

CALL TO ORDER:
July 6, 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, Public Works Director Burlingame, and Administrative Assistant Gibelyou.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
All: Yes

Councilmember Henderson moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to approve the Council Agenda of July 6, 2021.

Mayor Muri led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

1. Minutes of June 15, 2021.
2. Approval of Payroll #115995 - #116002 in the total amount of \$144,354.67.
3. Approval of Claims Checks #116055 - #116112 in the amount of \$139,110.94 and Manual Checks #115994 & #116003 - #116005 in the amount of \$6,675.00.
4. Set Public Hearing – 6-Year TIP (AB 3086).

Yes: All

AUDIENCE INPUT:
Non-Agenda Items

No public comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
Partial Vacation of 7th St.
Adjacent to Perkins Park (AB
3084)

Mayor Muri opened the public hearing.

Town Administrator Loveless delivered the staff report and, along with **Public Works Director Burlingame**, answered questions from the Council.

Mayor Muri invited comments from the audience.

- Mark Bender - 115 7th St. Steilacoom: He has concerns about Lafayette being closed during the construction of the roundabout and would like to raise that as an issue.

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

ACTION ITEMS:
Partial Vacation of 7th St.
Adjacent to Perkins Park (AB
3084)
Yes: All

Councilmember Neal moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to approve Ordinance #1640, vacating a portion of 7th St. for use as park property.

NEW ITEMS:

Public Safety Testing Investigations – Special Services Agreement (AB 3083)

Yes: All

Chief Yabe delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.

Councilmember Henderson moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to authorize the Mayor to sign the Specialized Services Agreement with Public Safety Testing Investigations.

DSHS Administration Building Interior Painting Bid Award (AB 3085)

Yes: All

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

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Franklin** seconded to approve the bid as submitted by Quality Painting NW in the amount not to exceed \$43,960.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary contract documents on behalf of the Town of Steilacoom.

REPORTS:

Administrator

Town Administrator Loveless reported the following:

- He will be meeting with Avidex and several Town staff members to discuss hybrid meeting options for Town Hall. Avidex has a standardized bid through the state and have done work for neighboring cities.

Attorney

Attorney Hoffman reported no new litigation.

Public Safety

Chief Yabe reported the following:

- The COPS grant has been submitted. No award decision has been made, but the application window was extended. It will likely be a couple of months before we receive a decision regarding the award.
- He visited their recruit officer PJ Palma last week in the academy; he is doing well. Their newest officer, Dylan Warburton, has been confirmed to start the academy on July 27. Their next new hire, Eric Gates, is completing the final stages of his background investigation. Based upon academy availability, Eric will likely start the academy in September. This is all very welcome news given the hiring crisis being experienced throughout our state’s law enforcement community.
- July 4th was loud, but the majority of activity was within our neighboring communities. Between citizen calls for service and officer proactivity, they had four recorded incidents involving fireworks within Steilacoom. They also had one party complaint. No injuries were reported over the holiday. It took an hour to clear out Sunnyside Beach of patrons, but there were no issues while doing so.

Public Safety Cont'd

- Over the weekend, their officers performed extended surveillance along Hewitt Drive near the trail head. On July 3, over the course of nearly 3 hours, a total of 6 vehicles parked along the roadside and utilized the nearby bench. The visitors ranged in ages from teenagers to an elderly couple. No law violations were observed. On July 4, multiple vehicles were parked in the area with over a dozen visitors observing the fireworks across the water. No fireworks were observed being used and there were no noise complaints observed.
- Nationwide, traffic fatalities are at higher-than-normal levels. The Pierce County Sheriff's Office has reported that this year our county has already surpassed our annual average. They have received feedback regarding their traffic enforcement, both regarding their increased presence and additional areas of concern. Public Safety appreciates the patience of our residents as they continue to respond to increased traffic safety concerns.
- A recent court case invalidated the Department of Licensing's ability to suspend driver's licenses for failure to pay or appear for traffic infractions. The state legislature has passed a bill to remedy this issue, but that bill does not go into effect until next January. Essentially, this means that until the end of the year, there is no penalty for failing to respond to a traffic ticket that one of our officers issues a driver for violations such as speeding and failing to stop at stop signs.
- Speaking of law changes, last week the Lakewood Prosecuting Attorney provided their department with an overview of all of the reforms that were enacted during the most recent legislative session. He hopes to present Council with a summary of those changes in the near future. The short version is that departments across the state are re-evaluating how they provide police services from a fundamental perspective, and they are no different. There will be changes to long-standing procedures for crime response that have been lawful for many decades.

Public Works**Public Works Director Burlingame** reported the following:

- We were the victims of streetlight wire theft. Someone got into a live vault and managed to cut and take the streetlight wires along Chambers Creek Road. Fortunately, the wire was recovered. Unfortunately, it cannot be reused. He is working with Steilacoom P.D. to investigate who is responsible. The crew did a great job of restoring as many lights as possible for the weekend. If anyone ever sees someone not clearly marked as a Steilacoom worker in an electrical box, please report the incident to the police. Our workers will wear blue shirts with the Town emblem on them.
- Our contractor for the roundabout is gearing up to begin construction. Director Burlingame has been meeting with business owners to minimize impacts to nearby businesses. They are also reviewing submittals and subcontractors.

Council

Councilmember Crumley reported the following:

- Kiwanis finished renovating the Bandstand. It is ready for concerts and weddings. He thanks them for doing a great job.

Councilmember Smith reported the following:

- It was a quiet 4th of July and he is glad to see a return to more temperate weather.

Councilmember Henderson reported the following:

- The League of Women’s Voters is going to have a public forum on July 21 for candidates running for Council Position 2. This will be an opportunity for candidates to share some words and answer questions. She will share more details as she has them.

Councilmember Neal reported the following:

- His thanks to our Town staff. He believes Steilacoom is a small town with world-class services. He especially wanted to acknowledge Chief Yabe and his efforts to increase parking enforcement.

Councilmember Franklin reported the following:

- He was asked a question by a constituent that he could not answer. If the Town is aware of an unsafe building and does nothing, do we have liability? The answer is that the Town is aware of the building in question and has made attempts to request the owner take action. Any liability would be with the owner of the property first.

Mayor

Mayor Muri reported the following:

- He will observe the Police Academy with Chief Yabe in early August and meet our newest recruits.
- The Kiwanis Club of Steilacoom will have its first hybrid meeting on Thursday. He is interested to see how that will work.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting of July 6, 2021. The July 6, 2021 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

STUDY SESSION:

A study session to discuss Citizen Advisory Committees was convened at 7:45 p.m. **Councilmember Smith** moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to adjourn the study session at 8:09 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor