

# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

March 15, 2010

## CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

The second Council meeting for the month of March was called to order by Mayor Carla Nichols at 7:00 p.m. at Woodway Town Hall. Councilmembers present were Bill Anderson, Kent Saltonstall, Elizabeth Mitchell, and Tom Whitson. Councilmember Mike Quinn had an excused absence. Town Administrator Eric Faison, Police Chief Doug Hansen, and Public Works Director Terry Bryant were also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Following minor amendments, *Councilmember Saltonstall* moved to approve the minutes of March 1, 2010 as amended. *Councilmember Mitchell* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

*Councilmember Saltonstall* moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2010. *Councilmember Anderson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:** *Councilmember Anderson* moved to approve Claims Warrants #7292 through #7305 for the total amount of \$22,322.19. *Councilmember Mitchell* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** Terry Vehrs, 11128 Algonquin Road, announced his support for the Council upcoming discussion of possibly installing security cameras at the Town's entrances.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:** **Councilmember Saltonstall** reported the Mayor, Council, and staff toured the Pt. Wells site with Paramount's environmental engineer last week. He commented on reduced operations at the site. He reported Olympic View Water District intends to provide water to the proposed development at Pt. Wells and suggested the Town obtain a copy of Olympic View's Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Nichols added there were observation wells throughout the property to monitor oil in the groundwater.

Councilmember Saltonstall reported there was a leaning power pole at Wachusett & Woodway Park Road.

**Councilmember Anderson** reported he attended the Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA) meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** **Mayor Nichols** reported the playground slide has been installed. She relayed ESCA plans to hold a Neighbor Helping Neighbor training meeting at the Howard residence on April 12. Neighbor Helping Neighbor is a program that encourages both personal preparedness and pre-disaster communication and coordination among neighbors.

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None

## DISCUSSION OF SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT 113<sup>TH</sup> PLACE WEST AND IVY ROAD

Mayor Nichols explained 113<sup>th</sup> is the street in front of Town Hall that turns into Ivy Road as the road moves east to intersect with Timberlane Road. To improve the safety of the area in front

of the playground, it was suggested the Council consider reconfiguring 113<sup>th</sup> to be a dead-end street.

Mr. Faison described the proposal: two-way traffic westbound on Ivy to the last house's driveway and then one way around the corner (in front of Town Hall). Driving south on 113<sup>th</sup>, there would be two-way traffic to the first entrance of Town Hall's parking lot with the road being a dead-end with parking at the end of 113<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed regarding other alternatives such as installing stop signs at the intersection, the existing uncontrolled intersection, the school bus route, and driver compliance.

Police Chief Hansen spoke in favor of the proposal as it would keep traffic away from the playground as well as add parking. He suggested graveling the parking area and installing a sidewalk on Ivy.

The Council agreed to have staff informally monitor how many children/families use the playground particularly this summer. If this issue is revisited in the future, Mayor Nichols offered to describe the proposal to the neighbors to gain their input prior to Council review.

### **DISCUSSION ON SECURITY CAMERAS AT WOODWAY ENTRANCES**

Mayor Nichols referred to the memo from Police Chief Hansen regarding his research with SecurFocus who provided cameras for Medina. She relayed at the two community meetings regarding security an informal vote indicated the majority of residents in attendance were in favor of the Town installing cameras.

Chief Hansen cautioned the cameras were not a panacea; they were a tool for investigating crimes. He described the City of Medina's cameras which also include a license plate reader that is monitored by their full-time Police Department. He explained in the burglary on Chinook, a neighbor's security system photographed a vehicle whose owner is now being investigated in connection with the burglary.

Chief Hansen described the potential location of the eight high resolution cameras that would be mounted on existing power poles at Town entrances/exits. The cost per camera is approximately \$30,000. The cameras are street focused; the recording could be reviewed when an event occurred. He acknowledged the recording may not be as efficient due to Woodway's dark skies.

Terry Vehrs recognized the Council's concerns, pointing out, in his opinion, most residents who have been burglarized are in favor of cameras. He viewed the cameras as a deterrent and suggested if the Town could not afford the cameras; there may be homeowners willing to assist financially.

Discussion followed regarding the durability of the cameras, neighborhoods that have cameras, leasing versus purchasing a system, review of the recording by the Police Department if an event occurred, the quality of recordings produced by residents' personal security systems, only installing cameras at main entrances such as Algonquin and the north and south entrances, concern with cost of cameras versus the number of burglaries, concern with use of surveillance cameras, Woodway Police Department staffing, homes with security gates, burglars' modus operandi, and a suggestion to install warning signs and not cameras.

Chief Hansen emphasized there would be far fewer crimes if everyone utilized available methods such as locking their cars, not keeping valuables in their cars, activating their security systems, installing more secure windows and locks, etc.

The Council requested Chief Hansen research the following:

- Whether the system could be leased rather than purchased
- Medina's experience with regard to cost, reliability and maintenance
- Obtain a quote from SecurFocus on four cameras versus eight
- Whether any other jurisdictions have installed signs but not cameras

Mayor Nichols suggested if the Council is interested in pursuing cameras that staff mails a short resident survey to determine the community's feeling toward installing cameras. It was agreed to schedule this on an agenda when the entire Council was present to review Chief Hansen's findings on the above items.

## **INVESTMENT POLICY**

Mayor Nichols reviewed revisions to the Investment Policy. The Council discussed the current practice of providing the Clerk Treasurer guidance regarding investments, term of investments, and membership on the Investment Committee.

It was agreed to amend the second paragraph of Section 5.3 to add, "All investment transactions must be approved by the Investment Committee." It was also agreed to correct a typographical error in the third line of Section 12.0 by adding the word "than" as follows, "...more than one-year from..."

**ACTION:** *Councilmember Mitchell* moved that the Town Council approve Exhibit A, the Town of Woodway Investment Policy, with the corrections noted. *Councilmember Anderson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

## **GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION – CHOICE OF SUBJECTS**

In response to Councilmember Whitson's inquiry, Mayor Nichols explained a mudslide on Friday approximately three miles south of Edmonds blocked one of the double tracks. Passenger train service was discontinued for 48 hours as a safety precaution. Councilmember Whitson commented on environmental hazards at Pt. Wells including potential for mudslides as well as rising sea levels as a result of global warming.

Mayor Nichols suggested scheduling use of the Woodway Reserve by the community on a future agenda. Discussion followed regarding the current policy for access to the Reserve, allowing more access particularly when Town Hall is open, inviting a graduate student to meet with users to discuss the urban forest, signage to discourage off-trail wandering, and use of the Reserve as a resource for local schools.

Mayor Nichols distributed photographs of interpretive signage in the Olympic National Forest. The Council expressed interest in increasing access to the central portion of the Reserve with consideration given to safety and avoiding damage. Mayor Nichols suggested Public Works

Director Terry Bryant update the Council on staff's experience with increased public access in the eastern portion of the Reserve.

**ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING:** *Councilmember Saltonstall* moved to adjourn the meeting. *Councilmember Mitchell* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL**

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Joyce Bielefeld, Clerk Treasurer

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Carla A. Nichols, Mayor

(These minutes accurately reflect what was said at the Council Meeting. Publication does not vouch for the veracity of these statements.)