

June 16, 2020

Steilacoom Town Council Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:
June 16, 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 Neal moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to approve the following items on the consent calendar:

1. Minutes of June 2, 2020
2. Approval of Payroll Checks #113709 - #113714 in the amount of \$208,660.58
3. Approval of Claims Checks #113744 - #113791 in the amount of \$114,067.09 and Manual Checks #113701, #113702, #113705, #113706 & #113708 in the amount of \$45,314.00
4. Interlocal Agreement with the City of Lakewood for Court Services (AB 2999)

Yes: All

AUDIENCE INPUT:
Non-Agenda Items

No public comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
2019-2020 Biennium
Budget Amendments -
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 Franklin moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to close the public hearing.

Yes: All

Councilmember Henderson moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to adopt Ordinance #1621 amending the 2019-2020 Biennium Budget for revenues and expenditures related to the CARES Program.

ACTION ITEMS:
Evergreen Consulting Group
Scope of Services Electric
Utility Conservation
Program Mgt. Services
(AB 2991)

Public Works Director Burlingame delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.

Councilmember Franklin moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to approve the attached scope of work to Evergreen Consulting Group for management of the Town's Electric Conservation Program in an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00/yr.

Yes: All

REPORTS:

Mayor

Mayor Lucas reported the following:

- We are expecting a possible 10% increase on utility costs from BPA due to less electric consumption being used during COVID-19.
- Reviewed the upcoming budget preparation schedule with Councilmembers.
- Discussed possible road and utility projects that may be included in the upcoming budget.
- What a great troop of Girl Scouts we have in Town. They have been delivering food from the food bank every Saturday to local homes. They are now building a raised vegetable garden area behind the Community Center.
- The Mayor has received correspondence in support of our police department.
- Staff is considering not opening Saltar's Point Beach during the 4th of July. Sunnyside Beach Park would be closed at 8:00 pm.
- The Mayor is meeting with JBLM officials on Thursday to discuss possibly moving the Suits for Soldiers to an on base location.
- Discussed rules for COVID-19 phase 3 re-opening and the school district.
- Reminded everyone to vote.
- Talked about a recent peaceful march that took place in Lakewood.

Administrator

Town Administrator Loveless reported the following:

- Tomorrow kicks off the Farmers' Market season from 3-7 pm. Vendors will be spaced 10 feet apart.
- Summer Camp has started with several changes.
- Reminded everyone that we have a wonderful recycle center at the Community Center. However, please don't use the Community Center's dumpster. That's for Town use only.
- Residents can now pay their utility bills on-line.
- Staff is working on starting an on-line Community Center registration application for the public to use.
- Starting Monday, staff was back working full time in all the buildings with a few exceptions. We are anticipating Pierce County moving into Phase 3 starting July 1st. This would allow the buildings to re-open.
- SHMA is hosting a Town wide garage sale in July.
- Negotiations with the Special Commitment Center and their building lease are back on the table.
- Discussed budget calendar items to anticipate.

Attorney

Attorney Hoffman reported no new litigation.

Public Works

Public Works Director Burlingame reported the following:

- Happy to report that the Old Military Road grind and overlay preservation project has been recommended for federal grant funding by the Transportation Improvement Committee. If this project is funded the Town will have received over \$10 million in state and federal grant awards since 2008. Quite an achievement for a small Town.
- Other Federal grant projects that are slated to start are Rigney Road improvements in 2021, Rainier Street in 2022 and now Old Military Road in 2024.
- Staff has been back to work full time since June 1st. As of today, all of our five summer hires have started as well.
- Crews are busy getting ready for the Farmers' Market season.
- Staff has gotten a scout project suggestion, with a money donor, involving a bench installation along Steilacoom Boulevard.
- Residents in Cormorant Passage have submitted an Urban Forestry Management request for public property trees to be trimmed to maintain views.
- Staff continues to try and find solutions to prevent day long Town wide power outages. Tapping into Tacoma's powerlines might be the answer. Staff is meeting with agencies and consultants.
- Staff is currently reviewing plans for the Marietta lift station.

Public Safety

Chief Yabe reported the following:

- There has been a sighting of a black bear in Farrell's Marsh. Fish & Wildlife was called in with their bear dog, Spenser, but no luck at corralling the bear at this time.
- After investigating a report of a possible robbery at gun point, it has been determined questionable due to the evidence being inconsistent to what was reported.
- He reported two weeks ago, according to social media, staff was alerted to a possibility that there might be a riot and looting in Steilacoom. The message turned out to be false.
- Due to all the demonstrations that were taking place statewide, there has been a larger police presence including Steilacoom.
- Talked about Steilacoom's policies on teargas and chock holds.
- He shared information about the tasers that officers carry.
- Reported what occurs when "use of force" is used by an officer.
- Chief is very proud of his officer's conduct with the public.
- Answered questions that were asked by a resident through an email.
- Shared how information is shared among different agencies throughout Pierce County and beyond.

Beth Whitney-Teeple, 314 2nd Street, Steilacoom. Thanked Chief Yabe for his thorough report. She asked if there were opportunities to meet the officers or pictures posted, in order to connect names with faces.

Council

Councilmember Crumley reported the following:

- Thanked Chief Yabe for the briefing of the bear situation.
- Thanked Town Administrator Loveless for the update on the building lease.
- Asked about the Marine and Spirits building. Answer: it is in the budget to tear it down next year and increase parking spaces.
- Congratulated staff for securing another Federal grant. He feels, due to good grant writing, the Town looks great.

Councilmember Smith reported the following:

- Asked what time Lafayette Street would be closed for the Farmers' Market. Answer: noon.
- Asked that the Mayor check with JBLM as to when or if they have plans to open the "D" street gate.
- Noticed that there were dead trees on the corner of Puyallup and Steilacoom Boulevard. They have since been cut down. He asked if that was the Town's responsibility or the homeowners. Answer: homeowners.
- He agreed that he would like to meet our police officers in Town in order to place a name with a face.

Councilmember Henderson reported the following:

- Thanked Town Administrator Loveless for the information regarding the CARES Act.
- She also appreciates the posting of the 2020-2025 emergency management plan to the website. Very comprehensive report with lots of interesting information about the Town.
- The annual financial report includes a lot of details and good information.
- She's glad to see the news agencies are now reporting how disposable wipes really cause a lot of problems in the sewer systems by clogging sewer filters. Asked if the Town has seen a decline in blockages. Answer: no, during this pandemic we have had an increase.
- She asked for more information regarding the Town's plans for 4th of July and the beaches.

Councilmember Franklin reported the following:

- He asked for more risk management information regarding Farrell's Marsh and what the Town's responsibilities are when it involves an act of nature. Also, what is the basis for not changing the natural waterway.
- Reported that there will be no SHMA Salmon Bake this year.

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Council cont.

Councilmember Neal reported the following:

- Hoped that everyone stops by to support and thank the vendors of the Farmers' Market. It's already been a challenge this year to stay in business.
- Regarding the grant, he will be voting on Thursday night. There were about 35 other applications submitted. It was a well prepared packet of information that helped in rewarding Steilacoom with this grant. Congratulated Public Works Director Burlingame for his efforts. He suggested that all the accomplishments be shared to our citizens.
- Thanked resident Beth Whitney-Teeple for her letter that was sent to the Police Department.
- Thanked the Chief for the information on the bear sightings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The June 16, 2020 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

STUDY SESSION:

A study session to discuss the Public Safety Work plan was convened at 8:29 pm. and adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Town Administrator

Mayor