

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Lucas called an Executive Session at 5:45 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes to discuss Qualifications for Public Office in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 paragraph (1) (h). No decisions would be made in the Executive Session. The session adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:
March 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, and Administrative Assistant Gibelyou.

Mayor Lucas led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

1. Minutes of February 16, 2021
2. Approval of Payroll Checks #115385 - #115391 in the amount of \$160,232.72
3. Approval of Claims Checks #115421 - #115465 in the amount of \$557,791.58

Yes: All

AUDIENCE INPUT:

Non-Agenda Items

- Rick Clark – 2322 Oak Drive, Steilacoom. He wished to offer some additional information about the beavers and dam in Farrell’s Marsh, as well as some information he has acquired from beaver experts. He is sympathetic to the Town’s legal concerns but continues to urge a solution other than trapping. He has prepared a signed petition for submission to Mayor Lucas and Council asking that trapping efforts be ceased and a citizen task force formed.
- Sally Jackie – 2411 Lexington Street, Steilacoom. She seconded Mr. Clark’s thoughts and proposed pipes to reduce the water levels as a solution.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Sale of Property at 1100 Diggs Street (AB 3053)

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

Steilacoom School District Director of Community Relations and Planning Shawn Lewis gave a presentation and answered questions from Council.

Mayor Lucas opened the public hearing and invited comments from the audience.

- Samuel Scott – 2867 Chambers Bay Drive, Steilacoom. He wanted to voice his appreciation of the school district’s working relationship with the Town. He believes the sale of this site is a win for everyone and thanks the Town for their consideration.

PUBLIC HEARINGS CONT'D:

- John Alessio – 703 Short Street, Steilacoom. Mr. Alessio shares a border with the site in question. He appreciates what good neighbors the Town and School District have been over the years. While he had concerns about how water issues in the lot would be addressed, the plan Steilacoom School District has proposed mitigates them. He encourages the plan to be strengthened further by the addition of a permanent ditch, but otherwise approves of it.

Yes: All

Councilmember Franklin moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to close the public hearing.

ACTION ITEMS:

Animal Control Regulations (AB 3049) (Ordinance 1635)

Chief Yabe delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.

Councilmember Henderson moved and **Councilmember Franklin** seconded to adopt Ordinance 1635, as amended, amending various sections of the Steilacoom Municipal Code 8.08, 8.12, 8.13, 8.14, 8.16, 8.17, 8.18, and 8.25 related to animal control regulations.

Yes: All

NEW ITEMS:

Rigney Rd. Non-Motorized Improvement Project Design Scope of Work, Gray & Osborne Inc. (AB 3054)

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

Councilmember Franklin moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to approve the scope of work for preliminary engineering design of the Rigney Road Non-motorized Improvements Project, and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary approvals, subject to WSDOT concurrence of the agreement.

Yes: All

REPORTS:

Mayor

Mayor Lucas reported the following:

- He noted his appreciation of Mr. Clark for always presenting both sides of the beaver issue and appreciates his solution-oriented approach.
- After 22 years of service to the Town, he is resigning as Mayor due to health reasons. He thanked the councilmembers for their representation of the citizens, as well as everyone who supports them. He also thanked the citizens for the opportunity to serve.
- Council will discuss filling the position at the next meeting on 3/16/21. Mayor Pro Tempore Crumley will act as Mayor until a new one is appointed.

Administrator

Town Administrator Loveless had no reports.

Attorney

Attorney Hoffman reported no new litigation.

Public Safety

Chief Yabe reported the following:

- Last week our officers assisted a partner police agency in response to a death investigation involving a juvenile and a firearm. These types of incidents are horrendous to investigate. Despite the circumstances, our officers remain committed to their responsibility of providing help to our community while professionally and compassionately seeking the truth in their investigations.
- Free firearm locks are available at our police station. During COVID, please call ahead of time to arrange for pickup of one.
- Our recently appointed Detective Hamrick continues his training with outgoing detective Sergeant Bailey. In addition to his new responsibilities, Detective Hamrick has also been present at our schools as increasing numbers of students return after a year-long absence. Most recently, Detective Hamrick assisted a student in crisis that fled from school staff. Detective Hamrick arranged for the student to be reunited with their parent without using any force.
- Also last week, Public Safety responded to a burglary at one of our local businesses. Using evidence gathered, a person of interest has been identified. That investigation remains in-progress.
- They are working with the Lakewood Prosecuting Attorney, among others, in response to the State Supreme Court’s recent ruling on controlled substance possession. This decision will impact operations throughout the entire state, and they will follow industry standard practices as they unfold.
- He is meeting with school district administration later in the week to discuss that recent law change and any impacts that it may have within schools. Additionally, they are planning to discuss a recent study that was published which suggested a relationship between the presence of armed police officers within schools and increased mortality rates during school shootings. While he recognizes the conclusion appears disturbing, he also recognizes that our school resource officer fosters increased communication with students, all in hopes of preventing any violence from occurring in the first place.

Public Works

Public Works Director Burlingame reported the following:

- He had an interesting meeting with the Anderson Island Citizens Advisory Board concerning the roundabout. He can be contacted for more information. He thanks Pierce County and Councilmember Jani Hitchen for their involvement in helping citizens understand the project.

Council

Councilmember Neal reported the following:

- He thanked the citizens for listening and participating, as well as the school district for their presentation.

Council Con't

- He shared the Pierce County Regional Council report with Council earlier. They are on track to be done by the end of April. There is a focus on the Growth Management Act, but some requirements will not apply to the Town because of our size.
- He shared his concerns with House Bill 1204 and encouraged his colleagues to reach out to our elected officials in Olympia regarding this bill.

Councilmember Franklin reported the following:

- He states it is a pleasure working with Council and he will be running for re-election.

Councilmember Henderson reported the following:

- She thanked Councilmember Neal for keeping an eye on the legislature and Administrator Loveless for writing a letter on behalf of them all concerning House Bill 1202. She is concerned with the impacts it might have on law enforcement.
- After receiving a letter from a resident concerning the size of his garage, she had conversation with Town Planner Fortner. She believes the law in question might be overly restrictive and worth a second look.
- She hosted a work party at Farrell's Marsh Park the past Sunday cutting ivy off trees. It was a fun day, and she appreciates the consistent support of the citizens.

Councilmember Crumley had no reports.

Councilmember Smith reported the following:

- He will be running for re-election.

ADJOURNMENT:

The March 2, 2021 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor Pro Tempore