Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2014

Mayor McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were Council Members Gill, Allen, Black, Neff and Sundberg. Also present were City Chief of Police, Dave Marks; Director of Planning, Jeff Arango; Director of Public Works, Stan Berryman; and Director of Finance/Clerk, Debbie Mahler. The flag salute was led by Mayor McCarthy.

**MOTION**: To approve the agenda as amended. An amplified music permit for Mo’s Pub and approval of a Comp Plan update grant were added under New Business. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Gill. Motion carried with all in favor.

**MOTION**: To approve the Consent agenda. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Neff. Motion was unanimously approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 6-02-14  
b. Approval of claims warrants Nos. in the amount of $685,939.10  
c. Approval of payroll warrants Nos. 31825-31847 & direct deposit (5/15/14) in the amount of $48,683.43 and Nos. 31892-31914 & direct deposit (5/30/14) in the amount of $49,307.89

**COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS**

Nancy Rowan, Chairwoman of the Parks and Open Space Commission explained the roles and responsibilities of the commission. She set out the 2014 Work Plan. The Commission would like a city decision on Noblecreek preservation. Additionally, they are working on new park and trail signage, development of a brochure on our parks and open spaces, the Langley Middle School trail project, wetland restoration, and capillary beds (holding gardens). They will develop a priority list for volunteer work and projects that they would like to tackle in the coming months.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – Ordinance 999 Moratorium on applications for the demolition of historic structures. Mayor McCarthy called the public hearing to order at 5:53 PM. Jeff Arango stated that the PAB is meeting next week to address possible standards for demolition of historic structures. Mayor McCarthy reported that he has met with the owners of the historic Doghouse building regarding their structure. Marianne Edain stated that WEAN (Whidbey Environmental Action Network) has hope the city will pass an ordinance requiring all options to be considered before demolition of a historic structure. She also hopes that different organizations can get together and create a municipal corporation to purchase and restore the building as
a public building. Jim Sundberg pointed out that the moratorium would apply to any historic structure. Local historic districts provide protections for structures on the local lists. The hearing was closed at 6:12 PM.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

John Norby stated that coal and oil trains are scheduled to come along the coastline to Bellingham and Whatcom County. There have been numerous slides in the last few years along that coastline. John was hoping that the city would join with other jurisdictions in opposing the coal/oil trains to prevent the pollution of Puget Sound and the probable spills. Council will take the issue under advisement and look into the issue. The administration will look into what other cities are doing. WEAN also would like the city to take a stand on this issue. Mariane Edain stated that the coal dust from the trains affects the communities the trains go through and raises the atmospheric O2 levels. Jim Sundberg stated that the coal cannot be covered in the trains because of spontaneous combustion, so the dust blows off.

Maralie Johnson owns property on Anthes Avenue that burnt down last year. The home is being rebuilt. The home is a duplex and the water is shut off and her bill has been increasing. She is unable to pay the bill and has requested relief from the City Council. The city will get a legal opinion from the city attorney and see if we can provide a hardship exemption.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Planning – Jeff Arango reported that there are just a few items left on Second Street – striping, tables and chairs for plaza will arrive soon and then the project is complete. The PAB will review the draft public involvement plan for the comp plan update. Website development is done and now they are migrating data from the old site to the new site and will be done in a few months. He is setting up a meeting date for the Arts Commission. There is a new intern (Emily) for the planning department starting next week. She is a grad student in landscape architecture and planning. Our other planning intern, Katy, will be here thru the end of the year.

Public works – Stan Berryman reported Cascade pruning was completed last week. County did dig outs for overlays to be done on the 6th. He is meeting with engineers to start work on the Sewer Comp Plan update over the coming months. July 7th will start painting of the Library. Public Works has hired a Seattle University student as an intern for the summer. His name is Asher Laban.

Police – Chief Marks reported that he has been working on the Emergency Management Plan. Ours expires in December. He is also working on the Choochokum security schedule. The City will be posting for the fourth officer position soon.

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Finance – Debbie Mahler provided monthly financial reports and revenue graphs. She explained that next month will be the mid-year report showing this year’s financial progress and the probable outcome of the remainder of the year.

MAYOR’S REPORT

D-Day celebration went very well. Over 100 people were in attendance. Speakers were very good. Mayor McCarthy stated that is was a very moving day. There is a monthly economic development luncheon on June 24th for the cottage industries and light manufacturing business sector. Business development seminar on July 1 on Small Business Administration loans will take place at City Hall. Island County Substance Abuse Coalition will have a meeting after the law and justice council meeting each month. The Mayor is very much hoping to make a difference in the quality of life in Island County. Employee evaluations are being done this month. USA Today – Best Islands in the USA. Whidbey came in as number 3!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Plans for Second Street Celebration. The celebration will take place in the Plaza on Second Street on July 9, 2014 from 4 PM to 7 PM. There will be music, food, etc. Main Street will provide BBQ food and many other local restaurants are donating salads and other foods.

MOTION: To waive the first reading and adopt a Resolution adopting findings of fact to support the adoption of Ordinance 999. Motion- Allen, 2nd – Gill. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McCarthy recommended cancelling the Council Meeting of July 7th after the holiday weekend and have one monthly meeting on July 21st. A decision also must be made to either have September first meeting move to Tuesday the 2nd because of Labor Day or cancel it. Thomas Gill suggested one meeting per month in July, August and September. Council consensus is to have 1 in July, 2 regular meetings in August and 1 in September. The first Friday market will be Friday the 26th of June.

MOTION: To approve the Amplified Music Permit for Mo’s Pub for July 12th, Motion – Sundberg, 2nd – Black. Motion carried with Councilmember Gill abstaining.

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COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that Shakespeare banners will be put up soon. The tent for the festival goes up June 20th. Jim Sundberg went to the Port meeting which was preceded by a meeting on the Possession Point boat launch. The Port is most concerned about improvements that will not catch sand. They will get engineering for that improvement soon. Langley marina is running at the high end of their projections. The Port is also revising their staffing and have hired a maintenance person for all their facilities. Robin Black reported that her home was on the garden tour. Bruce Allen reported that Choochokum is July 12th and 13th. He passed out brochures and maps put out by the Countywide Tourism Interlocal. Thomas Gill reported after the Library Board meeting all members were made ambassadors for the Sno-Isle System. Hoopla, new online digital movie and music package is free from Sno-Isle. Thomas also had visitors from out of town who loved the new improvements with the marina and Second Street.

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm.
Motion – Allen, 2nd – Gill. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk

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