

STEILACOOM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Steilacoom Town Hall

Tuesday, December 7, 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 6:31 p.m. on Zoom.
2. In attendance were Mayor Muri, Councilmembers Neal, Henderson, Crumley, 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.
3. Councilmember Franklin was excused.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Approval of Agenda

1. **Councilmember Crumley** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve the Council Agenda of December 7, 2021.
 - i. **Yes:** All

D. Consent Agenda

1. *Minutes of November 2, 2021*
2. *Approval of Payroll Checks #116864 - #116869 in the amount of \$215,193.29, Payroll Checks #116926 - #116933 in the amount of \$151,678.56, and Payroll Checks #116973 - #116978 in the amount of \$222,040.67*
3. *Approval of Claims Checks #116872 - #116925 in the amount of \$315,998.73 and Approval of Claims Checks #116979- #117036 in the amount of \$475,967.97 and Manual Check #116972 in the amount of \$100.00*
4. *Open Space Classification Affirmation – Parcel 7396000011 (AB 3126) (Ord 1653)*
 - i. Councilmembers moved this item to Introduction Items.
5. *School Impact Fees (AB 3127) (Ord 1654)*
6. *Puyallup Police Department Jail Services (AB 3129)*
 - i. Councilmembers moved this item to Introduction Items.
7. *Target Zero Task Force Subrecipient Agreement (AB 3128)*
 - i. Councilmembers moved this item to Introduction Items.
 1. **Councilmember Smith** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve items 1, 2, 3, & 5 on the consent agenda.
 2. **Yes:** All

E. Audience Input on Non-Agenda

1. Bradley Stewart – 1514 Rainier Street, Steilacoom: He purchased the Eisenbeis House earlier this year. He mistakenly installed a side section of his residential fence into what the Town considers their right-of-way. He asked for the case to be examined by Town Council, possibly in a hearing. He has sent Mayor Muri and Administrator Loveless a PowerPoint with more information. He did check on the permitting process for a residential fence prior to installation

* Action tonight

and found none in place. He does not contest that he may have built in a right-of-way, but feels his circumstances are unique. Other historical buildings have structures in public right-of-way. He invited Council to stop by his property to look around and discuss the situation with him. He feels that a compromise can be found with the Town.

2. Jonathan Harris – 2315 Lexington Street and 2317 Lexington Street, Steilacoom: He and his neighbors have noticed an increase in speeding and accidents on Lexington. He sent an email to Council, but wanted to note some of the highlights. There have been a series of accidents around the intersection of Stevens and Lexington Street. There is a crosswalk on Lexington crossing Stevens, but not one on Stevens crossing Lexington. He noted that there are bus stops on both sides of Stevens, and that school buses drop children off on both sides of Stevens. He suggested that a crosswalk be installed on Stevens and the intersection turned into a four-way stop. He also noted that Stevens used to be cut through to Cincinnati, but due to a new housing development, it is now cutoff. No signage indicates this change. He would appreciate Council's assistance addressing these issues and appreciates their time.
3. Jeannette Best and Michael Gardener – 303 Puyallup Street, Steilacoom: They would like to be put on the Council agenda next month to discuss safety implementation in front of their home where there have been multiple accidents and deaths due to traffic. They sent an email to Mayor Muri, Council, and Chief Yabe.
4. Rebecca Hill – 1006 Union Avenue, Steilacoom: She stated that, since 2012, she has asked for the Town to address speeding on Union Avenue and several other streets. She would like to see it addressed in a Council meeting.

F. Public Hearing

1. *Alternative Street Design Short Street (AB 3132) (Res 1194)*

- i. **Councilmember Crumley** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to open the public Hearing.
 1. **Yes:** All
- ii. **Town Planner Fortner** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- iii. **Mayor Muri** invited public comments.
 1. Carol Saynisch – 503 Union Avenue, Steilacoom: As the applicant, she deferred to her architect, James Guerrero – 22 Silcox Island, Lakewood: He noted that Short Street is aptly named. It only serves two properties. It doesn't provide the Town with benefit from a street buildout. It effectively will only serve this property going forward. This extension will maintain the original right-of-way. He asked that the alternative street design be approved.
 2. Raza and Malvina Orakzai – 411/411 1/2 Short Street, Steilacoom: They own the duplex next to the property in question and have concerns about the design. The duplex is off of a very thin dirt road. They do not know how extending that will work. The design is right on top of their property line. All of the construction will impact families in the duplex. They are also concerned that it will be difficult to build on the hill. They spend a lot of money on drainage. They wanted to know if extending Nisqually Street might make more sense. It was determined that such an extension would not be feasible for a variety of reasons.
- iv. **Councilmember Smith** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to close the public hearing.
 1. **Yes:** All

- v. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to approve Resolution 1194, thereby approving Steven and Carol Saynisch’s proposal for an alternative street design for Short Street.
 - 1. **Yes: All**
- 2. 2021 Clean Energy Implementation Plan (AB 3131)**
- i. **Mayor Muri** opened the public Hearing.
 - ii. **Town Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
 - iii. **Mayor Muri** invited public comments.
 - 1. James Burke – 615 7th Street, Steilacoom: He cited upcoming energy goals and the importance of combating climate change in his comments. He would like to see Town building codes reflect our clean energy goals. As a part of that, he would like to see the electrification of all appliances and heating/cooling systems in new construction, and retrofits for old to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases being generated.
 - iv. **Councilmember Crumley** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to close the public hearing.
 - 1. **Yes: All**
 - v. **Councilmember Crumley** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to approve the 2021 Clean Energy Implementation Plan for the Town of Steilacoom.
 - 1. **Yes: All**

G. Introduction

- 1. Open Space Classification Affirmation – Parcel 7396000011 (AB 3126) (Ord 1653)**
- i. **Mayor Muri** invited public comments.
 - 1. Alex Chaney – 807 5th Street, Steilacoom: They have a wetland as a part of their backyard. He found the opportunity for this open space property tax exemption. If a property owner wants to have part of their property designated to preserve a wildlife area, they can submit this application through the county. The county staff administers it and the county council approves it, but Steilacoom must affirm it in order for it to proceed. It is approximately a two-year application process.
 - ii. **Councilmember Smith** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to adopt Ordinance 1653 affirming the Pierce County Council’s action declaring of portion of parcel 7395000011 located in the Town of Steilacoom as open space.
 - 1. **Yes: All**
- 2. Puyallup Police Department Jail Services (AB 3129)**
- i. **Chief Yabe** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
 - ii. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to authorize the Mayor, or his designee, to enter into the interagency agreement with the City of Puyallup for jail services.
 - 1. **Yes: All**
- 3. Target Zero Task Force Subrecipient Agreement (AB 3128)**
- i. **Chief Yabe** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
 - ii. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to authorize the Mayor, or his designee, to enter into the subrecipient agreement with the Pierce County Target Zero Task Force.

1. **Yes:** Crumley, Neal, & Smith
2. **No:** Henderson

4. ***Lexipol Policy Services (AB 3130) (*)***

- i. **Chief Yabe** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to authorize the Mayor, or his designee, to procure Lexipol Policy Services pursuant to the Solutions Proposal.
 1. **Yes:** All

5. ***Seawall Repair Project, Supplemental Engineering Scope of Work (AB 3133) (*)***

- i. **Public Works Director Burlingame** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Smith** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve Amendment #1 to the Sunnyside Seawall Repair Project and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary contract documents on behalf of the Town of Steilacoom.
 1. **Yes:** All

H. Presentation

1. ***Councilmember Smith***

- i. Mayor Muri presented a plaque to Councilmember Smith for 20 years of outstanding service as councilmember.

I. Reports

1. ***Staff***

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** reported the following:
 1. He met with West Pierce Fire and Rescue Chief Sharp last week to talk about contract renewal. He will meet with him again this week. There will likely be a proposal before Council in January.
 2. The Tree Lighting was on December 3. He thanked those who put it together and attended.
 3. Santa is going around Town this Friday, December 10. The map is on the website and in the Around Town.
 4. Public Works Director Burlingame, Human Resources Director Sterbick, and he met with Public Works Teamsters that morning about rates, pay issues, and market rate adjustments. Market rate adjustments may be suggested in the interest of keeping key staff. Council might see something on this in January, as well.
 5. He also met with the Town's IT staff person to talk about hybrid meetings. They are continuing to try to obtain equipment that will allow Council to convene in person at some point in the future.
- ii. **Attorney Hoffman** reported the following:
 1. There is no new litigation against the Town, though litigation instigated by the Town still may be forthcoming.
 2. He commended Councilmember Smith for his long service to the Town.
 3. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

iii. **Chief Yabe** reported the following:

1. In support of Public Safety's current campaign of See Something, Say Something, he offered a tale regarding an emailed parking complaint concerning an abandoned vehicle. Our officers responded to the area and did not observe the problem vehicle. After an email back to the reporting party, the email sender then confirmed that the vehicle had indeed already been addressed two months prior. Public Safety is appreciative of timely reports of suspicious or illegal activity.
2. A big thank you to Councilmember Henderson for training she recommended to their department earlier this year. He has since learned the training is mandatory for investigators of adult victims of sexual assault, and their investigator is currently undertaking that training.
3. A big thank you to our Public Works Street crew. Despite the deluge of rain last month, our total motor vehicle collisions did not stray from our average for this year.
4. He observed the final testing for the recruits at the academy. One instructor at the academy reported that we have hired excellent candidates. The instructor compared us to other larger agencies whose candidates have exhibited significant struggles throughout the academy, which the instructor attributed to inadequate hiring scrutiny. That feedback is a testament to our sergeants, Larry Whelan and Chris Bailey, who conduct interview panels for new candidates, as well as our detective, Justin Hamrick, who performs our background investigations.
5. They have received a response for the COPS grant proposal. The response is that Steilacoom will not be awarded any funding for hiring this year. Unfortunately, this is not entirely surprising. According to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the State of Washington is ranked last in the nation for the number of officers per thousand people, and compared to last year, the total number of commissioned officers statewide has decreased. With this year's grant, the U.S. Department of Justice helped fund 1066 police officers across the nation. Of those 1066, only 6 officers were funded for the entire state of Washington, across 4 total agencies in the state. This response from the Department of Justice does not seem to help our state in that regard. He is disheartened by this news.
6. He communicated his appreciation of the legislative support for the COPS grant directly to our legislative supporters and, so far, he has already received responses from State Senator Nobles and State Representative Leavitt. Additionally, he has a ride along scheduled with State Representative Bronoske next week.
7. Last month, he was invited to attend a regular meeting of the Tacoma Pierce County DUI Victims' Impact Panel. This is a mandatory meeting that those convicted of DUI must attend. There were roughly a dozen attendees in the audience while multiple speakers shared incredibly intimate depictions of the trauma and tragedy their families have experienced as a result of DUI collisions. Hearing stories of parents recounting the limited time they had with their children was heart wrenching but also a reminder of the difference that our police officers can make during their regular duties. So far, they have arrested 7 DUIs this year. Most recently, a DUI arrest took our only on-duty officer to a jail out of the area. While away, another emergency occurred in Town that necessitated a mutual aid response from neighbor police agencies. It is for incidents such as this, among others, that he hopes our conversations regarding police staffing can continue in both Council and the Public Safety Advisory Committee, despite the result of the COPS hiring grant.

- iv. **Public Works Director Burlingame** reported the following:
 - 1. He appreciates the crew for their work on the decorations downtown and gave his thanks.
 - 2. The banners hanging downtown are the compliments of the Steilacoom Chamber of Commerce. He also thanked them.
 - 3. The Roundabout Project has seen a lot of work this last week. The intersection was shut down so final concrete could be placed. They are now down to only minor items, the completion of which will depend on weather and supplies. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons have been installed for pedestrian crossing. He invited everyone to drive through or walk and check it out, as it is now essentially complete.
 - 4. The Marietta Lift Station continues to have supply issues. Computer chip projects are still having trouble getting supplies to meet demand. A temporary switch will be installed so they can stop bypassing sewage at that location.

2. *Council*

- i. **Councilmember Crumley** reported the following:
 - 1. He offered his best wishes to Councilmember Smith and a Merry Christmas to Council and Staff.
- ii. **Councilmember Henderson** reported the following:
 - 1. She is glad Mayor Muri will be meeting about the curve on Puyallup Street. She hopes the protection of pedestrians will be considered in the solution.
 - 2. Speeding has been a recurring theme in recent times. She suggested extending crosswalks across Lexington at Stevens Street. She would like to see a traffic counter, however, so any decisions made are data driven.
 - 3. She thinks the public committees are in good shape and Council will be seeing revised resolutions from them soon.
 - 4. She believes that training is valuable and those volunteering on committees should be eligible to receive training on running public meetings.
- iii. **Councilmember Neal** reported the following:
 - 1. He welcomed Councilmember Elect Grasher and offered himself and the other councilmembers support as she learns. He thanked all the other candidates for running.
 - 2. He thanked the Garden Club for the wreaths decorating the Town.
 - 3. He highlighted some of the items from his legislative preview that was included in the packet. He added that Steilacoom will remain in its current legislative districts.
 - 4. He encouraged councilmembers look at their calendars to see if they can attend the AWC City Action Days virtual conference.
 - 5. He thanked Chief Yabe for building relationships with local federal legislators and taking time to educate them.
 - 6. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- iv. **Councilmember Smith** reported the following:
 - 1. He appreciated all of the remarks given throughout the evening. He looks forward seeing Ms. Grasher on Council.
 - 2. He hopes everyone has a nice Christmas.

3. **Mayor**

i. **Mayor Muri** reported the following:

1. He noted that he has goals for 2022. One of his priorities will be the retention of current staff. A recent statistic stated 23% of all workers in the U.S. are contemplating leaving their job for another job or not working.
2. He thanked Councilmembers Henderson and Neal for their leadership on the advisory committees. He thinks we will see great work coming out of them.

J. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

1. **Councilmember Smith** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting of December 7, 2021.
2. The December 7, 2021 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

K. Study Session

1. **Sign Code Revisions**

- i. Mayor Muri deferred this discussion to a later date.

Town Administrator

Mayor