

STEILACOOM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Steilacoom Town Hall

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

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 Grasher. 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 Neal** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve the Council Agenda of January 4, 2022.
 - i. **All:** Yes

D. Oath of Office – Elizabeth Grasher, Councilperson

1. **Councilperson Grasher** recited the Oath of Office.

E. Presentation

1. ***Steilacoom Historical School District Levy Committee – Levy Renewal***
 - i. Samuel Scott gave a presentation concerning the replacement levy that will be up for vote on February 8, 2022. Highlights included past levy and bond rates, and what the proposed rate will fund.

F. Consent Agenda

1. ***Minutes of December 7, 2021***
2. ***Approval of Payroll Checks #117039 - #117048 in the amount of \$154,498.87***
3. ***Approval of Claims Checks #117049 - #117106 in the amount of \$280,371.75 and Manual Check #117037 in the amount of \$3,414.75 and Manual Checks #117107, #117108, & #117138 - #117168 in the amount of \$45,647.09.***
4. ***Appointment of John Perry to the Planning Commission (AB 3134)***
 - i. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to approve the items on the consent agenda.
 1. **Yes:** All

G. Audience Input on Non-Agenda Items

1. ***Rebecca Hill – 1006 Union Avenue, Steilacoom:*** She loves the roundabout design and thinks it is brilliant. She thanked Council and Mr. Burlingame. She also expressed her appreciation of the work Public Safety has been doing on Union Avenue to reduce speeding.

H. Public Hearing

1. *Sign Code Revisions (AB 3111) (Ord 1655)*

- i. **Mayor Muri** opened the public Hearing.
- ii. **Town Planner Fortner** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- iii. **Mayor Muri** invited public comments.
 1. *Rebecca Hill – 1006 Union Avenue, Steilacoom*: She remembers years ago when the issue of the moving barber sign downtown was discussed at length. Eventually, it was determined that, due to historic ownership and placement in Steilacoom’s historic district, it was a non-issue. She is disturbed that more consideration is not being given to signs in the historic district and would like to see that change.
- iv. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to continue the public hearing to the March 15, 2022 Council Meeting.
 1. **Yes**: All

I. Introduction

1. *Market Rate Adjustment – Linemen (AB 3135) (*)*

- i. **Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Grasher** seconded to approve a pay rate for linemen at \$62/hour and for the Electric Crew Leader at \$64.48 effective January 1, 2022.
 1. **Yes**: Franklin, Henderson, Grasher, Neal
 2. **No**: Crumley

2. *Parks, Community Services, and Environment Advisory Committee (AB 3138) (Res 1195) (*)*

- i. **Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
 1. *James Burke - 615 7th Street, Steilacoom*: He is the Vice Chairman of the Parks, Community Services, and the Environment Advisory Committee. He is honored to be a part of it. The committee contains broad selection of Town citizens, with expertise in a variety of areas. He thinks the committee is a wonderful addition. They have been working on the beaver situation, amongst others issues. They are working for no cost, aiming to make Council’s work a little easier.
 2. *P.K. Thumbi - 2409 B Street, Steilacoom*: He is a member of the Public Safety Advisory Committee. He wanted to stress the importance of committees to the operation of Town Council. They really do a lot of work, becoming a link between Council and the citizens. He believes they do a good job of advising the decision-making process.
- ii. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to adopt Resolution 1195, as amended, establishing a Parks, Community Services, and Environment Advisory Committee and repealing Resolution 969.
 1. **Yes**: All
- iii. **Councilmember Neal** raised and **Councilmember Franklin** seconded a Point of Order, requesting an amendment and revote on this agenda bill.
 1. **Yes**: All

- iv. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to adopt Resolution 1195, as further amended, establishing a Parks, Community Services, and Environment Advisory Committee and repealing Resolution 969.
 1. **Yes:** All

3. **Public Safety Advisory Committee (AB 3139) (Res 1196) (*)**

- i. **Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
 1. *Carol Rehnberg - 69 Leschi Drive, Steilacoom:* She mirrored the comments of Vice Chair Burke, feeling honored by her selection to the Public Safety Advisory Committee. She has already been contacted by citizens and is excited to help make the Town better. She thanked Council for the opportunity.
- ii. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to adopt Resolution 1196, as amended, establishing a Public Safety Advisory Committee and repealing Resolution 952.
 1. **Yes:** All

4. **Interlocal Agreement – Fire Department Services (AB 3136)**

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** introduced the agenda bill.

5. **1514 Rainier Street – Fence Location (AB 3137)**

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** introduced the agenda bill.

J. Reports

1. **Staff**

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** reported the following:
 1. LeMay Recycling has informed the region that, due to weather and road conditions, they are moving to a holiday schedule. This means they will be one day behind their typical schedule.
 2. The Tree-cycling event is from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. this weekend, January 8, at Public Works. This is a great event that supports the Scouts.
 3. Utility disconnections will be starting this January. Penalty notices are going out on January 20 with disconnections taking place on January 25 and 26.
 4. He met with Public Safety Teamsters earlier that day to discuss the collective bargaining agreement process.
 5. Staff is working on year-end-close. He is working on the Energy Assistance Program Report. It is an unfunded mandate required by the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) due on January 31. There will be future agenda items responding to the requirements.
- ii. **Attorney Hoffman** reported the following:
 1. No new litigation.
 2. The Town still may pursue litigation in the near future.
- iii. **Chief Yabe** reported the following:
 1. Happy New Year to everyone! There were 2 calls for service regarding fireworks during New Year's Eve. He heard more instances while he patrolled that evening, but it was difficult to determine if the fireworks were actually occurring within Steilacoom or in nearby unincorporated Pierce County.

2. Over the freezing holiday weather, we suffered a total of 4 motor vehicle collisions in Town. Only one of those collisions resulted in any injury and those injuries were minor. Many thanks to the ongoing efforts of Public Works in maintaining our roadways.
3. Officers arrested an impaired driver over the holiday weekend. Also, thanks to a call from Councilmember Henderson, officers recovered a stolen vehicle and arrested a prolific thief that has plagued our region. In addition to other pending charges by the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, this individual has been charged with unlawful possession of a stolen vehicle, possession of stolen property, forgery, and making a false statement to a public servant.
4. He thanked Council for authorizing the jail services contract with the City of Puyallup. The use of their jail was necessary earlier this week regarding a mandatory arrest for domestic violence where icy roads would have made the drive to the regular jail unsafe.
5. This past legislative session included a provision that tear gas may only be used by law enforcement to disperse a riot under the consent of the highest elected official of the jurisdiction. Training for Mayor Muri and any councilmember who may serve as Mayor Pro Tempore has been scheduled to review the capabilities and limitations of these tools. The training is scheduled for the hour immediately preceding the first council meeting in February. A Zoom invite will be sent to Council in the near future for the training.
6. He will be presenting a review of the recent police reform legislation to our Kiwanis Club later this week.
7. Last month he hosted a ride along with State Representative Dan Bronoske. During the 4-hour event, he observed their response to an individual suffering a mental health crisis which lasted for 2 hours. Additionally, they discussed a number of items under legislative consideration.
8. There are nearly 20 police reform related pieces of legislation filed in advance of the forthcoming session so far, including provisions related to force use, vehicle pursuits, and less lethal firearms.

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

1. The Christmas season was fun. He wishes they could have done more, but COVID restrictions downplayed some festivities. They were able to complete Elves and Bells Around Town, however, and he thanked everyone who participated in that. We were also able to support Fircrest and JBLM with the use of our sleigh.
2. Crews decorated the Town Hall with the lighted tree, as well as a wreath donated by citizen John Turnquest. Banners, courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce, were also placed throughout Town. He received some comments about the lights on the tree and is open to suggestions for improvement this coming December.
3. Last week we were hit with a powerful winter storm. The crew worked very hard. They logged over 200 hours of staff time in direct response to storm. Half of that was overtime. They had to borrow from other crews to make it happen, but everyone chipped in. We went through 8000 gallons of brine and are now restocking supplies.

2. Council

- i. **Councilmember Crumley** reported the following:

1. The roundabout is great despite everyone's fears. He thanked staff for their work on it.
 2. He was glad to hear of the partnership between the Town and JBLM for the use of the Christmas sleigh. He thinks it was a very nice gesture on the Town's part after JBLM has assisted us in other ways.
- ii. **Councilmember Franklin** reported the following:
1. He thanked the crews. He knows everyone is appreciative of their long hours and would like Director Burlingame to pass along thanks to crews.
 2. He also thanked our police department, particularly, Sergeant Whelan and the crew for handing out toys to kids. 67 kids got toys.
 3. He suggested that the Town pay for additional Zoom memberships in order to take the entirety of the Zoom responsibility off Administrator Loveless's shoulders.
- iii. **Councilmember Grasher** reported the following:
1. She is honored and grateful to be a part of Council. She thanked the people who helped make that possible. She has heard concerns from the community and mentioned several of them to Council.
 2. She is looking forward to working with everyone and wished them a Happy New Year.
- iv. **Councilmember Henderson** reported the following:
1. She welcomed Councilperson Grasher. She thinks she will be a wonderful asset.
 2. She verified we have a Zoom account and suggested that a single Zoom link be set up for the variety of virtual meetings the Town hosts.
 3. She thinks the roundabout is great. She loves the beacons, in particular.
 4. Previously, there was a discussion about traffic issues, specifically at Stevens and Lexington Street. A traffic study was suggested. She wanted to know if that was still under consideration. The answer is yes, but post studded-tire season. Studded tires rip up cables.
 5. She had a question for Chief Yabe after an experience she had calling in a suspicious circumstance. When should citizens make a non-emergency versus an emergency call? General guidance from South Sound 911 is that if the circumstance is "in progress" (i.e. currently happening) call 911, if it is not currently in progress call the non-emergency number.
 6. She highlighted the great service the Steilacoom police provides citizens.
- v. **Councilmember Neal** reported the following:
1. He gave an update on the Pierce County Regional Council and their work in conjunction with Town Planner Fortner on land use codes.
 2. He also gave a legislative update. It will be virtual again this year. Elected officials may only submit seven new pieces of legislation. A significant number currently submitted pertain to law enforcement.
 3. AWC City Action Days will occur mid-January. He encourages Council to attend this training.

3. *Mayor*

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

1. He thanked everyone for last year. He is looking forward to this year. He thinks we have great staff and his number one goal for this year is retention.
2. He looks forward to discussing the 10-year contract with West Pierce Fire and Rescue.
3. He is also looking forward to hearing from the advisory committees.
4. After a previous discussion with Jan Lucas, he shared that the ferry port will be named Lucas Landing. The dedication will likely occur in the spring.
5. Many people have rescinded negative views of the roundabout and are very pleased with the final product.
6. Chief Yabe will be giving a presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Steilacoom on Thursday, January 6 at 7 a.m. There will be a recording for those who cannot make it.

K. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

1. **Councilmember Crumley** moved and **Councilmember Grasher** seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting of January 4, 2022.
2. The January 4, 2022 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

L. Study Session

1. Study sessions to discuss Parking Regulations and Street and Subdivision Names – SMC 17.08.110 were deferred due to the late hour.

Town Administrator

Mayor