

CALL TO ORDER:
February 2, 2021

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, Public Works Director Burlingame, Town Planner Fortner, and Administrative Assistants Bollman and Gibelyou.

Mayor Lucas led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION:

SHSD - 1100 Diggs Street – Potential Improvement Plans

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Neal moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to approve the following items on the consent calendar:

1. Minutes of January 19, 2021
2. Approval of Payroll Checks #115258- #115264 in the amount of \$168,897.70
3. Approval of Claims Checks #115296 - #115332 in the amount of \$80,531.66 and Manual Checks #115257, #115293, & #115295 in the amount of \$10,799.00
4. School Impact Fee Revision (AB 3051) (Ord 1638)

Yes: All

AUDIENCE INPUT:
Non-Agenda Items

No public comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
Final Plat Norberg Estates
Phase II (AB 3046) (Ord
1636)

Town Planner Fortner 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 Smith** seconded to close the public hearing.

ACTION ITEMS:
Final Plat Norberg Estates
Phase II (AB 3046) (Ord
1636)
Yes: All

Councilmember Henderson moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to adopt Ordinance #1636 conditionally approving the plat of Norberg Estates Phase II.

REPORTS:
Mayor

Mayor Lucas reported the following:

- He wanted to clarify that he asked current council members not only think about declaring their intent to run for re-election, but also to let the rest of us know.

Mayor Cont'd

- He highlighted that the Pierce County Region Council will be focusing on climate change, social justice, and police reform. He is going to pay attention to how these topics unfold.
- He updated council on the growing public concern over street racing and the efforts being made to mitigate it. The Town is cooperating with local authorities to protect our region.

Administrator

Town Administrator Loveless reported the following:

- He has scheduled a confidential document shredding event at Public Works on April 17 from 9-12. This is not Spring Cleanup. That has been cancelled.
- There will be an approximate 30 day closure to the boat float starting February 26.
- COVID-19 Update: Pierce County is now in Phase 2. After much effort, he has learned that governmental facilities may open for activities so long as there are guidelines in place. As such, on February 16, the Community Center will have a limited access reopening for Sports/Fitness-type classes and gym appointments only. The preschool instructor has also been contacted for potential return. Every effort is being made to prioritize safety. There are currently no plans for Phase 3.

Attorney

Attorney Hoffman reported no new litigation.

Public Safety

Chief Yabe reported the following:

- We have extended two conditional offers of employment to entry level candidates. Provided everything goes well with the remainder of the backgrounds, he would anticipate these candidates being in the academy within 90 days.
- A recent concern that has arisen is the issue of street racing. He wanted to offer a bit more context concerning incidents similar to what occurred in downtown Tacoma a couple of weeks ago and reassure citizens that our response will remain consistent with our mission statement and the greater missions of our partner agencies: providing for the safety of our citizens and upholding the laws of our county and state.
- Over the weekend, we responded to an allegation of a brutal sexual assault having occurred in our town. We responded with a nearly all-hands effort, during which subsequent investigation revealed several circumstances that called into question the truthfulness of nearly every aspect of the allegation. He feels this unfortunate incident exemplifies the commitment of your officers in both their responsiveness to allegations of criminal behavior, as well as their level-headed approach to finding the facts and discerning the truth.

Public Safety Cont'd

- He has started a new process for gathering information regarding ongoing traffic concerns. Similar to our crime tips email, traffic concerns may be reported directly to Public Safety at traffic@ci.steilacoom.wa.us. His hope is to streamline the manner in which we receive persistent traffic concerns, in order to obtain a more accurate account of those concerns.
- Finally, we greatly appreciate the work of Mr. Loveless in our recent change of janitorial services. The interior of our station has never looked better, and as COVID strains continue to evolve, our confidence is high in our ongoing safety at work.

Public Works

Public Works Director Burlingame reported the following:

- It has been a wet year. We have been ready for ice but have mostly had rain. The Public Works crew has shifted their emphasis to storm drains and ditches. It is going well.
- He is thankful we have underground power here in Steilacoom. The Town did not suffer the outages much of the surrounding area faced during the windstorm a couple of weeks ago.
- Update on the seawall at Sunnyside Beach: Engineers and the Department of Fish and Wildlife have been consulted. Together we are deciding on a final solution. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is on board to help us obtain the necessary permits. It will be up to 60 days before we can get any construction started.
- They are looking at repairing another portion of the seawall proactively.
- Plans for the roundabout are nearly finalized. It is mostly designed; details are being hammered out. He plans to have the engineering company, Gray & Osborne, give a presentation at the next council meeting. They will make an avenue for public input available at a later date.
- The Marietta Lift Station details are coming together, but it might take a while to get supplies due to COVID-19 related slowdowns. Extra working days were built into the contract so we should not need to pay anything extra if it takes a little longer than expected. Once construction starts, it will likely be completed within 30-45 days. Public notification will be provided to homeowners when construction starts.

Council

Councilmember Smith reported the following:

- The drains in his area are doing a great job of keeping water off the streets.
- He will make an announcement concerning his candidacy for council a month from today.

Council Cont'd

Councilmember Crumley reported the following:

- He appreciates Paul for his role in reopening the Community Center.
- He is looking forward to a study session to discuss the old shop site.

Councilmember Henderson reported the following:

- She is grateful to Paul for his dissemination of information pertaining to the breach that occurred in the Auditor’s Office. She is glad Steilacoom was not one of the agencies affected and encourages the Town to continue pursuing top notch electronic security to thwart threats.
- She continues to encourage all materials Council receives be posted on the Town website so the public can ask better in questions and, in turn, allow Council to make better decisions.

Councilmember Franklin reported the following:

- He is looking forward to discussing the old shop site and emphasized the need for complete transparency to the citizens of Steilacoom concerning the potential sale.

Councilmember Neal reported the following:

- He warned that, due to the Growth Management act, we may need to conduct a complete review and revision of our growth management to include climate change and other cultural resources in the coming years.
- He is concerned that some of the suggestions around police reform may take away legitimate tools for police officers and encourages those who share similar concerns to reach out to their 28th District legislators.
- He is looking for education ideas to bring to the Association of Washington Cities board for their upcoming conference.
- He would like to echo Councilperson Henderson’s request that the Town make all information Council receives available online.
- There will be a Pierce County Regional Council General Assembly meeting on February 18. All elected officials are welcome.

ADJOURNMENT:

The February 2, 2021 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:30p.m.

STUDY SESSION:

A study session to discuss Animal Control Regulations (AB 3049) (Ordinance 1635) was convened at 8:30 p.m. and adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor