

June 2, 2020

Steilacoom Town Council Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:
June 2, 2020

Mayor Lucas called the regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

ROLL CALL:

In attendance were Mayor Lucas, Councilmembers Neal, Henderson, Crumley, Franklin and Smith. Staff members in attendance were Town Administrator Loveless, Attorney Hoffman, Public Safety Director Yabe, and Public Works Director Burlingame.

Mayor Lucas led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Franklin moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve the following items on the consent calendar:

1. Minutes of May 19, 2020
2. Approval of Payroll Checks #113618 - #113626 and #113629 in the amount of \$145,391.87
3. Approval of Claims Checks #113659 - #113700 in the amount of \$279,353.54 and Manual Check #113628 in the amount of \$1,109.99
4. Agreement with Public Safety Testing – Sergeant Testing Process (AB 2998)

Yes: All

AUDIENCE INPUT:
Non-Agenda Items

Rick Clark, 2322 Oak Drive, Steilacoom. He voiced support in researching different options to relocate the beaver from Farrell's Marsh. He feels that a leveling devise for the beaver dam is less expensive in the long term then removing it completely.

Ronda Green, 917 Kari Lane, Steilacoom. She is concerned about the Mayor's decision of contracting with trappers to remove the beaver from the Farrell's Marsh. She would like to see a study and consultation done before the beaver's removal.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
2019-2020 Biennium Budget
Amendment – CARES
Program (AB 2996)
(Ordinance #1621)

Town Administrator Loveless delivered the staff report and answered question from the Council.

Mayor Lucas opened the public hearing and invited comments from the audience. No one spoke.

Yes: All

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to close the public hearing.

NEW ITEMS:
Interagency Agreement
with Washington State
Department of Commerce
for the CARES Program
(AB 2997)

Town Administrator Loveless delivered the staff report and answered question from the Council.

Councilmember Henderson moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act program.

Yes: All

REPORTS:

Mayor

Mayor Lucas reported the following:

- He shared information regarding the four phases of COVID-19. Steilacoom is currently in Phase 1. To stay in compliance we will reopen the parks when the Town reaches Phase 2.
- Restaurants and businesses in Town are all developing plans to reopen and still stay in compliance.
- The Mayor met with the Superintendent, Kathi Weight, to discuss what schools have planned in order to meet COVID-19 requirements. The largest challenge is in transporting kids to the schools.
- Shared what is being discussed regarding the Steilacoom Pub & Deli and how they may open and stay in compliance.

Administrator

Town Administrator Loveless reported the following:

- State agencies were told to cut expenses by 15%. As a result, the office space that the Special Commitment Center has been renting from the Town will be vacated. Because the lease will not be renewed, staff has met with the Steilacoom School District as far as possibly moving programs to that building.
- The Farmers' Market starts June 17th with changes. The booths will be spread out to comply with social distancing requirements.
- Since March the Steilacoom Food Banks numbers have more than doubled. They are open from 9:30 – 11:30 am on Saturdays. The Girl Scouts have been helping by making home deliveries.
- In addition to the food bank, staff is distributing Emergency Food Network non-perishable food boxes also.

Attorney

Attorney Hoffman reported no new litigation.

Public Works

Public Works Director Burlingame reported the following:

- Crews are back to working full-time starting in June. He shared some of the social distancing procedures and protocols that are in place now. Fortunately, everyone is staying healthy.
- Banners are being installed on downtown street lights to honor 2020 graduating high school seniors.
- Special thanks to the Steilacoom Garden Club for their donations to purchase the Town flower baskets.
- Provided Councilmembers with a final report of the Town's pavement condition index ratings. One of the lowest rated road was Old Military Road which a grant application has been submitted in hopes of repairing this street.
- A resident has approached staff inquiring about installing a bench on Steilacoom Boulevard. Perhaps a good scout project.

Public Safety

Chief Yabe reported the following:

- Staff has submitted a grant, to hopefully be reimbursed, for some bullet-proof vests for the officers.
- Officers will be attending CPR recertification training later this week.
- The Department will be helping the Pierce County Sheriff's office to provide additional law enforcement support during increased ferry patronage.
- Traffic emphases has been on the main arterials throughout Town. Over 90 stops have taken place.
- Chief is very proud of his officer's conduct during these times of uncertainty and unrest.

Council

Councilmember Crumley reported the following:

- He had received a call from a resident asking for the Ordinance dealing with view obstruction. He asked if there was language in the Ordinance preventing neighbors from planting trees that obstruct views. Answer: No, homeowners have a right to plant anything on their property. Councilmember Crumley would like to revisit this issue.
- He asked if there might be a grant opportunity to build sidewalks and bike lanes along Chambers Creek Road. Answer: staff is watching, however, this would be a very expensive project.
- He asked about the plans for the Marine and Spirits property that the Town purchased. Answer: it is not in any shape to be rented out. Therefore, staff is recommending that it be torn down next year.

Councilmember Smith reported the following:

- He commented that there are two street patches along Gove Street that were very well done. You can drive over them without noticing a difference.
- He had received a call from a resident regarding the path between First Street and the school. The job of mowing this path was poorly done.
- Shared information about the riots taking place in Los Angeles.

Councilmember Henderson reported the following:

- Shared that Rick Clark was in the audience tonight. She thanked him for using his computer skills in producing a new map of the Town.
- She asked for an update on the Farrell's Marsh beaver situation. She wanted to know if there has been any consultations with other agencies. Answer: as far as relocating the beaver, no one wants beavers as this time. The Mayor is in conference with our Attorney regarding the risk and liability to the Town. Councilmember Henderson voiced concern that there has been very little information passed between Council and staff regarding hiring a trapper to eliminate the beaver. She is also concerned that there was a live trap place in a public park with no warning.

Council cont.

Councilmember Henderson believes that there should be more consultation with subject matter experts such as Fish and Wildlife and Department of Ecology before a decision is made.

- She asked if there should be a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, if the Town has plans to conduct virtual meetings. Answer: No, not as this time but we could consider signing up for the program Zoom.

Councilmember Franklin reported the following:

- He voiced concern about not having a Council meeting for an entire month. He hopes that that will not happen again.
- He warned people of the coyotes in the area. His neighbor dealt with one over the weekend with their pet.

Councilmember Neal reported the following:

- He shared a letter from a resident regarding bees and Town spraying.
- He voiced to the residents in Town, that the Council appreciates their comments and concerns being brought to Council meetings. Councilmembers are listening and taking their comments seriously.
- He suggested, that in light of the current national turmoil and the government mistrust that we all examine how we can reach out and better communicate with our citizens.
- He appreciates how staff is trying to help the owner of the Steilacoom Pub and Deli try and reopen his business.
- Thanked Town Administrator Loveless for all he is doing for the community and with the food bank.

STUDY SESSION:

Study Session was cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT:

The June 2, 2020 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor