

CALL TO ORDER:
September 21, 2021

Mayor Muri called the regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

ROLL CALL:

In attendance were Mayor Muri, 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, Town Planner Fortner, and Administrative Assistant Gibelyou.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Yes: All

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve the Council Agenda of September 21, 2021.

Mayor Muri led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION:
Western State Hospital
Master Plan

- Robert Hubenthal and Tyler Hemstreet gave a presentation on the development plans for the campus of Western State Hospital.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

1. Minutes of September 7, 2021
2. Approval of Payroll Checks # 116494 - #116501 in the amount of \$248,645.42
3. Approval of Claims Checks #116502 - #116505 in the amount of \$280,106.98 and Claims Checks #116522 - #116583 in the total amount of \$288,898.76 and Manual Check #116508 in the total amount of \$2,000.00
4. Set Date Accessory Building Size (AB 3104)
5. Set Date Sign Code Revisions (AB 3105)

Yes: All

AUDIENCE INPUT:
Non-Agenda Items

- Cynthia Endicott – 2309 Cincinnati Street, Steilacoom: She expressed concerns about vehicle storage on Cincinnati St. They have had problems with vehicles trying to turn around in the 11 ft wide street end and she would prefer to not have long-term parking on that street. She also thanked Town staff for their response to her request for a “Dead End” sign. It has reduced the number of turnarounds taking place.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
Supportive, Transitional &
Emergency Housing
regulations (AB 3106) (Ord
1646)

Mayor Muri opened the public Hearing.

Town Planner Fortner delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS CONT'D:

Supportive, Transitional & Emergency Housing regulations (AB 3106) (Ord 1646)

Yes: All

ACTION ITEMS:

Supportive, Transitional & Emergency Housing regulations (AB 3106) (Ord 1646)

Yes: All

Electric Utility Rate Modifications (AB 3094) (Ord 1642)

Yes: All

Water Utility Rate Modifications (AB 3095) (Ord 1644)

Yes: All

Sewer Utility Rate Modifications (AB 3096) (Ord 1643)

Yes: All

Storm Water Utility Rate Modifications (AB 3097) (Ord 1645)

Yes: All

Mayor Muri invited public comments.

- Pam Flinn – 1402 Starling Street, Steilacoom: She asked if anybody could apply to build an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) and then call it an emergency dwelling. The answer is that no one can just declare their ADU an emergency dwelling. People would still need to get a conditional use permit by making a case for it in a public hearing before Council.

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

Councilmember Neal moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to approve Ordinance 1646, thereby providing regulations for Supportive, Transitional and Emergency Housing, with a review to come before Council within the next nine months.

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

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to adopt ordinance #1642 modifying the electric utility's customers' rates effective January 1, 2022.

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

Councilmember Neal moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to adopt ordinance #1644 modifying the water utility's customers' rates effective January 1, 2022.

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

Councilmember Neal moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to adopt ordinance #1643 modifying the sewer utility's customers' rates effective January 1, 2022.

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

Councilmember Neal moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to adopt ordinance #1645 modifying the storm water utility's customers' rates effective January 1, 2022.

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D:

Unrepresented Employees' 2022 Pay Plan (AB 3100) (Res 1192)

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

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to adopt Resolution 1192 adopting the 2022 pay plan for non-exempt unrepresented employees with a 9.57% increase, with exempt staff to be reviewed at a later date.

Yes: All

Facility Upgrades Project Scope, Ameresco/WA DES (AB 3108)

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

Councilmember Crumley moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to approve option #1, for providing energy upgrades to the existing facilities, and direct staff to negotiate the necessary contracts for consideration at a future meeting.

Yes: Henderson, Crumley, Franklin, & Neal
No: Smith

NEW ITEMS:

Accessory Building Size (AB 3104)

Town Administrator Loveless introduced the agenda bill.

Sign Code Revisions (AB 3105)

Town Administrator Loveless introduced the agenda bill.

Roundabout Project, Supplement #5 to Gray & Osborne Inc. for Additional Engineering Support Services (AB 3107) (*)

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

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Franklin** seconded to approve the attached scope of services to Gray & Osborne Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$44,441.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary contract documents on behalf of the Town.

Yes: All

REPORTS:

Administrator

Town Administrator Loveless reported the following:

- The Parks and Community Services Advisory Board Meeting was hacked last night. Procedures are being put in place to prevent that from happening again.

Attorney

Attorney Hoffman reported no new litigation.

Public Safety

Chief Yabe reported the following:

- He observed the final testing for their latest recruit officer, PJ Palma, at the police academy. Public Safety is coordinating the on-the-job training period for all of their recruits as they finish the academy.

Public Safety Cont'd

- This week, Sergeant Chris Bailey, their newest patrol supervisor, completed his state-mandated training as a first-level supervisor.
- Public Safety has a few grant requests in-progress. They pertain to hiring, body cameras, and less lethal devices.
- He attended last week's meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Board. He observed a great deal of interest in the Board, and he looks forward to future meetings.
- He received additional concerns regarding speeding throughout Town. He appreciates the continued feedback from the community regarding these concerns and is grateful for the patience and understanding of our residents as they continue to work through this time period.
- Serious traffic collisions continue to plague the region. Meanwhile, the word is spreading regarding the changes to law enforcement protocol as a result of the police reform legislation. Incidents of apparent taunting of law enforcement officers by some drivers are increasing. Increased instances of fleeing from traffic stops have occurred in Steilacoom, DuPont, and Pierce County.
- They are still awaiting the new legislation regarding license suspensions to take effect. A suspended license has traditionally been the only means to hold violators accountable for failing to pay their speeding ticket. Additionally, due to the increasing prevalence of citations for suspended drivers, courts are running out of room on their calendars to hold hearings for suspended license arrests. All of this collectively results in an environment where it would seem that the only drivers to be held accountable for their driving offenses are the drivers who choose to hold themselves accountable; those who both choose to stop for police and who choose to pay their tickets.
- The mental health treatment community has been sounding the alarm for increased prevalence of mental health crises throughout our communities since the early days of the pandemic. Our Town is also feeling the impact of these issues. Pursuant to our legislative reforms, incidents involving mental health require more time and resources, which can inhibit our officers' availability for traffic enforcement. One such incident occurred a couple of weeks ago and was witnessed by several passersby. One of the passersby wrote him an email that commended the efforts of our officers to de-escalate a driver in crisis and coordinate assistance for them. The email also stated that another passerby expressed that they believed our officers were going to shoot the person in crisis and that they could not trust the police.
- Despite these ongoing circumstances, they're very excited to get their new officers out on the road to help increase their presence in our problem areas. He's grateful for the efforts of our current officers who have responded with professionalism and empathy throughout the pandemic conditions and legislative changes that we all continue to navigate.

Public Works

Public Works Director Burlingame reported the following:

- Pivetta Brothers is currently working on the fourth quadrant of the Roundabout. He is happy to report that the last deep utility installation was completed today. Surface work will be taking place now. The project is on track.

Council

Councilmember Crumley reported the following:

- He attended a training hosted by the Association of WA Cities (AWC) on how cities in the state are utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds. He will meet with Staff and Mayor to discuss how funds might be spent.
- He has earned his Certificate of Municipal Leadership with the aforementioned training.
- He got an email from a short-term rental owner. He would like to discuss its contents at a future meeting.

Councilmember Franklin had no reports.

Councilmember Henderson reported the following:

- She thanked the Street Crew for their work repainting lines on the roadways. They look good.
- In regard to the comment on parking on Cincinnati St., she cited an ordinance that likely precludes any parking down there. She suggests that Town staff take a look at it.
- She would like to see a brief written report on the activities of our Building Inspector/Code Compliance Officer.

Councilmember Neal reported the following:

- The Friends of the Steilacoom Library book sale at the Community Center went well. He thanked Town Administrator Loveless for making the building available. They raised \$1300.
- He has had several positive interactions with Public Works and Public Safety staff recently. He praised their communication, friendliness, and skill.

Councilmember Smith reported the following:

- In twenty years, he's never seen a vote to reconsider an agenda bill until the previous Council Meeting. When he votes for something, it is his final decision. He does not think it is proper to rescind a vote, even if it is legal. He does not think the bill that received the revote and passed will be of any benefit to the Town.

Mayor

Mayor Muri reported the following:

- Someone tagged the Pioneer-Orchard Park Bandstand, but a Kiwanis member has already painted over it.

Mayor Cont'd

- He is thankful to the Citizen Advisory Boards and their leaders.
- He thanked everyone who helped with the 8th Annual National Drive Electric Steilacoom Festival. We have a good reputation within the electric vehicle community.
- He agreed with Councilmember Henderson that a report from our Building Inspector/Code Compliance Officer would be welcome.
- On Friday, he will meet with County Executive Dammeier. If anyone has input on what they should discuss, please contact him.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Smith moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting of September 21, 2021.
The September 21, 2021 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Town Administrator

Mayor