

CALL TO ORDER:
May 4, 2021

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

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, Public Works Director Burlingame, and Administrative Assistant Gibelyou.

Mayor led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

1. Minutes of April 20, 2021.
2. Approval of Claims Checks #115721 - #115773 in the amount of \$129,208.98 and Manual Check #115690 in the amount of \$35.10.

Yes: All

AUDIENCE INPUT:
Non-Agenda Items

1. Rebecca Hill - 106 Union Ave, Steilacoom: She wished to make the observation that town leaders do a lot that is beyond their job description and wished to thank Mr. Loveless who she had contacted about using the wrong mailbox to pay her utility bill. This went above and beyond what he was obligated to do, and she appreciated it greatly.

NEW ITEMS:

Energy Audit Scope of Work, Ameresco and WA Dept. of Enterprise Services, (AB 3068)

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

Councilmember Franklin moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to approve the attached scope of work and related funding approval for the purpose of completing an energy audit of select Town-owned facilities.

Yes: All

REPORTS:

Administrator

Town Administrator Loveless reported the following:

- Recently, Pierce County reported that 1.5 million of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been allocated to their Parks and Rec program. The funds are being used to help subsidize youth programs offered by partners throughout the county. They are calling the program Kids Need to Play! (KNP!). We are one of the partners. We will be able to provide up to a 90% subsidy for kids participating in our summer programs. The fine details are still being worked out, but the program will be a great boon to affordability and enrollment. This will have staffing and other impacts. The reopening phase we are in has also played a role in adjustments. Registration for programs will be up on our website shortly.

Administrator Cont'd

- We still have openings for seasonal hires for our summer camp programs and public works department. Please send anyone 18 or older our direction. These positions are ideal for college kids and other seasonal workers.

Attorney

Attorney Hoffman reported no new litigation.

Public Safety

Chief Yabe reported the following:

- He wished everyone a Happy Star Wars Day. May the Fourth be with you.
- Interviews were scheduled for May 6 for three eligible entry-level candidates.
- Last week, an incident between vehicles on roadways leading into town ended up in a confrontation in the Public Safety parking lot where a driver armed himself with a handgun. Our officers diffused the situation without using any force, and investigation determined the incident amounted to a misunderstanding. This incident is an example of the tense circumstances that can arise in our town, and the ability of our officers to navigate those volatile events toward a calmer conclusion.
- One of our officers has been on extended military leave since the beginning of the year, and that officer will return to work this week. This is welcome news since another officer of ours has suffered an injury during a call response and is recuperating as quickly as he can.
- He thanked Steilacoom High School Key Club for scheduling a blood drive at the high school. He was able to visit and observed the event in-person.
- Earlier that day, our officers assisted an outside agency in response to a robbery at gunpoint. Our officers were first on scene and searched the area for the suspect and their vehicle. The Pierce County Sheriff has assumed follow-up investigation regarding the incident.
- A year ago, Council and Town administration entrusted him with the care of our Public Safety Department and officers. He greatly appreciates the patience of Mr. Loveless, Mr. Burlingame, Mr. Hoffman, and our officers as he continues to work upwards in the learning curve of this responsibility. Over the past 12 months, he hopes their department has demonstrated an increased dedication to transparency and accountability, as well as greater and more-frequent evidence of the compassionate and professional work of our Public Safety officers. He hopes to better increase the department's interface with our community, all in pursuit of providing excellence in service.

Public Works

Public Works Director Burlingame reported the following:

- The Public Works department is very busy. They are having some difficulty getting seasonal hires. There are two openings in the streets department. These are good jobs and can be particularly ideal for college students as the Town will hire them back each year if they do a good job. He encourages folks to apply.
- They are gearing up for summer. They have confirmed the delivery of the annual flower baskets that will hang downtown. They are also getting ready to hang flags in time for Memorial Day weekend.
- We have hired an additional employee for our grounds crew. He has extensive experience and is a good addition to the team.
- As we bring on summer hires, we are first steering them towards the parks department to start with because that's where our biggest need is. He apologizes for the overall condition of the parks, but assures everyone they are trying hard to catch up and we should see that happening soon.
- The Marietta St Lift Station upgrades are well underway.
- They are putting the final touches on the Sunnyside Pump Station upgrade project and will be putting that out to bid soon.
- They are soliciting bids for the roundabout project. They were able to acquire the necessary property and will be bringing recommendations to Council at the May 18 meeting.
- The night before, a sewer line backed up and flooded a residence. Roots had intruded into the main line. An unusual flow situation coupled with the blockage caused the flood. He met with the residents. They have restoration starting.

Council

Councilmember Henderson reported the following:

- She congratulated Chief Yabe on his anniversary.
- She thanked everyone who volunteered or participated in the 5K/1K Historic Stroll over the weekend. It went very well and people were very generous. They look forward to making it an annual event.

Councilmember Smith had no comments.

Councilmember Crumley reported the following:

- He noted the old parking lot and building located near the ferry dock have seen better days. He would like to consider plans for that lot. Funds to demolish the building have already been approved. The demolition will likely take place within the next year.

Councilmember Neal reported the following:

- He echoed Councilperson Henderson's comments congratulating Chief Yabe.

Council Cont'd

- He recalled one of the late Mayor Lucas's dreams was to have a non-voting youth member on the Town Council. He is willing to prepare materials to submit to the mayor and asked that interest be communicated to Mayor Muri.
- He asked that councilmembers consider becoming an alternate for him in his role representing the Town on the Pierce County Regional Council. He invites dialogue.

Councilmember Franklin reported the following:

- He made an inquiry about how much dumping is taking place in Town and outside of it by the old mill site. While concerned about it happening at all, he noted that the items rarely remain in place very long and complimented the apparent control of the problem.

Mayor

Mayor reported the following:

- The Pioneer Orchard Park Bandstand needs repairs and the Kiwanis Club is taking on that project. They have 22 volunteers already and are determining what materials are needed.
- It is looking like Governor Inslee will approve a grant that will give us the funding to fix up the Steilacoom Tribal Cultural Center.
- He suggested it might be worth making a call to a police person trained in forensic analysis of offloaded trash. It was noted that our police have been helpful in this regard in the past.

ADJOURNMENT:

The May 4, 2021 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor