

# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

July 28, 2008

## CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

The second Council meeting for the month of July was called to order by Mayor Carla Nichols at 7:00 p.m. at Woodway Town Hall. Councilmembers present were Robert Schillberg, Kent Saltonstall, Bill Anderson, Kevin Fiske and Mike Quinn. Town Administrator Eric Faison; Public Works Director Terry Bryant; and Clerk-Treasurer Joyce Bielefeld were also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The following amendment was made to the July 7, 2008 minutes:

- Page 2, second to last paragraph, change the title of the book Councilmember Saltonstall mentioned to "Local Government Dollars and Sense," by Len Wood.

*Councilmember Anderson* moved to approve the minutes of July 7, 2008 as amended. *Councilmember Saltonstall* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:** *Councilmember Schillberg* moved to approve Claims Warrants #6452 through #6477 for the total amount of \$72,969.77. *Councilmember Anderson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** Al Swackhammer, 24102 107<sup>th</sup> Place W, Edmonds, described weeds and blackberry bushes growing on the land between their property and the Woodway Highlands fence line and asked who was responsible for maintaining that property. He also asked who owned the fence. Following a brief discussion, Mayor Nichols offered to verify ownership of the property between the wood fence and the chainlink fence. She also suggested Mr. Swackhammer contact the President of the Woodway Highlands Homeowners Association, Dane Hjort.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:** **Councilmember Schillberg** briefly reported on the Washington Cities Insurance Authority audit, advising the Town had only one small claim during the past year.

**Councilmember Quinn** requested an excused absence from the August 4 meeting.

**Councilmember Saltonstall** reported there was an electrocuted owl on a power pole on North Deer. He advised SNOCOM was working on their 2009 budget and anticipated expenses would increase by 4-5% but the budget committee hopes to keep the increase in cities' assessments to a lower percentage.

**Councilmember Anderson** referred to the comparison of 2007 and 2008 REET revenue that illustrated the difference in revenue collected from 25-35 properties sold in Woodway in 2007 versus approximately 3-5 properties sold in the first 6 months of 2008. For budgeting purposes, he suggested an assumption of an average turnover of 5% of the 400 homes in the Town.

**MAYOR REPORT:** **Mayor Nichols** advised the next Council meeting was scheduled on August 4. She invited Councilmembers to an informal reception with the owners of Paramount Petroleum at her home at 4:30 p.m. on August 7. She also invited Councilmembers to the second annual staff appreciation BBQ at her home on August 14.

Due to the length of tonight's agenda, Mayor Nichols advised Port of Edmonds finances, business licenses and the fee schedule would be on the next meeting's agenda. She referred to a letter from Dave Somers, Chair, Snohomish County Council, inquiring about the Town's position on fully contained communities. She explained fully contained communities (FCC) are intended to contain employment, services, housing and infrastructure and would be located outside an existing municipality. Puget Sound Regional Council does not support this concept and Mountlake Terrace, Mill Creek, Everett and Lake Stevens plan to express their opposition. Following a brief discussion Mayor Nichols suggested Planner Bill Trimm draft a letter for Council consideration at the next meeting.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Faison reported he met with Shoreline's Government Affairs staff person to discuss Pt. Wells. He articulated the Town Council's interests and Shoreline's staff person will return with their Council's specific viewpoints.

Public Works Director Terry Bryant reported on repairs to the bridge, completion of the Wachusett stormwater project and painting of crosswalks, stop lines, and traffic lines throughout the Town.

#### **UPDATE ON TOWN FAIR PLANS - August 23, 11:00 - 3:00**

Heather Frank, Chair, Town Fair Committee, provided a brief update on the plans for the Town Fair including refreshments, birdhouse kits, exhibits, berry pie baking contest and entertainment. She invited Councilmembers to sign up to BBQ. Mayor Nichols advised postcards would be mailed to all residents and signs would be posted around the Town. She expressed her thanks to Ms. Frank for her efforts.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: SIX YEAR STREET PLAN**

Mayor Nichols described the process for developing the Six-Year Street Plan. She opened the public hearing at 7:54 p.m. There were no members of the audience who wished to provide testimony and Mayor Nichols closed the public hearing at 7:55 p.m. Discussion followed regarding when the projects would be accomplished and the pavement condition rating (PCR) of the roads on the Six Year Street Plan.

**ACTION:** *Councilmember Anderson* moved to approve Resolution 08-329, a resolution adopting the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan for the Town of Woodway during the 2009-2014 period. *Councilmember Saltonstall* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - CITY OF EDMONDS OVERLAY PROGRAM**

Mayor Nichols explained a part of the Wachusett overlay, a portion was within the City of Edmonds. Public Works Director Terry Bryant advised Edmonds will reimburse the Town for the overlay of approximately 449 linear feet of 108<sup>th</sup> within the City of Edmonds.

**ACTION:** *Councilmember Schillberg* moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Woodway and the City of Edmonds for the 2008 Overlay Program. *Councilmember Anderson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON ALLEGIAANT AIR FLIGHTS OUT OF PAINE FIELD**

Greg Tisdall explained several years ago upon learning Paine Field was operating at 46% of its capacity, a group of citizens began researching how its use could be expanded.

Melanie Jordan, President, Aviation Liaison Services, explained in response to Allegiant Air's request, Snohomish County Council adopted a joint resolution reaffirming the County's commitment to preserving the existing role of Paine Field and discouraging the use of Paine Field for scheduled air passenger service or air cargo service. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) responded by warning Snohomish County, which owns and operates Paine Field, it risks losing federal airport funding if it does not make Paine Field available for public use without unjust discrimination. She encouraged the Town to consider the importance of federal airport funds to the airport, County and State before taking a position with regard to air passenger service at Paine Field.

Greg Hauth, Save Our Communities, reviewed the 1978 Mitigated Role Determination (MRD) limiting expansion of Paine Field, the Snohomish County Council's current position discouraging scheduled air service at Paine Field, limited federal air funds Paine Field receives, studies regarding negative impacts of increased air service at Paine Field and a preference for Paine Field to be a center for aerospace manufacturing.

Mayor Nichols recalled in 2005 the Council passed a resolution in support of the MRD and discouraging expansion of Paine Field. She invited the Council to consider adopting a resolution opposing commercial air passenger and other incompatible air service at Paine Field as well as participate in funding an outreach plan and community survey. Discussion followed regarding changes that have occurred since the MRD, quality of life, flight paths, and emotion surrounding the issue.

**ACTION:** *Councilmember Anderson* moved to rewrite draft resolution 08-331 stating the Council's opposition to expansion of commercial air services at Paine Field but recognizing federal laws that may impact negotiations between Snohomish County, the FAA and any commercial applicant and including language regarding quality of life. *Councilmember Saltonstall* seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-1), Councilmember Schillberg opposed.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 08-330 - SURPLUS POLICE VEHICLE**

Mayor Nichols advised the old police vehicle must be surplus before it can be sold at auction.

**ACTION:** *Councilmember Schillberg* moved for approval of Resolution 08-330, providing for the surplus and sale of certain property as herein described (police vehicle). *Councilmember Quinn* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT - HEARING EXAMINER**

Mayor Nichols advised Councilmember Schillberg, Town Administrator Eric Faison and she interviewed Mr. Galt and were impressed with his background and experience.

**ACTION:** *Councilmember Schillberg* moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of John Galt as the Town's Hearing Examiner. *Councilmember Anderson* seconded the motion. Following a

brief discussion regarding other candidates and the number of Hearing Examiner decisions per year. the motion carried unanimously.

## **FORECAST MODEL**

Town Administrator Eric Faison commented recent citizen initiatives have limited revenue growth for all cities but expenditures continue to increase irrespective of those limitations. He explained some sources of revenue are restricted to particular uses such as Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET) which are restricted to capital expenditures and cannot be used for operations. As a result, deficits in one area of the budget cannot always be offset by revenues from another source.

Staff's analysis revealed the Capital Reserve Fund and the Utility Reserve Fund, each with dedicated sources of revenue, are fairly stable. Conversely, the analysis revealed the Combined General & Street Fund illustrates a steady rate of decline due to a 1-1.5% increase in revenues and a 4-4.5% growth in expenditures. He reviewed assumptions with regard to revenue and expenditures. He also reviewed options to address the shortfall including reducing personnel expenditures, reducing service levels, creating a fire district with independent taxing authority, merging with an existing fire district, establishing a volunteer fire department, seeking voter approval for an increase in the EMS levy rate, seeking a levy lid lift that would increase the Town' property tax rate, or developing an additional tax base that generates substantial tax dollars.

Discussion occurred regarding the 1% annual cap on increases in property tax, anticipated future increases in REET funds, need to educate residents regarding the forecasts, potential need for a levy lid lift, creation of a Fire Authority, reauthorizing the EMS levy in the future, and providing information at the Community Fair such as how the current economy affects the Town. Mayor Nichols advised this topic would be presented to the Council again in the future.

Council member Quinn requested a future presentation with the several options shown and their impact on the combined general and street funds.

## **DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED PLAYGROUND**

Mayor Nichols recalled concerns raised at the last Council meeting regarding the long term financial commitment for a playground, insurance and maintenance. She provided information from the Parks Committee's discussion regarding a children's play area and Public Works Director Bryant's research that indicated the Town' insurance rates would not increase as a result of the installation of a playground. He also noted new equipment includes warranties and the only maintenance costs would be installation of fall-protection material every other year and general landscaping.

Mayor Nichols described the proposed location to the west of the gate into the Reserve, where the fencing would be moved in a total of 3600 square feet. She assured no trees would be removed and the Reserve would remain fenced. She described the rationale for this location including that it would avoid any nearby home looking directly onto the playground and this location provides access to restrooms at Town Hall.

Discussion followed regarding benches proposed as a barrier between the play area and the road/parking, conflicting interests on the Parks Committee with regard to the creation of a

children's play area, the Parks Committee's recommendation that the Planning Commission or Town Council select a suitable location, the Town's receipt of a \$30,000 Snohomish County grant for the playground, support for providing space for children in Woodway, and changing demographics in Woodway.

A majority of the Council expressed support for continued planning for a children's play area including identifying equipment appropriate for ages 3-9 and siting it in the area described. She advised the group planning the play area will have a site plan on display at the Community Fair and will seek donations for equipment.

Mayor Nichols relayed a complaint she received from a resident about a privately owned beach in Woodway north of the asphalt plant property that is used as a nude beach. Because it is private property, the Council agreed it was not the Town's concern.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None**

**GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION – Council Choice of Topics**

**ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING:** *Councilmember Quinn* moved to adjourn the meeting. *Councilmember Saltonstall* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Joyce Bielefeld, Town Clerk-Treasurer

**APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL**

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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.)