

STEILACOOM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 15, 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 Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve the Council Agenda of March 15, 2022.
 - i. **All:** Yes

D. Consent Agenda

1. *Minutes of March 1, 2022*
2. *Approval of Payroll Checks # 117514 - #117519 in the amount of \$213,792.35*
3. *Approval of Claims Checks #117521 - #117578 in the amount of \$724,912.19*
4. *Continue Sign Code Revisions hearing (AB 3157)*
 - i. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to approve the items on the consent agenda.
 1. **Yes:** All

E. Audience Input on Non-Agenda Items

1. No public comments.

F. Public Hearing

1. *Zoning Ordinance amendments (AB 3156) (Ord 1660)*
 - i. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Grasher** seconded to open the public hearing.
 - ii. **Town Planner Fortner** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
 - iii. **Mayor Muri** invited public comments.
 1. *Douglas Holmes – 2115 Rainier Street, Steilacoom:* He had a comment on page three, section five, pertaining to where owners of rental properties are allowed to live. Based on the definition of the primary purpose of a short-term lodging facility being residential in nature, he does not see how the Town can allow a person to live in a continuous property. In that situation, it seems to him that the purpose of the property is one hundred percent business. If, alternatively, the owner was allowed to live in an accessory dwelling unit (ADU), then “facility” will have to be defined to allow that. As a potential neighbor of a short-term lodging facility, he would prefer owners be on the other side of the wall from the

customers for security purposes and does not think it appropriate to allow them to live in an ADU.

- iv. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Grasher** seconded to continue the public hearing to April 19, 2022.
 1. **Yes: All**

G. Action Items

1. ***Town Council Meeting Time (AB 3154)***

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Franklin** seconded to adopt Ordinance #1659 modifying the Town Council's meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 1. **Yes: All**

H. Introduction

1. ***Parking Regulations – Cincinnati Street (AB 3158) (Ord 1658)***

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

2. ***Resolution in Support of the Ukrainian People (AB 3159) (Res 1197)***

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Grasher** seconded to adopt proposed Resolution #1197 in support of the Ukrainian people.
 1. **Yes: All**

I. Reports

1. ***Staff***

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** reported the following:
 1. He thanked the Council for adopting the resolution in support of the Ukrainian people.
 2. Related to that topic, requests have been made that law enforcement agencies identify and donate expired body armor. Chief Yabe has looked into our storage and found some expired pieces of body armor. The Town intends is to move forward in the donation process.
 3. Tomorrow is the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) meeting. They are putting out a questionnaire to the general public pertaining to the relationship the general public has with Steilacoom and the Public Safety Department. The link to that survey is on the Town website and will be in The Around Town.
 4. The new farmers' market coordinator has started. She will be bringing new ideas from other markets she has coordinated.
- ii. **Attorney Hoffman** reported no new litigation.
- iii. **Chief Yabe** reported the following:
 1. Since the most recent meeting, our officers have used force on two occasions. On both occasions, they used force after probable cause was identified. Also on both occasions, the crime being investigated was assault. In one of the occasions, the assault occurred between students within our high school. Thanks to the efforts of

our School Resource Officer, this assault was stopped within seconds of starting. On both occasions, our officers utilized the level of force least likely to cause injury as deemed by the WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission.

2. Public Safety has, again, satisfied the annual training requirements of the officers. They have submitted their compliance to the WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission.
3. Public Safety has several projects in-progress and soon coming to fruition, including:
 - a. CodeRED, an emergency notification system. They are seeking to have the cost of this new system fully reimbursed. More information will be published before the end of this month.
 - b. Cascadia Rising 2022, a regional natural disaster response training exercise with their new partnership in the West Pierce Emergency Management Coalition.
 - c. Evaluation of replacement police records management software and public safety radios. These projects are expected to be multi-million-dollar expenditures across the entire county.
 - d. They have received approval for grant funding to begin a first responder-focused wellness and resilience program. This program will include immediate counseling assistance for our officers and their families, as well as reliable referral services for necessary ongoing treatment. This program also includes proactive training to help curtail wellness concerns before they become problems. Healthy officers make healthier decisions and investment into our officers can only serve our own residents better.
4. Interviews for new Steilacoom officers are scheduled for next week. We have both entry-level and lateral candidates. There continues to be a lot of conversation in the news about police staffing challenges and there are no indications that those conversations are going away soon.
5. They are hoping for good news regarding the condition of the two Pierce County Sheriff Deputies that were shot today. This is the nightmare that every law enforcement family member dreads. Public Safety is ready to support their partners at Pierce County.

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

1. They are waiting for a break in the weather to stripe the road around the roundabout. That will be the last major part of that project.
2. Design continues on the Rainier Street and Rigney Road projects. Director Burlingame previously shared design template challenges with the Rigney Road Project. The Washington State Department of Transportation considers bike lanes to be additional pollution generating impervious surface. This is putting us into a challenging category. He will make updates on this project as he gets more information.
3. The Town is currently accepting applications for seasonal workers. They are great summertime jobs that he wants to keep advertising.
4. They are trying to keep up with the weather. In a non-weather related accident, a driver moving a modular building on behalf of the school district onto Diggs Street took a corner too sharply and took out a transformer. Public Safety and our Electric Crew responded. They helped move the trailer and restore power. The driver will be receiving a bill for time and material.

5. The HVAC upgrades at Town Hall are more or less done. The contractor is now moving back to the Community Center building. They will work on upgrading lighting after the HVAC updates are complete.
6. They are having discussions with the Bradford plat developer. They are suggesting a redesign for the plat to take advantage of topography in order to provide gravity sewer. The Tasanee Plat is finishing up. They are going through the process of closing out the plat and establishing a homeowners association.

2. Council

- i. **Councilmember Crumley** reported the following:
 1. He has been using the Community Center Weight Room and has been reminded that there are a lot of volunteers over there assisting Catholic Community Services in the kitchen, providing meals to seniors. He thanked them for their assistance in making the program work.
- ii. **Councilmember Franklin** had no reports.
- iii. **Councilmember Grasher** reported the following:
 1. She thanked the Council for adopting the resolution in support of the Ukrainian people.
 2. She took a moment to remember the two deputies from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department that were injured in the line of duty.
 3. After speaking with Mayor Muri and Council, she wanted to put forth the possibility of having a National Night Out. This is a nation-wide event where we connect communities, meet neighbors, and build partnerships between emergency responders and the residents of Steilacoom. It is usually the first Tuesday of the month of August, but since we will have a Council Meeting that night, she proposed Thursday, August 4, as an alternative.
 4. She has received some emails about property crimes. She has encouraged people to contact Chief Yabe, in addition to attending the PSAC meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. She has also informed citizens about the See Something, Say Something campaign. Some people coming forward worry about retaliation from their neighbors. She has spoken with Chief Yabe but wanted to mention that this is a concern.
 5. She has spoken with the Garden Club, and they are willing to make Memorial Day wreaths, if the Town is interested.
 6. She thanked Councilmember Henderson for her leadership organizing marsh cleanup parties.
- iv. **Councilmember Henderson** reported the following:
 1. She thanked Councilmember Grasher and Mayor Muri for volunteering at the recent marsh cleanup, as well as Chief Yabe for his tear gas training earlier that evening.
 2. She noted the high number of traffic stops in the last report. She thinks it is a positive reflection of the diligence of our police officers.
 3. She noticed that one of our Public Works crew members was directing traffic around the transformer accident site and wished to pass along thanks.
 4. She inquired about the planting of trees at Norberg Estates. Administrator Loveless said he would request a report from Town Planner Fortner and include it in his Friday update.

- v. **Councilmember Neal** had no reports.

3. **Mayor**

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

1. The dedication of Lucas Landing is on March 28. The 4th of July t-shirts will include Lucas Landing as a part of the design.
2. National Night Out will be scheduled on Thursday, August 4, from 6-8 p.m. He will request Kiwanis coordinate that evening. Councilmember Grasher and Loujanna Rohrer will co-chair the event. He is hoping to have ten neighborhood functions.
3. He will not be at the PSAC meeting tomorrow because he will be the moderator for Congressperson Marilyn Strickland's Telephone Town Hall event in Lacey.
4. Unofficially, he has received word that Representative Mari Leavitt has approved a \$50,000 grant for the installation of electric charging stations at Public Works and Public Safety.
5. He approved Councilmember Grasher contacting the Garden Club for a wreath.

J. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

1. **Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting of March 15, 2022.
2. The March 15, 2022 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor