

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 24, 2010
6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Nancy Conard, Councilmembers Dianne Binder, Bob Clay, Ann Dannhauer, Molly Hughes and Tom Tack.

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Director Malcolm Bishop, Town Marshal Dave Penrod, Utility Clerk Nanc Garner (covering for Clerk Treasurer Judy Thomas)

CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the Agenda of August 24, 2010 as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of August 10, 2010

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2010 were approved as submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Conard reported that the Design Review Board met today and approved the design review applications for the old Fire Hall Rehabilitation and Lauren's Woods.
- She discussed the article in the Municipal Research Newsletter regarding liquor privatization initiatives. The Town of Coupeville receives a liquor excise tax on a per capita basis totaling \$24,849 which is a large revenue source and this funding for Coupeville (and Island County) would be at risk if these initiatives pass in November.
- She distributed a publication from the National League of Cities Weekly about the role of local elected officials in economic development.
- Just a reminder that on September 12, 2010, the Town will sponsor its annual free concert in the park.
- Today she participated in a conference call with Washington State Ferries and they have determined a 'fix' for the problem with the new ferry, Chetzemoka, but there are still a few things left on the punch list. The christening is still on hold.
- Cathy d'Almeida is kicking off the trip reduction program with meetings on August 23rd and 25th at the library.
- She met with Dan Miranda and an equipment supplier at the Rec Hall about the new kitchen equipment; and more information is needed with regards to using gas appliances, before ordering new equipment.
- Mayor Conard spoke with Town Attorney Grant Weed about Councilmember Dannhauer's question regarding the use of Park Impact Fees for the sidewalk between Main Street and Coveland. She suggested that a workshop be scheduled so that he can address this, and other questions the Council might have (i.e. demolition by neglect). She asked Council to let her know the topics they would like to discuss with the attorney and she will schedule a date for the workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

Set Public Hearing date for 2010 Budget Revision – *Staff recommends setting the Public Hearing on the 2010 Budget Revision for September 14, 2010*

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Clay, to set the Public Hearing on the 2010 Budget Revision for September 14, 2010. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of August Claims and July Payroll Warrants - *Staff recommends approval of the August 24, 2010 claims vouchers/warrants #23234 through #23308 for a total of \$77,220.21; and July payroll warrants #12990 through #13028 for a total of \$97,939.00.*

Several questions were asked and answered and no changes were recommended.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the August 24, 2010 claims vouchers/warrants #23234 through #23308 for a total of \$77,220.21; and July payroll warrants #12990 through #13028 for a total of \$97,939.00. The motion passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Thomas provided a written report. Mayor Conard suggested that any questions should be emailed to her or she will answer them at the next meeting. She added that Ms. Thomas is currently working on the 2011 budget.

Marshal Penrod provided a written report. He reported on the Arts and Craft festival, he heard more positive comments than negative ones about the new street closure, and felt it was safer for the participants. He will participate in a meeting to review comments received and to discuss issues and concerns from the recent event. Linda Eccles, CWCC Director, spoke with him about the Central Whidbey Little League Team that won the State Championship and went to the World Series, and CWCC is organizing a recognition ceremony and parade, in Town on Saturday, August 28th at 11:00 am. There will be no street closures and only one escort vehicle involved and everyone is invited to attend. Loud shouts may have been heard from Town Hall recently due to some law enforcement training exercises at the site.

Public Works Director Malcolm Bishop stated that several projects are winding down. There is currently a position being advertised for a utility operator.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Hughes attended the open house for the Ebey's Bowl celebration and commented that it is a great addition to the community. She attended the Coupeville Arts & Crafts festival and thought it was a huge success; everyone involved did a great job. She asked the Council to check their calendars in order to staff the Town's tent at the nonprofit fair at the Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 18th. She asked for a commitment from Council members to participate in the Harvest Festival on October 9th at the Farmers Market. There will be a Food Bank Relay Race and she needs a team of 5 to 7 this year, and most of the Councilmembers agreed to participate, also Malcolm Bishop and Marshal Penrod. Mayor Conard is unable to attend but will raise \$100 to sponsor the team. The Farmers goal is to raise \$10,000 this year for the Food Bank; and costumes are encouraged.

Councilmember Binder reported on tourism and she provided a couple of reports, the first was a budget vs. actual, so far this year they've spent about \$198,000 of the \$250,000 budgeted, plus

some carryover from last year for about \$285,000. TV and radio advertising will be ramped up for the fall. The second sheet shows the revenue and the total collected to date is \$65,000, which is from lodging taxes. Mayor Conard thanked her for the detailed reports she provides the Council. Councilmember Binder also reported that the website is getting major hits now, with 82,000 hits for last month. 91% of the hits are from the U.S. and 7% are from Canada, and they are planning on some TV advertising in Canada.

Councilmember Tack reported that he has spent a good portion of the month on vacation, he has had some surgery recently, and attended a couple of CWCC meetings.

Councilmember Clay attended a RTPO board meeting this month and they awarded \$340,000 for transportation projects, of which Coupeville was awarded \$41,800 for signage changes for the Coupeville ferry terminal. He discussed other grants that were available. The Law and Justice Council met and there is a new law coming into effect starting June 10, 2010 called the Family Offender Alternative Sentencing Program, which will help to reduce the prison population, and help families who have a minor (with a minor offense). For certain offenses (non-violent), those convicted who have a home and are the primary care giver of a child, will be able to stay at home under electronic monitoring, in order keep family from breaking up. The Island Transit Board met and he gave an update on Park & Ride lots. Island Transit is applying for a federal grant for the maintenance and administration building. He attended the Island Transit entrance audit meeting today as the State Auditor's Office (SAO). He attended the Arts and Crafts Festival and thought the parking worked out fine, and the festival was great. Mayor Conard added that the Town's audit is scheduled to begin the second week in September. Councilmember Dannhauer asked if there was a plan to have the trail along side highway 20 for the whole island.

Councilmember Clay thought there was a plan to connect to AuSable and Ebey's Reserve but it is being done in sections.

Councilmember Dannhauer reported that there was no Parks & Rec Commission meeting or Tree Committee meeting. She attended the Arts & Crafts Festival and the Orca Network and silent auction. She is doing research on composting toilets for the municipal parking lot and saw one in Seattle. The Friends of the Library potluck will be on September 16th. She also asked for a written opinion from the attorney (regarding use of Park Impact Fees) because there is community concern about the use of funds. Councilmember Clay noted that there is really only one person, out of 2,000, in the community with this concern. She has received citizen concerns about plane noise and asked if the Town has any say on this or if we plan on having them do an EIS; if these planes are a lot louder than the former planes. Mayor Conard explained that she has received many calls from one citizen, Buell Neidlinger, but most of the calls came last year when they did fly off course and that was corrected; this may be an issue to discuss with the Town Attorney. Councilmember Clay did not wish to not pursue this complaint, as everyone who buys property in Coupeville, has signed a piece of paper acknowledging that there is airplane noise due to military operations. He disagreed with the claims that we can shut down a military base because the noise causes cancer or brain damage. Councilmember Hughes felt it was fine for Mayor Conard and Councilmember Tack to stay in touch with the base to ensure that the jets do stay on course during their flights; and she agrees with Councilmember Clay that there is no need to pursue this issue. Councilmember Tack noted that there has been an EIS done; and assured the Council that he speaks with the base leadership weekly, sometimes daily, about flights over the town; and the base leadership is aware of the issues and are trying their best to stay within the established guidelines. He has noticed that the new jets have a different pitch level in the engine than the previous ones. Councilmember Binder stated she also signed the paper that says there is

air traffic in the area; her guests sometimes complain of the noise, but she refers to it as the 'sound of freedom.' Councilmember Dannhauer asked if the EIS was available online and Councilmember Tack was sure it was. Mayor Conard reminded everyone that NAS Whidbey is a training base with a constant turnover of new pilots and trainers who have to learn the course.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Gordon Burton, Coupeville, spoke about the jet noise and explained that he has a decibel meter and his observation is that the frequency is louder than in the past. He does not think that there is anyone who wants to sue the military or close the base due to the noise levels, but wants to make sure that the pilots are responsible for keeping on course. He has been keeping a log of DB levels and Mayor Conard suggested that he keep the times and dates of occurrences and pass it along to Councilmember Tack to review with the base. On a separate issue, Mr. Burton stated he thought that the taste of the Town's drinking water has improved.

Buell Neidlinger, Coupeville, said that he uses three decibel meters to read the peak, lows and high of noise levels and has sent the mayor a letter about this issue. He asked Councilmember Tack if he has read the EIS and added that thinks that the figures in the EIS are phony. He wants the jets (Growlers) to fly somewhere else, where they are not flying over an urban community causing cancer, brain damage and other ailments.

Marshal Penrod spoke in defense of military air traffic operations in the area.

DISCUSSION

Draft 2010 Budget Revision

Mayor Conard provided copies of the Draft 2010 Budget Revision. She explained that this included everything that has been talked about earlier and she went over each of the budget amendments starting with the General Fund revenue and expenditures and Capital Improvements Water Fund revenues and expenditures.

Councilmember Hughes asked for clarification regarding the request for money from the Garden Club for flower barrels. Gordon Burton responded by explaining that the Garden Club is struggling with their budget due to the costs from the green house removal and fencing. This is a one time request to get the Garden Club back on track for next year. The Council was in favor of supporting this request.

Mayor Conard called for a short recess at 8:10 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Potential Property Acquisition

Mayor Conard called for executive session to discuss potential property acquisition for approximately 15 minutes. Mayor Conard, Councilmembers Binder, Clay, Dannhauer, Hughes and Tack recessed to executive session at 8:20 pm and reconvened to regular session at 8:40 pm. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Nanc Garner, Recording Secretary

Nancy Conard