

STEILACOOM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Steilacoom Town Hall

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

6:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

1. **Mayor Muri** called the regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council to order at 6:00 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 Grasher** seconded to approve the Council Agenda of June 7, 2022.
 - i. **All:** Yes

D. Presentation

- i. ***Sunnyside Beach Seawall Repair Project, Findings and Recommendations; Moffat & Nichol Engineers Inc.***
 1. Shane Phillips and Younes Nouri gave a presentation on the history of Sunnyside Beach, coastal erosion at the site, and recommendations to keep the beach and park moving forward.

E. Consent Agenda

1. ***Minutes of May 17, 2022***
2. ***Approval of Payroll Checks #117899 - #117906 in the amount of \$151,840.99 and Payroll Checks #117943 - #117948 in the amount of \$242,308.39***
3. ***Approval of Claims Checks #117951 - #118014 in the amount of \$170,807.10 and Manual Checks #117907 - #117909 in the amount of \$1,820.00***
 - i. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Grasher** seconded to approve the items on the consent agenda.
 1. **All:** Yes

F. Audience Input on Non-Agenda Items

1. ***Eric Garrett—902 Union Avenue, Steilacoom:*** He wanted to thank Chief Yabe and Councilmember Grasher for the response to his email. He is very concerned about reckless driving on Union Avenue and appreciated the responses.
2. ***Bob Rudolph—1703 Starling Street, Steilacoom:*** He is concerned about speeding on Starling Street. He sees some of the same issues there as on Union. Walking from Starling to Topside, the crosswalk is a concern to him. It is a very busy intersection and he is concerned that someone will get hit there since cars rarely stop. He would like to see something more than a crosswalk there to slow drivers.

G. Action Items

1. *Planning Commission Meetings (AB 3168) (Ord 1662)*

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to adopt Ordinance 1662 amending section 2.12.060 of the Steilacoom Municipal Code clarifying regulation related to the Planning Commission.
 1. **Yes: All**

H. Introduction

1. *AWC Conference Voting Delegates (AB 3173) (*)*

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Franklin** seconded to appoint Mayor Muri, Councilmember Henderson, and Councilmember Grasher as the voting delegates to the Association of Washington Cities business.
 1. **Yes: All**

2. *Water System Comp. Plan Update; Scope of Work & Osborne Inc. (AB 3174) (*)*

- i. **Public Works Director Burlingame** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to approve the scope of work proposed by Gray & Osborne for completion of the Comprehensive Water System Plan update in an amount not to exceed \$71,865.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary contract documents.
 1. **Yes: All**

3. *Tribal Museum Rehab. Project, Eng. Design Scope of Work Eysaman & Co. (AB 3175) (*)*

- i. **Public Works Director Burlingame** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Grasher** seconded to approve the attached scope of work as submitted by Eysaman & Co. for engineering and design services related to the rehabilitation of the Steilacoom Tribal Museum and Cultural Center, and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary contract documents.
 1. **Yes: All**

I. Reports

1. *Staff*

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** reported the following:
 1. The Farmers' Market will begin next Wednesday, June 15.
 2. Summer concerts will begin on Wednesday, June 29.
 3. Currently, our first in-person meeting is planned for July 5. With Covid rates rising and the pressure on Town staff to prepare the building in time after July 4th, he requested Council consider moving their meeting target date to the first meeting in August.
- ii. **Attorney Hoffman** reported no new litigation.

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

1. Earlier this week, officers responded to Steilacoom High School for a report of threats. Investigation determined the threat was not credible and the student believed to have been responsible has been identified and school administration is providing further response to the incident. In response to this incident, as well as heightened concern throughout the educational and public safety communities, Public Safety has provided increased presence throughout our district.
2. Last week, officers used force to arrest a driver for multiple criminal traffic violations. The driver was provided with verbal warnings of impending force use and the opportunity to avoid force use through compliance with reasonable directions, but the driver continuously refused to respond to the officers' directions. The force used was a counter joint technique, which is considered by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to be the force least likely to result in injury. The driver was booked into jail.
3. Two of our other new officers are completing their EMT certification training this week. Additionally, our newest public safety officer is on board. His name is Brandon Massey and he is a lateral hire from the Pierce County Sheriff's Office. His training has already begun, and we're excited to have him on board. It is rare to bring a lateral officer from a much larger agency to a smaller one, and he is grateful for the work of our Town staff, our Civil Service Commission, and our department members in streamlining our hiring process ahead of time, which allowed us the opportunity to react quickly to lateral applicants when they come up. Just as it is with the rest of the employment environment right now, law enforcement staffing continues to be unusually volatile throughout our region.
4. Our new wellness app for officers has been deployed. He has also recently attended a conference regarding additional wellness options that will be made available for law enforcement officers throughout our state before the end of this year.
5. Another reminder about our upcoming large-scale test of our emergency notification system, Steilacoom Alert. That test is scheduled for June 14 at 11 am. Additional reminders have been disseminated via weekly updates, the department Facebook page, and the Around Town.
6. Ferry queue emphasis patrols have again begun. Based upon additional commitment by the Pierce County Council, they are expecting to nearly double our presence in the ferry lanes, compared to past years.
7. As was announced on Facebook last week, Public Safety has begun the Steilacoom Summer Slowdown. This summer, in response to concerns expressed by our residents, expect to see increased presence of our public safety officers on our roadways helping to reacquaint some our drivers with our posted speed limits. I've already received email feedback from residents who appreciate our response so far.

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

1. The flower baskets were installed downtown today.
2. They are in the process of perfecting the submittals for our federally funded road projects. It also appears we will be recommended for federal funds for the grind and overlay of Rigney Road in 2025.

2. Council

- i. **Councilmember Crumley** reported the following:
 1. He noted the volatile nature of the police job field right now and wanted to know if Council might have a study session to discuss the retention of our officers.
 2. He prefers an in-person meeting starting July 5.

- ii. **Councilmember Franklin** reported the following:
 1. He appreciated the Sunnyside presentation and was interested in where we go next with Sunnyside Beach. He is ultimately interested in moving forward with the creation of a beach management plan.
 2. He is not satisfied with the speeding controls on Union Street. He would like a study session to discuss measures that might be taken.
 3. He is okay with delaying in-person meetings to August but can go either way.

- iii. **Councilmember Grasher** reported the following:
 1. She thanked Chief Yabe for his work on the Summer Slowdown. She reminded citizens that there is an email to report traffic concerns:
traffic@ci.steilacoom.wa.us
 2. She brought up additional traffic concerns and suggested that the Town might want to look at traffic calming strategies as we continue to discuss speeding issues in Town.
 3. The next Sunnyside Beach cleanup will be on July 5 from 10-11:30 a.m.
 4. National Night Out is August 2 from 6-8 p.m. If citizen search for “Steilacoom Kiwanis” online, they will find their webpage with information and a QR code so they can register for the event. She thanked the 14 block captains for their support.
 5. She noted how competitive jobs in the fields of public safety, first response, and mental health have become.
 6. She congratulated the Steilacoom High School class of 2022.
 7. She can go either way with our first in-person meeting.

- iv. **Councilmember Henderson** reported the following:
 1. She believes it is important for Council to provide input in the Public Safety bargaining process but wonders if such discussions would be appropriate for an executive session. Attorney Hoffman answered, no, that would not be permissible.
 2. She was interested in additional traffic studies. She noted that some citizens have suggested crosswalks in various areas but that crosswalks without intersections have been proven to be dangerous.
 3. She made a request to have an update on land use enforcement issues.
 4. They have begun a community garden experiment in Dupont. It is going well so far.
 5. She is flexible on when our first in-person meeting occurs.

- v. **Councilmember Neal** reported the following:
 1. He prefers moving the first in-person meeting to August. He would also like to see a setup that allows for six feet of space between councilmembers.
 2. He believes information from the traffic study will be helpful when it comes to a discussion on traffic solutions. He also reminded everyone that there are engineering and traffic control guidelines that determine the control measures we are legally able to take. He also noted that school bus use during the school year

impacts traffic greatly and wondered if we might look at data separating traffic during the school year from the rest of the year.

3. He knows that union negotiations are very sensitive and he anticipates looking more into the matter at budget time. He noted that the Town has two more officers than the Council-authorized staffing level and believes that will be addressed during budget discussions.
4. He would like a beach management study done on Sunnyside Beach.

3. *Mayor*

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

1. In the next Around Town, he will write an article focusing on Public Safety and schools.
2. He is looking forward to welcoming our newest officer, Brandon Massey. He confirmed that we are two over the authorized limit of staff at Public Safety, but we have the budget for it.

J. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

1. **Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Grasher** seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting of June 7, 2022.
2. The June 7, 2022 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

K. Study Session

1. 2023-2024 Biennium Budget – Community Services – Youth Activities
 - i. A study session to discuss 2023-2024 Biennium Budget – Community Services – Youth Activities was convened at 8:20 p.m. and adjourned at approximately 8:33 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor