

Anacortes City Council Minutes – September 21, 2020

Mayor Laurie Gere called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of September 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Carolyn Moulton, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Bruce McDougall and Matt Miller all participated in the meeting in absentia via video conference.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Proclamation of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month: Mayor Gere read a statement proclaiming September 2020 to be Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Anacortes.

COVID-19 Update: Mayor Gere shared current case statistics for Anacortes, Skagit County, Washington State, and the nation. The mayor compared Skagit County case counts to the metrics required to move to Phase 3 of the Safe Start Washington Plan, noting movement in a positive direction since prior weeks. The mayor also advised that Skagit County had asked communities forego any Halloween events.

Public Works Committee: Ms. Moulton reported from the committee meeting earlier in the evening. She summarized topics discussed including the Oak Harbor wet fiber contract which would be presented later on the agenda, the Whistle Lake dam assessment, the schedule for the wastewater treatment plant outfall project, roofing and repair projects at the Senior Activity Center, the Craley leak detection and security system, the status of the redundant raw water line project at the water treatment plant, the property recently purchased adjacent to the water treatment plant, and the status of the 2020 paving projects.

Mr. Young observed that the Oyster Run normally held the last Sunday of September had been cancelled but warned that groups of motorcyclists might arrive anyway. Mr. Young asked how the city would respond in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Gere reported on steps being taken by local restaurants, the Anacortes Police Department, other regional law enforcement agencies, and by staff in charge of city signage to encourage social distancing and masks by any visitors to Anacortes. Ms. Cleland-McGrath suggested that the parklets recently installed on Commercial Avenue be closed on September 27.

Ms. Moulton thanked the city staff who had volunteered to install the fourteen new parklets along Commercial Avenue the prior Saturday and congratulated the Planning Department for coordinating that project.

Public Comment

Andrea Doll spoke on behalf of Skagit County League of Women Voters to remind the public that September 22, 2020 was National Voter Registration Day. Ms. Doll said the League encouraged everyone to get out and vote. She advised that questions about voter eligibility or registration could be answered by visiting votewa.gov.

No other members of the public wished to address the Council on any topic not on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Walters removed Items 4c, Interlocal Agreement: 2020 Skagit County Multiple Agency Response Team (SMART) Agreement #20-198-APD-001, and 4d, Interlocal Agreement: 2020 Library Materials #20-199-LIB-001, from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Carter, to approve the following Consent Agenda items. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- a. Minutes of September 14, 2020
- b. Approval of Claims in the amount of: \$247,144.33

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
EFT numbers: 98163 through 98199, total \$77,222.42
Check numbers: 98200 through 98233, total \$51,500.80
Wire transfer numbers: 273696 through 273923, total \$118,421.11

c. Interlocal Agreement: 2020 Skagit County Multiple Agency Response Team (SMART) Agreement #20-198-APD-001

Mr. Walters requested more information on the proposed agreement. Police Chief John Small provided background on the agreement and the appointment of the community member from Anacortes, Eric Johnson. In response to a question from Mr. Walters, Chief Small said he would report back to Council on how SMART Team meetings are publicized. Mr. Walters requested that additional transparency for SMART be built into future SMART agreements. Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Walters, to approve the 2020 Skagit County Multiple Agency Response Team (SMART) Interlocal Agreement (20-198-APD-001) as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Interlocal Agreement: 2020 Library Materials #20-199-LIB-001

Mr. Walters said that the subject contract did not qualify for inclusion on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the Interlocal Agreement for 2020 Library Materials (20-199-LIB-001) as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Walters suggested that staff propose an amendment to the current City Council procedures that would expand the list of routine items that could be presented on the Consent Agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution 3000: Extending the Duration of Resolution 2082 Providing Temporary Procedures to Respond to the COVID-19 Epidemic

Finance Director Steve Hoglund presented Resolution 3000 which would extend the provisions of Resolution 2082 though the end of 2020. Mr. Hoglund reported that the Finance Committee had reviewed and supported the resolution.

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall, to approve Resolution 3000 as presented. Vote: Ayes – Young, Walters, Cleland-McGrath, Moulton, McDougall, Miller and Carter. Motion carried.

Access Anacortes Fiber Internet Update

Administrative Services Director Emily Schuh provided the regular monthly update on Access Anacortes Fiber Internet. Ms. Schuh's slides were added to the packet materials for the meeting. She reported on customers in service, pending orders and revenue received. She noted the take rate by district, which was exceeding the target rate in several zones. Ms. Schuh also reported on the status of construction by zone, countywide fiber interconnectivity, special projects, financial projections for 2021, and upcoming projects. Mr. Walters asked that the City of Anacortes logo be included in fiber promotional materials. Mayor Gere and Ms. Schuh agreed.

Ordinance 3077: Updating AMC 13.44.020 for Access Anacortes Fiber Internet Reduced Fee Schedule for Low-Income Residents

City Attorney Darcy Swetnam presented Ordinance 3077 to make the current 20% price reduction for low income residents be available for fiber customers just as it is for customers of other city utilities.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Walters, to approve Ordinance 3077 as presented. Vote: Ayes – Walters, Cleland-McGrath, Moulton, McDougall, Miller, Carter and Young. Motion carried.

Resolution 3001: Updating the Unified Fee Schedule for Access Anacortes Fiber Internet Reduced Fee Schedule for Low-Income Residents

Mr. Hoglund presented Resolution 3001 to update the Unified Fee Schedule to include the reduced residential fiber service rate just authorized by Ordinance 3077.

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. Young, to approve Resolution 3001 with the correction of the spelling of “availability” and “low-income”. Vote: Ayes – Cleland-McGrath, Moulton, McDougall, Miller, Carter, Young and Walters. Motion carried.

Agreement for Installation of Conduit and Fiber with City of Oak Harbor

Ms. Swetnam presented the referenced agreement to allow Anacortes to install conduit and fiber in Oak Harbor's water line between Sharpes Corner and Pass Lake. She summarized the terms of the agreement. Ms. Swetnam said staff recommended approval of the agreement.

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the agreement as presented. Vote: Ayes – Moulton, McDougall, Miller, Carter, Young, Walters and Cleland-McGrath. Motion carried.

There being no further business, at approximately 7:18 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of September 21, 2020 was adjourned.