

STEILACOOM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Steilacoom Town Hall

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

6:30 p.m.

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

1. **Mayor Muri** called the regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.
2. 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, Town Planner Fortner, and Administrative Assistant Gibelyou.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

1. **Mayor Muri** led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Approval of Agenda

1. **Councilmember Smith** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve the Council Agenda of November 2, 2021.
 - i. **Yes: All**

D. Presentation

1. *Code Compliance Program*

- i. Lindsay Savage gave Council an update on her work addressing code compliance violations throughout Town.

E. Consent Agenda

1. *Minutes of October 19, 2021*

2. *Approval of Payroll Checks #116742 - #116750 in the amount of \$151,210.11*

3. *Approval of Claims Checks #116809 - #116862 in the amount of \$388,776.93 and Manual Checks #116754 - #116755 in the amount of \$231.76*

4. *Holiday Sleigh – Equipment Use Agreement with the City of Fircrest (AB 3123)*

5. *Modifications to the Steilacoom Municipal Code (AB 3124) (Ord. 1652)*

- i. **Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to approve the following items on the consent calendar.

1. **Yes: All**

F. Audience Input on Non-Agenda Items

1. Rebecca Hill - 1006 Union Avenue, Steilacoom: She wanted to thank the Town for publishing the Council Packet online. It helps her be informed and participate. She appreciates the Town Administrator's role in implementing this.

G. Public Hearing

1. *Sign Code revisions (AB 3111)*

- i. **Mayor Muri** opened the public Hearing.
- ii. **Town Planner Fortner** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- iii. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to continue the public hearing to the January 4, 2022 Council Meeting.

1. **Yes:** All

2. *Preliminary Plat of The Bradford (AB 3122) (Res. 1193)*

- i. **Mayor Muri** opened the public Hearing.
- ii. **Town Planner Fortner** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council, with supplemental questions answered by applicant Connie Kay.
- iii. **Mayor Muri** invited public comments.
 1. Rebecca Hill - 1006 Union Avenue, Steilacoom: She wanted to formally object to calling this plat The Bradford. She supports Commissioner Bittenbender's position that names have importance. She stated that there is no meaning when names are imported from other areas. As a retired teacher, she also has grave concerns about the of number of students coming into our area.
 2. Judy Bittenbender - 307 Henly Court, Steilacoom: As a Planning Commissioner, she also wanted to protest the name of this plat. She stated that the name "Bradford" originates 3000 miles away in Virginia. It has no association with Steilacoom's history. Previous plats have been named after historic figures or families of Steilacoom. She asked how this name contributes to history and requested Council take an active role in the naming of this plat.
 3. Joan Curtis - 1505 Euclid Street, Steilacoom: A member of the Historical Society, she wanted to add her voice to the those protesting the name of this plat. She noted that the streets reflect Steilacoom's history and seconded Commissioner Bittenbender's request to examine and grant council the ability to name plats.
 4. Jennifer Cozart - 702 Short Street, Steilacoom: She is a long-time resident of Steilacoom. She wanted to echo the words of others recommending that Council take an active role in the decision of naming this plat in the interests of preserving the Town's history.
- iv. **Councilmember Crumley** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to close the public hearing.
 1. **Yes:** All
- v. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to adopt Resolution 1193, approving the preliminary plat of The Bradford, subject to 13 conditions.
 1. **Yes:** All

H. Introduction

1. *Special Tax Valuation – Masonic Hall (AB 3125) (*)*

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Smith** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve the application for Special Valuation and execute the Historic Preservation Special Valuation Covenant with the property owner Rosa Beth and Terrill L. Gibson and authorize the Mayor to sign on the Town's behalf.
 1. **Yes:** All

2. **Professional Services Contract – G&O – Surveying (AB 3121) (*)**

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Franklin** seconded to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with Gray and Osborne, Inc to provide surveying services in relation to a code compliance issue.
 1. **Yes:** All

I. Reports

1. **Staff**

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** reported the following:
 1. There has been a COVID-19 exposure in our preschool program. Classes have been suspended this week with the intent to recommence next week.
 2. The vehicle that was stolen from Public Works last Thursday was recovered in Auburn, but inoperable and with the equipment removed from it. Our risk management company is determining if the vehicle can be repaired or if it will be totaled.
 3. The Scout Food Drive was very successful. He thanked the generous townspeople for donating and the Scouts for collecting the food.
- ii. **Public Works Director Burlingame** reported the following:
 1. He gave an update on the Roundabout. The contractor finished the splitter islands and median work. They had a grinder out there earlier that day. Tomorrow, weather permitting, they will be laying asphalt. Afterwards, work on the center begins. They will also look to pave areas related to change orders. The middle of the island will be river rock.
 2. The crew is very busy. Three members of it are getting commercial driver's licenses. Meanwhile, stormy weather has not slowed work down. The different crews have banded together to help each other out and it has been going well.
 3. In the newspaper they are advertising for engineering firms for the design of the Rainier Street grind and overlay.
- iii. **Attorney Hoffman** reported the following:
 1. There is no new litigation against the Town.
 2. The Town may be pursuing litigation on a dilapidated property.
- iv. **Chief Yabe** reported the following:
 1. Last month, our officers assisted a neighbor agency in response to a nighttime active burglary. With the assistance of thermal imagers, our officers located the suspects, resulting in their arrest.
 2. Training with our newest officer continues to progress. Mayor Muri and he visited our academy recruits last week and they continue to perform well.
 3. Public Safety held oral boards last week for new hires and lateral hires, in order to keep their eligibility list as up to date as possible.
 4. Later this month, our officers will train in emergency driving. Late last month, our officers became trained in their new less lethal launcher system. Also late last month, for the second year, he attended the only annual conference of female police officers in the state, where he continued to learn more about recruitment and retention.
 5. Grant updates: Hiring grant – no update available; Body camera grant – still under review by the grant authority

6. He wanted to acknowledge the continued work of the public safety officers over the past year. They continue to adapt to the changing environment of law enforcement in our state. Despite ever-increasing scrutiny of law enforcement in our state, we have had no separations or retirements since both the reform legislation passed and the vaccine mandate went into effect. Since the pandemic began, nearly 80% of our public safety staff has been directly impacted by COVID-19. Throughout this ongoing event, our officers have continued to demonstrate professionalism, compassion, and resiliency. Much work continues to exist in response to the brashness of law violations that our region is experiencing. As they look toward the addition of our newest officers, he wanted to extend his appreciation for the ongoing efforts of our current staff.

2. *Council*

- i. **Councilmember Crumley** had no reports.
- ii. **Councilmember Franklin** had no reports.
- iii. **Councilmember Henderson** reported the following:
 1. She had questions pertaining to security and the theft of the Public Works vehicle. Town Administrator answered that while we have cameras that caught the thieves and tripped the alarm, they were in and out in 3 minutes. He is working with our security providers to enhance the system.
 2. She requested that Steilacoom Municipal Code 17.08.110, Street and Subdivision Names, be discussed at the December 7, 2021 Council Meeting.
 3. She congratulated Councilmembers Franklin and Neal on their landslide wins in the election.
- iv. **Councilmember Neal** reported the following:
 1. He congratulated Mayor Muri on winning the mayoral election.
 2. He would like to have a discussion on drones, e-bikes, and e-scooters in the near future.
- v. **Councilmember Smith** reported the following:
 1. He recommended inviting the incoming councilperson to sit in on Council proceedings.
 2. He also suggested that the second meeting in November not be cancelled so that the first meeting in December is not so full.

3. *Mayor*

- i. **Mayor Muri** reported the following:
 1. He thanked Councilmember Neal for the congratulations and the voters for his election to the position of Mayor.
 2. He has enjoyed his time visiting the police academy with Chief Yabe. He is getting to know our newest officers and looking forward to future visits.

J. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

1. **Councilmember Smith** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting of November 2, 2021.
2. The November 2, 2021 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

K. Study Session

1. Parking Regulations

- i. The study session was deferred to the next Council meeting.

Town Administrator

Mayor