

STEILACOOM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 1, 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, 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 Crumley** seconded to approve the Council Agenda of February 1, 2022.
 - i. **All:** Yes

D. Consent Agenda

1. *Minutes of January 18, 2022*
2. *Approval of Payroll Checks #117252 - #117259 in the amount of \$156,685.99*
3. *Approval of Claims Checks # 117316 - #117359 in the amount of \$92,419.87 and Manual Checks #117262 - #117263 & #117293 in the amount of \$3,132.24*
4. *Cincinnati Street – Parking Prohibited (AB 3143) (Ord 1656)*
5. *Boat Moorage (AB 3144) (Ord 1657)*
 - i. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to approve the items on the consent agenda.
 1. **Yes:** All

E. Audience Input on Non-Agenda Items

F. Introduction Items

1. *Agreement with Beavers Northwest (AB 3145) (*)*
 - i. **Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
 - ii. **Mayor Muri** invited public comment.
 1. Jennifer Cozart – 702 Short Street, Steilacoom: She encouraged action to be taken soon. She is concerned about the condition of the dam during winter weather. She stated her surprise at the lack of a specialist being present at the meeting to explain how the leveler works and why that solution is recommended over others based on their experiences.
 2. Loretta Morgan Fernandez – 1119 Walnut Lane, Steilacoom: There is outflow from the marsh on the backside of their property. They have observed at least three separate dam breaches where there is high waterflow through their property.

This has occurred in the absence of rain. She thinks there is more to investigate there. They are concerned about major rainfall. Not everyone sees the increases and decreases as they do. There may be beaver activity that restores the breach but have concern for their property and others.

3. Rebecca Hill – 1006 Union Avenue, Steilacoom: She has lived in Steilacoom for 21 years and noted that the while the stream has been a source of joy, it is not a water feature; it is a natural habitat. She is concerned about the installation of a pond leveler without more research, particularly given the cost. Her opinion is that the trails come and go, and the citizens should take it in stride since the park is not a personal water feature.
 4. Rick Clark – 2322 Oak Drive, Steilacoom: He wanted to clarify information on the recent breach. The area next to the bridge on the south side of the dam seems to not be directly connected to beaver work on the dam, but it overflows when the water level is high enough. There is a tree stump between the dam and the side of the bridge where water happens to flow. The beavers have tried to stop up that flow, as well, but it seems that well-meaning townspeople may be removing those plugs to provide better path access to parkgoers. Anyone can walk up and impact waterflow in that particular spot. He wanted to clarify that this type of activity is different from the impact the beavers have.
- iii. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to authorize the installation of a flow control device in Farrell’s Marsh at the site of the beaver dam and if so, authorize the Mayor or his designee to sign the appropriate documents with Beavers Northwest.
1. **Yes:** Henderson, Crumley, Grasher, & Neal
 2. **No:** Franklin

2. ***Rainier St. Preservation Project, Design Scope of Work KPG Inc. (AB 3146) (*)***

- i. **Director Burlingame** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to approve the attached Local Agency A&E Professional Services Consultant Agreement between the Town of Steilacoom and KPG, Inc., subject to WSDOT approval, and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the Town of Steilacoom.
 1. **Yes:** All

G. Reports

1. ***Staff***

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** reported the following:
 1. Kim Roscoe, mayor of Fife, is the small cities representative for Pierce Transit. She has forwarded a quarterly update email to him, which he distributed to Council.
 2. The Town has been fortunate enough to obtain a SEEK award for our summer camp program this year. It will allow us to expand and enhance the program, as well as lower rates for campers.
 3. He posed a question to Council, asking them to consider whether or not they would like to move the meeting start time to 5:30 p.m. in the interest of adjourning earlier.
- ii. **Attorney Hoffman** reported no new litigation.

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

1. Late last week, a Pierce County law enforcement agency experienced an officer-involved shooting. Pursuant to Initiative 940, passed in 2018, no members of the involved officer's agency can participate in any aspect of the deadly force investigation. The Pierce County Force Investigation Team was quickly mobilized to begin their investigation and we assisted by performing guard duty of the suspect while they were at the hospital receiving treatment. We had no other involvement in the incident or its investigation.
2. Next week, the School Resource Officer, Justin Hamrick, will resume his full-time presence in our schools. The patience of our school district has been greatly appreciated as his initial detective training was completed. Detective Hamrick will continue to balance his time between investigations and our schools. This balance has already proven valuable in supporting both missions.
3. Ahead of this summer, South Sound 911 is looking to streamline their system for receiving complaints of fireworks. Last year, from throughout Pierce County, SS911 received thousands of calls regarding fireworks on the Fourth of July. The overwhelming majority of those calls did not involve obvious evidence of a threat to life or property. For the sake of comparison, Steilacoom had 4 calls regarding fireworks. We are currently investigating a manner in which residents can report nuisance fireworks without tying up 911 phone lines.
4. Over the past several months, we have had an ongoing dialogue regarding the police reform legislation that was passed last year. As the current session continues, there have been bills introduced to address the present challenges of:
 - a. Pursuit requirements and supervisor oversight
 - b. Defining physical force
 - c. Using reasonable force to take into protective custody individuals suffering from mental health crisis
 - d. Using reasonable force to allow for temporary detention during a criminal investigation
 - e. Authorizing less lethal shotguns to be utilizedHe has submitted written testimony regarding some of the proposed legislation and has since shared his testimony with citizen groups that have expressed interest in the current legislation.
5. Today, he received a compliment from one of our residents regarding two of our newest officers who responded to perform a welfare check of the resident. The resident is doing well and had simply stepped out of the area with family, but they expressed their appreciation for the effort of our officers.

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

1. The weather has been nice for the crew the past few days. They have continued to work on cleanups after storms and have had the opportunity to catch up on maintenance.
2. He received an email from the Lakewood Public Works Director. There is upcoming construction in Lakewood that might impact Steilacoom. They are going to start reconstructing Northgate Road this summer. The area out towards Military Road will be messy for a while. Lakewood is also funded for work on their portion of Steilacoom Boulevard in 2023.
3. They are working on the design of the Rigney Road project and are trying to figure out when finishing touches can be put on the roundabout.
4. HVAC upgrades continue at Town Hall and the Community Center.

5. They continue to work on a solution for the Sunnyside Beach Seawall. The two areas with damage were constructed differently and they have had to employ a coastal engineer to help them determine how to repair the southern portion before submitting permits.

2. *Council*

- i. **Councilmember Crumley** reported the following:
 1. He was very happy to see the letter from the We Love Steilacoom Association (WLSA). It is a very successful food bank in good financial condition thanks to Steilacoom residents supporting it. His congratulations to Mr. Loveless.
- ii. **Councilmember Grasher** reported the following:
 1. She thanked Councilmember Neal for his recommendation to the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) that she be an alternative representative for Steilacoom. She accepted the recommendation.
 2. She did a ride along with Chief Yabe last Friday. She appreciates his professionalism and that of our other officers. She requested that citizens remember to slow down when passing an officer who has pulled someone over.
 3. She had several residents contact her about electricity bills. She encourages any citizens with concerns about utilities to call Public Works at 253-581-1912.
 4. She noted that some people have tried to contact her through social media. She encourages people to contact her on her town email, elizabeth.grasher@ci.steilacoom.wa.us.
 5. A citizen had a question about a sign that has fallen. They are wondering if it can be re-erected.
 6. She suggested that reminders of appropriate contact channels be put out every so often.
- iii. **Councilmember Franklin** reported the following:
 1. He wondered if we are ready for hybrid meetings yet and requested an update in the near future.
- iv. **Councilmember Neal** reported the following:
 1. Last week he attended the Association of Washington Cities City Action Days. He provided a legislative update, highlighting the topics of transportation, public works funding, police reform, and the middle housing market. He recommended we monitor housing requirements and consider updating our comprehensive plan before changes are required. He thanked Chief Yabe for participating in the legislative process by reaching out to our local representatives and sharing his professional views.
- v. **Councilmember Henderson** reported the following:
 1. She echoed Councilmember Crumley's complements to the WSLA.
 2. She has heard favorable comments for having Council agenda packets online and available to the public.
 3. She made an inquiry about replanting trees at Norberg Estates. Administrator Loveless replied that contact has been made about replanting, but no reply has yet been received.
 4. She had a conversation with Mayor Muri about electricity bills. Extended billing periods sometimes pushes people into higher payment brackets. Administrator

Loveless explained that extenuating circumstances sometimes extend billing periods. People who take the time to contact Public Works about unexpected rate increases due to extended billing cycles may be eligible for account credit.

3. **Mayor**

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

1. The Kiwanis Club's Thursday speaker will be the country's foremost expert on all things Ukraine. The meeting will take place at 7 a.m. on Zoom.
2. He thanked Councilmember Henderson for bringing up the concern about electric bills.
3. On the subject of social media brought up by Councilmember Grasher, he noted that he receives a lot of texts, Facebook messages, and personal emails about Town business. He recommends replying to such outreach by thanking constituents and asking them to resend their comments to his work email. Handling public comments in this manner ensures private accounts are not open to the Public Records Act.

H. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

1. **Councilmember Crumley** moved and **Councilmember Franklin** seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting of February 1, 2022.
2. The February 1, 2022, regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

I. Study Session

1. A study session to discuss Street and Subdivision Names (SMC 17.08.110) commenced at 7:55 p.m. and adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor