

City Council Minutes – November 25, 2019

Mayor Laurie Gere called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of November 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Eric Johnson, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Brad Adams, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Matt Miller were present.

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation Committee: Mr. Adams reported from the committee meeting the prior Thursday. He briefly summarized the topics discussed including the Parks Comprehensive Plan update which was scheduled to come back to Council at its December 16, 2019 meeting, the schedule for installing the repaired Washington Park boat launch, possible revisions to the Parks impact fees, and expansion of the sailing program.

Planning Committee: Mr. Walters reported that the committee meeting scheduled for earlier in the evening had been cancelled so committee members could attend the ribbon cutting at the Anacortes Family Center.

Finance Committee: Mr. Walters reported from the committee meeting the prior Friday at which the committee members discussed Parks impact fees and further analysis required to determine appropriate revisions to those fees.

Mr. Walters observed that Mr. McDougall wished to participate in absentia at the December 9, 2019 regular City Council meeting but had already participated in eight meetings in absentia during 2019, the maximum allowed by Resolution 2044, Section 4.3(e). Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to suspend the rules of procedure to allow Mr. McDougall to participate in absentia at the December 9, 2019 meeting. Vote: Ayes – Young, Walters, Adams, Moulton, McDougall, Miller and Johnson. Motion carried.

Mayor Gere added Item 7d, Letter of Intent from Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center, to the agenda.

Ms. Moulton reported that the recently completed Skagit County Homeless Housing Task Force report had been considered by the Skagit County Commissioners earlier in the day and that the Commissioners had approved a resolution to submit the report to the Washington State Department of Commerce. Ms. Moulton said the report was available on the Skagit County Public Health website. She said submission of the report would allow the county to qualify for State funding for homeless programs throughout the county.

Mr. Walters announced he was hosting a Ward 1 community meeting on November 26, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Anacortes Public Library.

Mr. Miller reported from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting the prior week, anticipated to be the final of a series of LTAC meetings held since October. Mr. Miller advised that the committee's recommendation for awards would come before the full Council very soon for consideration and action.

Public Comment

Joe Verdoes, 13399 Driver Rd, addressed Council regarding the potential acquisition of the South Fidalgo Water System by the City of Anacortes. Mr. Verdoes said he was not for or against the acquisition but cautioned Council that the old wooden reservoir located in Summit Park was in extremely poor shape and visibly leaking. Mr. Walters advised that the city was aware of the condition of that reservoir and planned to eliminate it from the water system if the acquisition were to take place.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall, to approve the following Consent Agenda items. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- a. Minutes of November 18, 2019 and November 19, 2019
- b. Approval of Claims in the amount of: \$345,580.13
- c. Contract Award: 2020-2022 Cartegraph Solutions and Subscription Agreement #20-005-ENG-001
- d. Contract Award: WWTP Restroom Upgrade #14-002-SEW-004
- e. Contract Award: Fidalgo Avenue Culvert Repair - Design #19-191-STM-001

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:
 EFT numbers: 95375 through 95411, total \$89,693.10
 Check numbers: 95412 through 95437, total \$267,677.48
 Wire transfer numbers: 259235 through 259532, total \$3,322.78

OTHER BUSINESS

Ordinance 3052: Updating AMC Chapter 12.50, Street and Alley Vacation

City Attorney Darcy Swetnam presented a revised draft of Ordinance 3052 following its initial presentation and Council review at the November 12, 2019 City Council meeting. Ms. Swetnam’s slide presentation was added to the packet materials for the meeting. She summarized the legal framework for the code revision, process requirements, and the problems with the current code, then outlined the proposed revision of the code. Ms. Swetnam presented a number of policy questions for Council to consider. Councilmembers discussed the ordinance language and requested a number of changes to the draft, as well as further staff suggestions on revised language regarding partial vacations.

Mayor Gere invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item.

Brian Wetcher, 814 26th Street, spoke to the longstanding practice of allocating vacated property adjacent to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands to the management of the ACFL. Mr. Wetcher requested that that past practice be codified.

Mr. Walters suggested that the code require Council to affirmatively determine as a part of each vacation which department would manage the city’s portion of the vacated property.

Mayor Gere asked Ms. Swetnam to incorporate Council’s suggestions and bring a revised draft of Ordinance 3052 back for consideration at the December 9, 2019 regular City Council meeting.

Regarding the policy questions Ms. Swetnam had presented, Councilmembers generally but not unanimously concurred with the staff recommendation to increase the threshold below which a formal appraisal would not be required to 5,000 square feet and to increase the required consideration for areas held longer than 25 years or obtained with public funds to 100% of their value.

Resolution 2067: Updating Purchasing Policy

Ms. Swetnam introduced draft Resolution 2067 which would adopt an update to the city’s Purchasing Policy to address recent legislative changes and the need for more flexibility in unit price contracting. Ms. Swetnam’s slide presentation was added to the packet materials for the meeting. She summarized the proposed changes and the rationale for those.

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

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt Resolution 2067 updating the city's purchasing policy. Vote: Ayes – Walters, Adams, Moulton, McDougall, Miller, Johnson and Young. Motion carried.

At approximately 7:25 p.m. Mayor Gere called a five-minute recess. At 7:30 p.m. the mayor called the meeting back to order.

Contract Award: Municipal Broadband Network – Library to MSTs #19-175-FBR-002

Municipal Broadband Business Manager Jim Lemberg requested Council consent to award a contract in the amount of \$236,102.22 to Robinson Brothers Construction, Inc. (RBC) to perform the construction of Municipal Broadband Network – Library to MSTs project. Mr. Lemberg displayed a slide summarizing the key aspects of the proposed contract; his slide was added to the packet materials for the meeting. Mr. Lemberg and Ms. Swetnam responded to councilmember questions about the contract. Mr. Lemberg responded to councilmember questions about the fiber project timeline and budget.

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to authorize the Mayor to sign contract 19-175-FBR-002 with RBC in the amount of \$236,102.22 to perform the construction of Municipal Broadband Network – Library to MSTs project. Vote: Ayes – Adams, Moulton, McDougall, Miller, Johnson, Young and Walters. Motion carried.

Letter of Intent from Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center

Mayor Gere read a Letter of Intent from the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center that had been hand-delivered to her office earlier in the day. The letter, which was added to the packet materials for the meeting, expressed the Center's wishes to explore a partnership between FPFC and the City of Anacortes to construct and operate a shared facility on FPFC property adjacent to its current structure incorporating mutual goals, i.e. replacing the current obsolete pool with two pools; a community meeting space; child watch; ADA accessibility; increased programming capacity and safety features; a community/youth center with a regulation gymnasium; kitchen facilities; and space for arts/music/after-school/ ASAC activities, among other features. Councilmembers discussed a number of topics that would need clarification in the near future.

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. Adams, to accept the Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center's Letter of Intent in spirit and to direct staff to produce a framework agreement for moving forward. Vote: Ayes – Moulton, McDougall, Miller, Johnson, Young, Walters and Adams. Motion carried.

There being no further business, at approximately 7:57 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of November 25, 2019 was adjourned.