

CALL TO ORDER:
April 20, 2021

Mayor Muri called the regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

ROLL CALL:

In attendance were Mayor Muri, Councilmembers Neal, Henderson, Crumley, Franklin, and Smith. Staff members in attendance were Town Administrator Loveless, Attorney Hoffman, Public Safety Director Yabe, West Pierce Deputy Fire Chief Boltz, Public Works Director Burlingame, Town Planner Fortner, and Administrative Assistant Gibelyou.

Mayor led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION:

South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP) – Bruce Dammeier, John Howell, and others made a presentation concerning a potential collaboration with Pierce County and other jurisdictions to make housing more attainable, accessible, and affordable in the region.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to approve the following items on the consent calendar:

1. Minutes of April 6, 2021
2. Approval of Payroll Checks #115636 - #115643 in the amount of \$137,685.50
3. Approval of Claims Checks #115645 - #115688 in the amount of \$270,960.69 and Manual Checks #115631 & #115644 in the amount of \$28,643.47
4. Site Access Agreement – UW – Seismic Network (AB 3063)

Yes: All

AUDIENCE INPUT:
Non-Agenda Items

Andrew Phillips, Chairperson of the Steilacoom Fireworks Committee, announced that there will be no fireworks in Steilacoom on the 4th of July this year. It was a difficult call to make, but he believes it to be the best choice given the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
Continuation of Re-designate and rezone mill property (AB 3060) (ORD 1639)

Mayor Muri opened the public hearing.

Town Planner Fortner continued to answer questions from Council.

Councilmember Franklin moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to close the public hearing.

Yes: All

ACTION ITEMS:
Re-designate and rezone mill property (AB 3060) (ORD 1639)

Councilmember Franklin moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to approve Ordinance 1639, as amended, thereby amending the Comprehensive Plan and Titles 14 and 18 of the Municipal Code, and re-designating and re-zoning certain properties to Master Planned Development.

Yes: All

NEW ITEMS:

Acceptance of Norberg Estates – Tract A (AB 3065)

Town Administrator Loveless delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to authorize the Mayor to sign the appropriate documents accepting the donation of Tract A of Norberg Estates.

Yes: All

Town Sponsored Summer Events – Concerts (AB 3064)

Town Administrator Loveless delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.

A decision was deferred to the May 18, 2021 meeting.

Union Ave./Rainier St. Roundabout Project, Supplement #3 Gray & Osborne Inc. (AB 3066)

Public Works Director Burlingame delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to approve supplement #3 to the Gray & Osborne design scope of services for the Union Avenue Roundabout Project and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary contract documents.

**Yes: Neal, Henderson, Crumley, and Smith
No: Franklin**

Possession and Use Agreement – Espresso by the Bay, LLC (AB 3067)

Public Works Director Burlingame delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.

Councilmember Franklin moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to authorize the Mayor to sign the Possession and Use Agreement related to property owned by Espresso by the Bay, LLC/John Spencer for the Union Avenue roundabout project.

Yes: All

REPORTS:

Administrator

Town Administrator reported the following:

- The Lucas Field dedication will take place on Monday, April 26 at 3:30 p.m.
- The Town is currently hiring and is still looking for seasonal hires for both Public Works and our summer camp programs. The Town requests qualified candidates be sent our way. Information can be found on our website.
- Summer camp registration is open and also available on the Town website.

Attorney

Attorney Hoffman reported no new litigation.

Public Safety

Chief Yabe reported the following:

- After the Minnesota court verdict, the latest intelligence did not indicate specific threats to Pierce County or Washington. A number of demonstrations are scheduled through the weekend.
- Pursuant to the Douglas M. Ostling Act of 2015, all police officers in the state are required to attend a minimum of 8 hours of crisis intervention training prior to July of 2021. They met this mandate back in 2016, and have been in compliance with ongoing requirements of additional annual training since that time.
- Yesterday, he attended a tour of the new South Sound 911 building that is still under construction in Tacoma. The building will consolidate all operations for South Sound 911 under a single roof, as opposed to the current system of operations spread across at least 4 different buildings throughout Pierce County.
- Last week, our own Sgt. Chris Bailey was recognized by the Puget Sound Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars for going above and beyond the call of duty over the past few years. Sgt. Bailey has consistently managed a multitude of program responsibilities with us, in addition to his responses to patrol and emergency incidents, and we are very fortunate to have him among our ranks.
- Over the past two weekly updates, he has submitted some collision-related data in Town involving both pedestrian collisions and vehicular collisions near the intersection of Sequash St and Main St. He thanked Mr. Burlingame for addressing a reported obstruction to a stop sign in that area.
- He has been made aware of concerns regarding late-night activity in the area of Hewitt Dr. He will publish the detailed statistics in this week's update. A summary is also available in the April 23, 2021 Update on the Town's website.
- We have a new recruit police officer on board, effective last Wednesday. His name is PJ Palma and he comes to us from the state Department of Corrections, and the US Army prior to that. He'll be with us for about a month in Town, in order to acclimate to both our department and our community, and is confident he'll be starting in the police academy in early June.
- On the topic of hiring police officers, the pool is pretty dry right now. In recent conversations he has had with police chiefs throughout the county, they're all feeling the same strain. Last week, Mayor Muri and he discussed a number of items, including officer recruitment and retention. He shared a story of an entry-level applicant that they called who told them flatly, "Now's not a good time to become a police officer." Despite these challenges, he is grateful for the ongoing work of both Sgt. Bailey and Det. Hamrick in processing their applications to find our next police officers.

Public Safety Cont'd

- Last week, additional security cameras were installed on the Public Safety building. While the cameras face nearby residences, he worked with the vendor to ensure the cameras do not view into those residences or properties, and he has reached out to each of those residences regarding the cameras. Many thanks to Mr. Loveless for his coordination of the installation effort.
- With the COVID-19 vaccine having been made open to the public last week, he very strongly hopes residents will do their research and consider getting vaccinated. He has received the vaccine, his post-vaccination symptoms were brief, and he has had no side effects. We're starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel and he hopes our community can keep moving forward.

Public Works

Public Works Director Burlingame reported the following:

- Roglin Inc. has started work on the Marietta St Lift Station. It should be completed in approximately 30 days.
- The Sunnyside Pump Station project is close to going out to bid. It is responsible for pumping all of our sewage over to the Pierce County sewage treatment plant. This project will be brought before Council soon.
- Pending Mr. Spenser of Espresso by the Bay's signature, we will go to bid and hopefully bring a recommendation for the award of a construction contract to the Council at the May 18 Council Meeting.
- Spring/Summer work around Town is in full swing. The parks are busier than ever before at this time of year and with only one staff member currently taking care of them, we are struggling to keep up. An additional crew member has been hired, but it will take time to get him up to speed. His hat is off to Rick Creger and all our crews, who have been pitching in to help.

West Pierce Fire and Rescue Dept.

Deputy Chief Boltz reported the following:

- He appreciated Mr. Phillips' report on the decision to cancel the July 4th fireworks display. He knows that is a tough decision to make, but believes it is for the best.
- He congratulated Mayor Muri on the new position.

Council

Councilmember Smith reported the following:

- He congratulated Mayor Muri on his first meeting as Mayor.
- He is looking forward to the installation of the roundabout and hopes construction moves quickly.
- Spring is here and he hopes everyone enjoys it.

Councilmember Henderson reported the following:

- She congratulated Mayor Muri on his first meeting as Mayor.

Council Cont'd

- She also congratulated Councilmember Neal on being awarded the Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership from the Association of Washington Cities. She also appreciates his representation of Steilacoom on the Pierce County Regional Council.
- She was pleased to learn that we can now rent Town facilities online and is looking forward to having electronic council meeting packets for citizens.
- There has been a lot of volunteerism in the Town, and she is very grateful to all volunteers. There have been seven work parties so far this year.
- There is a fundraiser event for the We Love Steilacoom Food Bank on Sunday, April 25. It is a 5k event with a 1 mile historic stroll through downtown Steilacoom.

Councilmember Neal reported the following:

- He also congratulated Mayor Muri on his first council meeting.
- Legislature is in their final week.
- He mentioned that turning onto Union street is difficult and suggests modifying the street while it is under construction for the roundabout.
- Puget Sound Regional Council has its General Assembly Meeting April 29 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Any elected officials or representatives who have not already received an invitation can reach out to him for one.
- There is civil unrest in our country, but he hopes that the decision made in Minnesota is the first small step towards of the goal of equity to all and unity in our country.

Councilmember Crumley reported the following:

- He extended his congratulations to Councilmember Neal for his award and Mayor Muri for his new position.
- He fully supports Chief Yabe in whatever needs to be done to resolve the issues in the Hewitt Drive area.

Councilmember Franklin reported the following:

- He inquired as to when Short-Term Rentals will appear on the agenda again. The answer is likely sometime this summer.
- The Steilacoom Historical Museum Association is holding the Ron Lucas Classic Golf Tournament on May 15, 2021. People may sign up at <http://www.steilacoomhistorical.org/>. He would be happy to help people sign up.
- He wished to publicly recognize and thank Councilmember Henderson for all that she does.

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Steilacoom Town Council Minutes

Mayor

Mayor reported the following:

- He participated in the document shredding event at Public Works and really enjoyed getting to chat with the people who attended. It was a fun event with many donations of food and money for the Steilacoom Food Pantry.
- He is looking forward to watching the Abitibi property develop.

ADJOURNMENT:

The April 20, 2021 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor