

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

September 28, 2009

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

The second Council meeting for the month of September was called to order by Mayor Carla Nichols at 7:04 p.m. at Woodway Town Hall. Councilmembers present were Kent Saltonstall, Elizabeth Mitchell, Mike Quinn and Tom Whitson. Councilmember Bill Anderson had an excused absence. Town Administrator Eric Faison and Clerk-Treasurer Joyce Bielefeld were also present.

PUBLIC HEARING – INITIATIVE 1033

Mayor Nichols opened the public hearing on I-1033 at 7:05 p.m.

Town Administrator Eric Faison explained Initiative 1033 will be on the November 3 ballot. The ballot title states, "This measure would limit growth of certain state, county and city revenue to annual inflation and population growth, not including voter-approved revenue increases. Revenue collected above the limit would reduce property tax levies." Mr. Faison explained any increase in General Fund revenues collected by the Town above the amount collected on January 1, 2009 including the tax increase that Woodway residents recently passed, as well as all property taxes, utility taxes, sales taxes and development service fees, must be used to reduce property taxes.

Mr. Faison provided several examples of how increases in property taxes, development service fees, etc. would impact General Fund revenues if I-1033 were approved by the voters. A brief discussion followed.

Cindy Jay, Whitcomb, commented the loss of revenue as a result of the initiative would have drastic ramifications on social programs. Staff members from several social programs are working on the "No on I-1033" campaign. She offered to provide talking points for the No Campaign and urged the Council not to support the initiative.

Mayor Nichols closed the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Mayor Nichols commented I-1033 was discussed at the South Snohomish Cities Legislative Dinner and cities are very concerned about the impact the initiative would have on revenues. She commented on the importance of educating voters regarding the impacts of the initiative.

ACTION: *Councilmember Saltonstall* moved to direct staff to bring back a resolution at the next Council meeting opposing Initiative 1033. *Councilmember Quinn* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Jay offered to provide the Town material regarding I-1033 that could be posted on Town bulletin boards.

ACTION: *Councilmember Saltonstall* moved to recess the Council meeting to continue the workshop regarding Pt. Wells/County Options. *Councilmember Mitchell* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was recessed at 7:16 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

CENSUS PRESENTATION – Marcel Maddox

Marcel Maddox, Partnership Specialist, Seattle Regional Census Center, distributed information regarding the Census. He explained the role of the Seattle Regional Census Center was to increase the rate of return of censuses to facilitate a complete count.

Censuses have been conducted every ten years since 1790. The 2010 census is easy, safe and important. The census is easy because there are only ten questions and it takes only ten minutes to complete. The census is safe because all census employees take a lifetime confidentiality oath which prevents the sharing of any personal information. The census is important because the information is used to distribute Congressional seats to states as well as \$400 billion in federal funds annually.

He invited the Town to form a Complete Count Committee staffed by volunteers who inform the public regarding the Census such as posting information on the Town's website and/or bulletin boards. He also asked for a contact person to be the liaison between the Census Bureau and the Town. He provided an operational update; all addresses have been verified and Census questionnaires will be mailed in March with return requested by Census Day, April 1. A Census Taker will visit the homes of citizens who do not return the questionnaire.

He pointed out participation in the census was one of the only constitutionally mandated tasks that citizens perform. If citizens do not participate, they risk their community being under-funded and under-represented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Councilmember Mitchell* moved to approve the minutes of September 8, 2009. *Councilmember Whitson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Saltonstall moved to amend the agenda to add a ten minute Executive Session regarding potential litigation at the end of the meeting. *Councilmember Quinn* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: *Councilmember Saltonstall* moved to approve Claims Warrants #7059 through #7084 for the total amount of \$38,028.47. *Councilmember Whitson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

COUNCIL REPORTS: **Councilmember Whitson** reported on the September 8 Richmond Beach Community Association meeting. Richmond Beach residents' primary concern with the project at Pt. Wells is traffic on Richmond Beach Road and other arterials and intersections. The City of Shoreline and the Richmond Beach Community Association are not necessarily in agreement with regard to development at Pt. Wells. There is 60 day period to appeal the Urban Center designation; Richmond Beach has not yet decided if they will appeal the County Council's decision. Representatives from SaveRichmondBeach.org plan to attend the upcoming Snohomish County Council public hearing.

Councilmember Whitson reported the meeting also included discussion regarding the Pt. Wells design charrette. A report regarding the charrette will be published in the near future.

Councilmember Mitchell requested an excused absence from the October 5 meeting.

Councilmember Saltonstall reported on the Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA) open house he attended today. He described the role of ESCA in planning and responding during and following a disaster and explained each community has an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), emergency operations manual and an emergency radio.

MAYOR REPORT: Mayor Nichols expressed her pleasure with the completion of the playground and recognized Dr. John Bush and Public Works crew for their efforts. She planned to present Dr. Bush with a plaque of appreciation from the Town. Consideration was also being given to making 113th a dead end street with a planter at the end to improve the safety of the playground.

Mayor Nichols reported the audit exit conference is scheduled for October 14 at 2:00 p.m.; Councilmember Anderson and she plan to attend.

Mayor Nichols announced Snohomish County Council was holding a budget public hearing in Edmonds on October 14.

Mayor Nichols requested the Council direct the Town Administrator to research changing the Town's municipal court services from South Snohomish County to Edmonds. She was impressed with Judge Fair's work and the location of the Edmonds Municipal Court would be more convenient for residents.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Faison commented on the need to conduct an earthquake analysis of Town Hall. Next, he reported on Edmonds City Council's consideration of a contract with Fire District 1 for fire services. The Edmonds City Council anticipates making a decision on the contract in late October. Mr. Faison reported he was in the process of analyzing Woodway forming its own Fire Department as well as how EMS services could be provided.

DISCUSSION ON PT. WELLS

Mayor Nichols suggested further discussion regarding Pt. Wells be postponed until after the Snohomish County Council makes their decision on the proposed amendments. Discussion followed regarding gauging the community's feeling about development at Pt. Wells, whether the Comprehensive Plan designation would be appealed, and support from those in attendance at tonight's workshop for the Town's continued involvement in the process.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH OLYMPIC VIEW WATER DISTRICT

Mayor Nichols reported the Town's Building Official Tom Phillips will begin work on Interlocal Agreement with Olympic View Water District. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Faison was asked to contact Olympic View Water District's General Manager Robert Eberhart to explain the Interlocal Agreement did not address their cross connection policy but the requirement under State law for them to coordinate with the Town.

Other topics raised by Councilmember's were whether a plumbing permit should be required because Olympic View will inspect the backflow prevention device, Olympic View's requirement for residents to install devices in the setbacks which may conflict with Woodway's code, and water shut-off notices some residents have received from Olympic View.

Mr. Faison offered to provide an update at the next Council meeting.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION – CHOICE OF SUBJECTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:32 p.m., Mayor Nichols recessed to Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. immediately following the conclusion of the Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

Joyce Bielefeld, Clerk Treasurer

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.)