He reported that restaurants had suggested installing additional parklets like the modular Dero parklets the city already owns. Mr. Measamer said each parklet would provide space for two more tables, located in a parking spot in front of a restaurant. He explained the features of the Dero parklets that made them the only feasible model for this purpose. Mr. Measamer reported that the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) met on May 27, 2020 and after significant discussion recommended approval of the distribution of Tourism Promotion funds for this purpose as described in Resolution 2092.

Mr. Measamer responded to councilmember questions about how parklet locations would be allocated, the anticipated duration of their placement, the durability of the units and anticipated delivery date. Mr. Miller, chair of the LTAC, reported on the committee's deliberations and confirmed that its members supported Resolution 2092.

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Ms. Moulton, to approve Resolution 2092 as presented. Vote: Ayes – Walters, Cleland-McGrath, Moulton, McDougall, Miller, Carter and Young. Motion carried.

Resolution 2093: Waiving the State Competitive Bidding Requirements for Purchase of Parklets from Dero Bike Racks

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Moulton, to approve Consent Agenda Item 3d. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ordinance 3071: Authorizing Maximum Authority for Affordable Housing Sales Tax Credit

Finance Director Steve Hogle introduced Ordinance 3071 to authorize the full sales tax credit from the state for use on affordable and supportive housing, and to establish a trust fund in the City’s accounting system to accommodate the accounting necessary for the qualifying local tax and the supportive and affordable housing tax credit. Mr. Hogle summarized past Council action related to this ordinance, referring to the agenda bill included in the packet materials for the meeting. Mr. Walters asked if the fund would actually be a trust fund and who would be the trustee. Mr. Hogle explained that the fund would rather be a fiduciary fund. He agreed that the word “trust” could be dropped from the ordinance.

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adopt Ordinance 3071 revised to delete the word “trust” in all three places where it appeared in the ordinance. Vote: Ayes – Moulton, McDougall, Miller, Carter, Young, Walters and Cleland-McGrath. Motion carried.

There being no further business, at approximately 7:18 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of June 1, 2020 was adjourned.