

Anacortes City Council Minutes – September 28, 2020

Mayor Laurie Gere called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of September 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Ryan Walters, Carolyn Moulton, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Bruce McDougall and Matt Miller all participated in the meeting in absentia via video conference. Councilmember Anthony Young was absent.

Executive Session

Mayor Gere announced that City Council and the City Attorney would convene in Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (g) for no more than 10 minutes to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. The mayor advised that the regular meeting would then resume with no action having been taken.

At 6:10 p.m. Mayor Gere reconvened the regular meeting.

Mr. Young joined the regular meeting.

Announcements and Committee Reports

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 improvement in all metrics since the prior week but adding that the Governor had paused any additional reclassifications to Phase 3.

Finance Committee: Mr. Carter reported from the committee meeting the prior week. He summarized the topics discussed including Waste Management's request for a rate increase and proposal to switch to biweekly recycling collection; members deferred further discussion of those topics until 2021. Mr. Carter indicated that the committee also discussed demand for additional parklets on Commercial Avenue, receipts to date from the new Affordable Housing Sales Tax, and allocation of those sales tax revenues.

Library Committee: Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the committee meeting the prior week. She indicated that the members received an update on library operations from new Library Director Jeff Vogel. Ms. Cleland-McGrath said the committee also discussed budgeting for 2021 and the roles and contributions of the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation.

Fiber Committee: Mr. McDougall reported from the committee meeting the prior week. He summarized the topics discussed including a potential customer service call fee structure, the schedule for service area expansion, a grant application being prepared by staff, acquisition of additional IPV4 addresses, and customer count statistics.

Planning Committee: Ms. Moulton reported from the committee meeting earlier in the evening. She summarized topics discussed including access for the Tommy Thompson train project, the future of CDBG funding, overnight rentals in residential zones, and the need for a cold weather shelter for the winter. Mr. Young urged that the entire Council participate in discussion of train proposals. Mayor Gere clarified that the topic would come back to Council for additional public discussion in the near future. After considerable additional discussion, Mr. Walters called for a point of order and asked for a ruling from the chair that this discussion of an item not on the agenda was out of order and that consideration of the agenda continue. Mayor Gere stated that the conversation was out of order.

Public Comment

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

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 21, 2020
- b. Approval of Claims in the amount of: \$270,597.90
- c. Contract Award: Depot Plaza Restroom #20-069-PRK-003

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
 EFT numbers: 98234 through 98269, total \$205,255.48
 Check numbers: 98270 through 98279, total \$37,120.56
 Wire transfer numbers: 273966 through 274174, total \$28,221.86

OTHER BUSINESS

Ordinance 3076: Extending Ordinance 3054, an Interim Ordinance Declaring an Emergency and Adopting a Moratorium on the Acceptance of Certain Land Use Applications in R4 Zone

Planning Director Don Measamer introduced Ordinance 3076 which would extend the moratorium initiated by Ordinance 3054. He advised that the work plan adopted by Resolution 2068 had not been able to be completed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Measamer said staff recommended extending the moratorium for an additional six months to April 21, 2021 to allow time to conduct virtual public workshops or until such time as in person workshops and meetings could resume. He added that an advertised public hearing on Ordinance 3076 would be held at the City Council meeting on October 12, 2020. Mr. Measamer noted a typographical error in Section 3 of the draft ordinance and said that “R4 zone west of ‘O’ Ave” would be corrected to “R4 zone west of Commercial Ave” prior to the public hearing.

Councilmembers generally supported the proposed extension of the moratorium but urged that the work plan be actively pursued even during the COVID-19 pandemic, including development and presentation of concrete proposals for the public to consider and comment upon. City Attorney Darcy Swetnam said that for the public hearing on October 12 staff would introduce an updated schedule for the work plan.

Resolution 3002: Authorizing Acceptance of a Restricted Donation to the City of Anacortes from the Skagit Community Foundation

Mr. Measamer introduced Resolution 3002 to accept a restricted cash donation of \$100,000 which would be distributed on an application basis to businesses with fewer than 30 employees that had been affected by the COVID-19 health crisis. Mr. Measamer reported that 14 applications had already been received. He briefly summarized the process that would be followed to award the cash in conformance with the donation restrictions.

Mayor Gere invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item. No one present wished to address the Council.

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Ms. Cleland-McGrath, to adopt Resolution 3002 authorizing acceptance of the cash donation from the Skagit Community Foundation. Vote: Ayes – Young, Walters, Cleland-McGrath, Moulton, McDougall, Miller and Carter. Motion carried.

There being no further business, at approximately 6:55 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of September 28, 2020 was adjourned.