

**Town of Coupeville  
Regular Council Meeting  
March 24, 2015  
6:35 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Nancy Conard, Councilmembers Dianne Binder, Bob Clay, Molly Hughes and Pat Powell.

**Council Action:** A motion was made by Councilmember Molly Hughes, second by Councilmember Pat Powell, to excuse Councilmember Jackie Henderson from the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Treasurer Kelly Beech

**CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Council Action:** A motion was made by Councilmember Bob Clay, second by Councilmember Moly Hughes, to approve the Agenda as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Clerk Treasurer Kelly Beech pointed out that in the February 24, 2015 minutes, Port Executive Director David Day was incorrectly identified as Port Commissioner.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2015 were approved as corrected.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Conard attended the Economic Development Council's annual luncheon, along with Councilmembers Dianne Binder and Molly Hughes, where Governor Jay Inslee was the keynote speaker.
- Mayor Conard spoke briefly about a USDA loan to fund the utility portion of the Madrona Way project. The Mayor explained that she would be bringing more information to the council at the next Council Meeting, and that she would be seeking authorization to apply for the loan at that time.
- Mayor Conard met with organizers and staff to discuss the 2015 MusselFest. The event is growing each year, and organizers and staff are working on ways to improve the experience for visitors.
- Mayor Conard informed the Council on the status of the Whidbey General Hospital construction project.
- Mayor Conard reminded the Council that a public presentation the Town is cosponsoring with Pacific Rim Institute, led by the Department of Fish & Wildlife, titled "Too Much Love? Is Feeding wildlife doing more harm than good?" will be held in the Rec Hall on April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00pm.
- Finally, Mayor Conard reminded the Council that the annual Town clean-up day would be Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>; and that the Community Garden is scheduled to open on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**AUDIENCE INPUT**

Audience member Gary Piazzon addressed the Council to provide information about the upcoming Plant for the Planet Academy being held at the Pacific Rim Institute on March 28<sup>th</sup>, and invited the Mayor and Council to attend.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of Special Event Permit #15-001, Oak Harbor Youth Sailing**

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Dianne Binder, second by Councilmember Pat Powell, to approve the Special Event Permit #15-001, Oak Harbor Youth Sailing. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Island County Planning and Building Department to Perform Building Permit Plan Review and Inspection Services**

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Pat Powell, second by Councilmember Bob Clay, to approve Interlocal Agreement for Island County Planning and Building Department to Perform Building Permit Plan Review and Inspection Services. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of March 24, 2015 Claims Vouchers/Warrants and February Payroll**

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Molly Hughes, second by Councilmember Dianne Binder, to approve the March 24, 2015 claims vouchers/warrants #30579 to #30637 for a total of \$250,954.33; and the February 2015 payroll warrants #30516 to #30578 for a total of \$63,237.22. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Clerk Treasurer Kelly Beech spoke about the monthly report she provided to the Council and answered questions.

**DISCUSSION**

Mayor Conard submitted a draft example of Ordinance No.719 establishing the salary for the Mayor and repealing Ordinance No.624 for discussion. The final draft of the proposed Ordinance will be presented at a Public Hearing on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Clerk Treasurer Kelly Beech spoke briefly about the reports she provided to the Council. Questions were asked and answered.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Bob Clay shared information about the most recent Law & Justice Council Meeting where they discussed the budget process and the possibility of a levy. They also spent some time reviewing current legislative items that will affect law and justice, paying special attention to proposed

unfunded and underfunded mandates. Councilmember Clay also attended a recent Town Hall style meeting where Senator Barbara Bailey, Representative Dave Hayes, and Representative Norma Smith were all speakers. The purpose of the meeting was to answer questions from attendees and offer updates on the current legislative session. Finally, Councilmember Clay shared that he had met with NET Coordinator Bonnie Abney to discuss efforts in the Madrona Area.

Councilmember Pat Powell commented that she also met with NET Coordinator Bonnie Abney and mentioned how impressed she was with Bonnie’s enthusiasm. Councilmember Powell also shared that the Whidbey Camano Land Trust sponsored a work party at Krueger Woods where volunteers removed trash, blackberry bushes and spurge laurel.

Councilmember Dianne Binder informed the Council that the island county tourism website ([www.whidbeycamanoislands.com](http://www.whidbeycamanoislands.com)) has experienced a 17% increase in visitors, and that the group is working on a mobile compatible version to capture even more viewers. Councilmember Binder also mentioned that she would be attending a luncheon where the focus would be solving the challenge of websites like AirBNB.com.

Councilmember Molly Hughes reported that she attended the Governor’s luncheon with the Mayor, and that she was pleased to learn how familiar with Governor Inslee is with Whidbey Island. Councilmember Hughes shared that 2016 is the National Parks Service Centennial year and that as part of the year-long celebration all fourth graders and their families will be able to camp for free in any National Park. She encouraged the Council to check out FindYourPark.com when it goes live on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to learn more about the National Park Service and our national parks. Finally, Councilmember Hughes informed the Council that the final selections for the 2015 Ebey’s Forever Grants have been made. The organization had just finished issuing a press release listing the recipients and it would be published in the next edition of the Whidbey News Times.

**AUDIENCE INPUT**

Audience member Ricardo Reyes, of 701 NW Krueger, asked for guidance on who to contact about the traffic islands in the Peaceful Valley Community. The Mayor directed him to contact Kelly Riepma, Public Works Superintendent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Mayor stopped the regular Meeting at 8:20pm to enter into Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee. The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:58pm and the Regular Meeting resumed for adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

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Kelly Beech, Clerk Treasurer

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Nancy Conard

*A complete audio recording of this meeting is available upon request from the Clerk-Treasurer.*