

# STEILACOOM TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

6:00 p.m.

### A. Call to Order and Roll Call

1. **Mayor Muri** called the regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.
2. In attendance were Mayor Muri, Councilmembers Neal, Henderson, Crumley, Franklin and Grasher. 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.

### B. Pledge of Allegiance

1. **Mayor Muri** led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### C. Approval of Agenda

1. **Councilmember Crumley** moved and **Councilmember Grasher** seconded to approve the Council Agenda of September 6, 2022.
  - i. **All:** Yes

### D. Consent Agenda

1. *Minutes of August 16, 2022*
2. *Approval of Payroll Checks #118435 - #118442 in the amount of \$186,939. and Payroll Checks #118486 - #118491 in the amount of \$255,219.15*
3. *Approval of Claims Checks #118492 - #118574 in the amount of \$109,309.62 and Manual Checks #118433, #118443, & 118444 in the amount of \$18,641.00*
  - i. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Franklin** seconded to approve the items on the consent agenda.
    1. **Yes:** All

### E. Audience Input on Non-Agenda Items

1. *Crystal Poynter* — She raised concerns on behalf of her and her neighbors pertaining to parking and speeding in front of Cherrydale Elementary School. Ever since the pickup and drop-off arrangement changed a couple of years ago, cars are blocking driveways and driving way too fast with kids present. They have printed notices in the school newsletter to no avail.

### F. Public Hearing

1. *Alexander Puyallup Street vacation petition (AB 3188)*
  - i. **Mayor Muri** opened the public Hearing.
  - ii. **Town Planner Fortner** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
  - iii. **Mayor Muri** invited applicant comments.
    1. *Patrick Alexander* — He apologized for putting the flagpole in the wrong place. He and his wife did not understand they were locating it in the Town right of way. They did not intend for things to go this far but submitted their petition at the Mayor's suggestion. He also made some comments pertaining to the removal of trees on their property.
  - iv. **Mayor Muri** invited public comments.

1. *Jeannette Best* — She lives one house over from the applicants and was in favor of the flagpole. She stated that it has not caused issues for traffic or parking. She did not think the applicants should have to go through this and believed it to be petty.
  2. *Barry Masterson* — He shares a property line with the applicants. When he saw people installing the base, he hired a company to inspect how close it is to their water line. He believes the base of the flagpole poses a safety risk if the water lines need to be replaced or otherwise worked on. The water meter is also very close. He is neither for or against the flagpole itself, but would like to see water line moved if flagpole remains.
  - v. **Mayor Muri** invited applicant rebuttal.
    1. *Rebecca Alexander* — She thanked the Mayor and Council for meeting with them. She stated they are not the kind of people who would intentionally break a rule. They do wish the Town representative who wrote them up would have spoken to them when they were still installing it.
  - vi. **Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to close the public hearing.
    1. **Yes:** All
  - vii. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to deny the application of Patrick and Rebecca Alexander to vacate a portion of Puyallup Street. The Council finds that the requested street vacation will not provide a public benefit and will not be for a public purpose.
    1. **Yes:** All
2. **6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (AB 3190 & RES 1202)**
    - i. **Mayor Muri** opened the public Hearing.
    - ii. **Public Work Director Burlingame** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
    - iii. **Mayor Muri** invited public comments.
      1. *Jeannette Best* — She wanted to know what projects are starting/completing this year. The Town is starting the Rigney Road Non-motorized Improvements Project and the Rainier Street Grind and Overlay. Director Burlingame also hopes to complete the Rainier Street project this year.
    - iv. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to close the public hearing.
      1. **Yes:** All
    - v. **Councilmember Henderson** moved and **Councilmember Neal** seconded to adopt Resolution #1202, approving the Six-Year Transportation Program for 2023-2028.
      1. **Yes:** Crumley, Grasher, Henderson, & Neal
      2. **No:** Franklin

#### G. Introduction

##### 1. **Public Safety – Retention Incentive Pay (AB 3189)**

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Mayor Muri** invited public comment.
  1. *Gregory Alderete* – He thinks we have an incredible police force and he would err on the side of offering the incentive to reduce the risk of our current officers leaving.

- iii. **Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding By and Between the Town of Steilacoom and Teamsters Local Union No. 117 addressing a retention pay incentive.
  - 1. **Yes:** Crumley, Franklin, Grasher, & Henderson
  - 2. **No:** Neal

2. **Webber Ct. Playground Rehab.; Bid Award (AB 3191)**

- i. **Public Works Director Burlingame** delivered the staff report and answered questions from the Council.
- ii. **Councilmember Grasher** moved and **Councilmember Crumley** seconded to approve the proposal for replacement of the playground equipment at Webber Ct. Park in an amount not to exceed \$60,782.60 and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary contract documents on behalf of the Town of Steilacoom.
  - 1. **Yes:** All

H. Reports

1. **Staff**

- i. **Town Administrator Loveless** reported the following:
  - 1. Pierce County will hold a confidential document shredding event on October 1 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at West Pierce Fire Station 21.
  - 2. The Town is in mediation with Public Safety. The next meeting dates are October 12 and 14. They have had to defer September meetings due to school strikes. Meetings with Public Works Teamsters will take place September 23.
  - 3. The troubles with Town emails should be resolved as of today. We have confirmed with people who previously had issues that our emails were able to get through.
- ii. **Attorney Hoffman** reported the following:
  - 1. No new litigation.
  - 2. The Town is beginning action on the Cambridge Drive nuisance property. Notice has been posted and interested parties have been informed. Those parties have until September 23 to respond prior to further action.
- iii. **Chief Yabe** reported the following:
  - 1. As of this school year, the Steilacoom Historical School District has expanded their school resource officer program to include the City of DuPont. Steilacoom Detective Justin Hamrick is entering his sixth year as our SRO out of Steilacoom High School. New this year is DuPont Officer Mike Labadie, who will be the newest SRO in the district and will be stationed in Pioneer Middle School. Our ongoing partnership with both the Steilacoom Historical School District and the DuPont Police Department remains focused upon student safety.
  - 2. This week, our officers are joining the DuPont Police Department in training for response to active violence within schools. As has been a training emphasis in several years past, a particular point of emphasis in our training will be officers responding to these incidents alone.
  - 3. Our third month of the Steilacoom Summer Slowdown has concluded. Over 270 traffic stops were performed by your officers, and our area of emphasis was Chambers Creek Road and Lafayette Street. For September, in conjunction with school beginning, officers will shift emphasis to our school zones.

4. Officers have finished another year of emphasis within our ferry lanes. We continue to maintain a strong partnership with Pierce County Ferries. The feedback we have received has been that incidents of conflict have broadly been reduced due to the presence of our officers.
5. We have made a conditional offer of employment to a new Public Safety officer. That officer is finishing their background investigation. Scheduling for the police academy is getting pushed further into the future. This is a good sign for the profession, as that means more police officers are being hired throughout our state. Our department has received direct feedback from the police academy regarding the high quality of the persons we select to be police officers.
6. Over the summer, Public Safety has disseminated multiple warnings via SteilacoomAlert regarding upcoming heat advisories. Residents and guests can visit our department Facebook page for information regarding how to sign up for SteilacoomAlert.

iv. **Public Works Director Burlingame** reported the following:

1. After a long delay, work on the Sunnyside Pump station will finally get underway. All of the equipment has finally arrived.
2. Fall is starting soon and the Town will be removing flower baskets and flags from downtown in order to begin preparing for fall activities like the Apple Squeeze.
3. Steilacoom is putting on the annual barbecue for the Pierce County Power Cooperative Association. It is scheduled for 5 p.m., September 15, at Public Works. He invited Mayor and Council to attend. There will be a speaker and good company.

**2. Council**

i. **Councilmember Crumley** had no reports.

ii. **Councilmember Franklin** reported the following:

1. He noted that he would like to hear a person's name and city of residence when offering public comment.

iii. **Councilmember Grasher** reported the following:

1. The Apple Squeeze is looking for volunteers. It will be held October 2 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. downtown. To volunteer, please call the Historical Museum at 253-584-4133 or email [historical@gmail.com](mailto:historical@gmail.com)
2. The next Sunnyside Beach cleanup will be on Saturday, September 10, from 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

iv. **Councilmember Henderson** reported the following:

1. Our gardeners with the Parks, Community Services, and Environment Committee had a good season. They donated 70 lbs. of fresh produces to the We Love Steilacoom foodbank.
2. Earlier she shared a draft document with Council on proposed tree planting in Town. She will discuss the document with Council at a later date.

v. **Councilmember Neal** reported the following:

1. He will be in a meeting with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) tomorrow where they will set their legislative priorities. That will go to the AWC board later this month.

2. He requested the Mayor and Council think about our legislative priorities with the suggestion of setting them early.
3. He clarified that he fully supports our law enforcement officers but is disappointed that Town staff spoke to the local union about this before coming to Council to get direction. He hopes it does not happen again.
4. He appreciates his colleagues and their ability to have professional disagreements.
5. He requested an update on the proposed pond leveler at Farrell's Marsh.
6. The Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) will be working in September and October to create draft plans to present to Council. He invited Council to send him any issues they would like the PSAC to address.

### 3. *Mayor*

#### i. **Mayor Muri** reported the following:

1. He also requested an update from Councilmember Henderson about the Farrell's Marsh situation. A more comprehensive solution to water control is in the works.
2. He would like the Town to take a look at how ferry overflow parking is handled and thinks we should draft a memorandum to the county on how to monitor parking in that area.
3. National Drive Electric Vehicle Steilacoom Festival is this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. They are expecting 27 different types of vehicles.

#### I. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

1. **Councilmember Neal** moved and **Councilmember Henderson** seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting of September 6, 2022.
2. The September 6, 2022 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

#### J. Study Session

##### 1. 2023-2024 Biennium Budget

- i. A study session to discuss 2023-2024 Biennium Budget was convened at 8:11 p.m. and adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

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Town Administrator

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Mayor