

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

September 2, 2008

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

The first Council meeting for the month of September was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Bill Anderson at 7:00 p.m. at Woodway Town Hall. Councilmembers present were Bill Anderson, Robert Schillberg, Kent Saltonstall, and Mike Quinn. Mayor Carla Nichols had an excused absence. Town Administrator Eric Faison was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Several minor amendments were made to the August 18, 2008 minutes.

Councilmember Saltonstall moved to approve the minutes of August 18, 2008 as amended. *Councilmember Quinn* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: *Councilmember Schillberg* moved to approve Claims Warrants #6521 through #6543 for the total amount of \$123,176.02. *Councilmember Saltonstall* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Saltonstall moved to approve Payroll Warrants #9529 through #9533 and #9539 through #9566 for the total amount of \$43,583.90. *Councilmember Quinn* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: *Councilmember Saltonstall* moved to amend the agenda to add Request from Resident Regarding Bluff Stabilization Project as Agenda Item #8. *Councilmember Quinn* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: Ben Ma, 22829 Woodway Park Road, reported a building permit effective for one year was issued on January 1, 2008 for construction of his residence. They have now discovered one year will not be sufficient to complete construction of their 12,000 square foot home. The fee for the original building permit was \$10,000 and the fee to extend the permit 2-3 months will be half the original permit fee. He suggested the Town, 1) allow him to extend his permit for a minimal cost, and 2) consider whether one year was a reasonable time period for a permit for a house of this size. Mr. Faison responded building permits in most jurisdictions were for a one year; however, it was an overall policy question whether the Town wanted to offer an extended permit or a reduced cost for a permit extension. It was agreed to schedule this as an agenda item for the October 20 Council meeting and to invite Planner Bill Trimm to participate in the discussion.

Ben Ma explained construction of their home also required a boundary line adjustment, a process that took nearly four months. Mr. Faison responded if the Town caused a four-month delay he could administratively extend the permit. The Council requested Mr. Ma submit a letter outlining the difficulties he had encountered as well as requested staff provide a list of other permit extensions that have been requested recently.

COUNCIL REPORTS: **Councilmember Schillberg** invited Councilmembers and Mr. Faison to the South Snohomish Cities' dinner with State Legislators and Snohomish County Councilmembers at the Lynnwood Convention Center on September 25.

Councilmember Saltonstall distributed SnoCom 2009 budget information, reporting SnoCom's budget for 2009 had increased 16%; however, funds available from the E911 Board reduced the increase to cities to 5.6%; Woodway's assessment will increase from approximately \$28,000/year to \$30,000/year. He explained the reason for the 16% escalation was increases in medical benefits and other expenses. He referred to a letter from a Mountlake Terrace Councilmember that contained several questions regarding SnoCom's budget.

Councilmember Saltonstall reported on SnoCom's plans to purchase a new Records Management System (RMS) that allows police officers to access records from their vehicles. The Town's share of the \$1.5 million RMS will increase the Town's SnoCom assessment to approximately \$33,500/year.

MAYOR PRO TEM REPORT: **Mayor Pro Tem Anderson** reported Councilmember Fiske had resigned his position on the Council effective immediately as he was moving out of the area. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson extended his thanks to Councilmember Fiske for his service to the Town. He explained the Council had 90 days to fill the vacancy and must make the selection at a public meeting. The person appointed by Council to fill the vacancy must run for election for the balance of the term in the next election. He suggested delaying the appointment until Mayor Nichols' return. It was agreed to communicate with Mayor Nichols and seek direction from her regarding potential candidates and steps to be taken in her absence.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson referred to Mayor Nichols' letter to Lynnwood Councilmember Smith, Woodway's representative to the Snohomish Health District, inviting him to speak to the Council in the near future about the Health District's financial difficulties.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson requested an excused absence on October 6.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

In response to the Council's earlier inquiry regarding the number of callouts by the Edmonds Police Department on a recent invoice, Mr. Faison relayed Police Chief Hansen's determination that these were typical callouts. The budget includes eight callouts per month and the number billed by Edmonds was approximately eight callouts per month over a three month period.

Mr. Faison reported summer paving projects in the Town had been delayed. Due to the tremendous increase in the cost of asphalt, the Snohomish County contractor backed out of its bid and Snohomish County has not yet determined how to proceed. He reported there were no urgent paving concerns and that all paving was discretionary based on pavement ratings.

DISCUSSION – FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIES 360 PROJECT – PAINE FIELD

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson referred to a memo from Mayor Nichols to the Council asking that they approve \$3,000 to support Strategies 360.

ACTION: *Councilmember Saltonstall* moved that the Town support Strategies 360 in the amount of \$3,000. *Mayor Pro Tem Anderson* seconded the motion.

Discussion followed regarding the likelihood that the courts would settle this matter, interest in a balanced discussion and concern the funding would support only opposition, the fundamental

question of whether air traffic services should be centralized or regionalized, and pros and cons of an airport in a community.

Motion failed (2-2), Mayor Pro Tem Anderson and Councilmember Saltonstall in favor and Councilmembers Schillberg and Quinn opposed.

ACTION: *Mayor Pro Tem Anderson* moved that Woodway support Strategy 360 in the amount of \$1,000. *Councilmember Saltonstall* seconded the motion. Following a brief discussion, the motion carried (3-1), Councilmember Schillberg opposed.

DESIGNATION OF COUNCILMEMBER TO ATTEND PORT OF EDMONDS BUDGET MEETINGS

Port Commissioner Burkhart advised topics of discussion at the budget meetings would include the property tax levy for the coming year. Councilmember Saltonstall relayed the Council's concern that Town residents were being taxed by the Port without apparent tangible benefit. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson encouraged 1-2 Councilmembers to attend the Port's budget meetings, particularly the September 29 meeting. Councilmember Saltonstall offered to attend. Mr. Faison requested any other Councilmembers interested in attending inform staff.

DISCUSSION ON INVESTMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson reported the largest CD, currently with Prime Pacific, would be maturing in a week. He explained, at his suggestion, staff had requested a report regarding Prime Pacific from a company that monitors banks; the report indicated Prime Pacific looks healthy. Another CD at Prime Pacific will be maturing at the end of October.

ACTION: *Mayor Pro Tem Anderson* moved to purchase two CDs, each with half the amount coming due on September 12, one for a 1-year period and one for 4-6 month period, each with the highest yield available. *Councilmember Schillberg* seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson explained the intent of the 4-6 month CD was to fill a maturity period in the laddered portfolio. Discussion followed regarding banks that were experiencing problems. It was agreed staff would obtain a report on institutions that had the highest rates on September 11.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Faison suggested the Council revisit its investment policy that states the highest yield would be obtained.

REQUEST FROM RESIDENT REGARDING BLUFF STABILIZATION PROJECT

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson explained a resident on Dogwood Lane was interested in stabilizing the bluff on their property. Recent revisions to the Code require that the Town Council direct the Planning Commission to prepare a report and recommendation that includes a mitigation report prepared by a qualified geotechnical engineer. The Planning Commission is aware of this project and plans to discuss it at their next meeting.

ACTION: *Councilmember Schillberg* moved pursuant to the provisions of RCW 35.63, that the Town of Woodway Planning Commission be directed to prepare a report and recommendation to the Town Council on the proposed plan to stabilize lands located within the Class IV Geological Hazard Area situated on the Teal property, located at 22740 Dogwood Lane. As authorized by WMC 16.10.060, the report from the Planning Commission shall include recommendations and a mitigation report prepared by a qualified geotechnical engineer. *Councilmember Saltonstall* seconded the motion. Following a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION – CHOICE OF SUBJECTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSSION PROPERTY ACQUISITION

At 8:20 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson recessed the Council to an approximately ten minute Executive Session for discussion of property acquisition. The meeting was adjourned immediately following the Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Bielefeld, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

Bill Anderson, Mayor Pro Tem

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