

Town Council – June 3, 2004 @ 12:00 PM

The Town Council met in regular session with Mayor Boothman presiding.

Members present: Brooks, Emery, Gillette, Jones, & Rosenfeld

Others present: Treasurer Picinich, Utilities Superintendent Wilks, System Administrator Dubail, Fire Chief Low; and Fire Lieutenant Chaffee

Mayor Boothman led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public access items forthcoming.

Department Reports

System Administrator Dubail distributed the System Administration Department Activity Summary for April/May 2004. Mr. Dubail outlined said report highlighting on the electrical power outages in May; off-site storage; hardware firewall protection; and new Council Chamber recording equipment.

Utilities Superintendent Wilks announced that the water line loss that the Town had been experiencing was located and repaired. Mr. Wilks reported the differences between May 2003 versus May 2004 rainfall, lake level, and water production. He indicated that some of these figures were distorted by the said water leak. Mr. Wilks reported that a Bellingham based company was the apparent low bidder on the upcoming 327' zone Town project. Mr. Wilks briefly explained the project. Mr. Wilks reported on various other activities within the Utilities Department.

Fire Chief Low introduced the new part-time Training Officer, Frank Chaffee. Mr. Low described training; recent fire calls; equipment; availability of a hazardous material response team; and read pertinent passages of "The Blue Ribbon Report" regarding preserving and improving the future of the volunteer fire service.

Councilmember Brooks and Rosenfeld expressed appreciation for the volunteer firefighters and the time they put in volunteering for the Town.

Councilmember Rosenfeld asked Chief Low to consider allowing other fire mutual aid departments to respond when they have an engine and two firefighters, rather than waiting for four firefighters to arrive before responding to a Town fire call. Chief Low explained why he prefers having other departments respond with a full crew. Mr. Low stated that he understood Councilmember Rosenfeld's suggestion and did not disagree with it.

Mayor Boothman noted a discussion with Fire District #3 Commissioner, Bob Jarman regarding joint debriefings between the Town Fire Department and said District following a joint incident.

Biodiesel – tape sequence #1315

Mayor Boothman opened Council discussion regarding the use of biodiesel fuel. Councilmember Brooks began the discussion expressing concerns regarding warranties on the Town's newer vehicles. Utilities Superintendent, Mike Wilks, responded that following research with other jurisdictions using an 80/20 blended biodiesel, apparently it does not cause problems with newer vehicles, but rather older vehicles and the warranties would remain intact on the Town's newer vehicles. Councilmember Brooks questioned if the biodiesel had storage limitations. Charlie Meyer, Island Petroleum Services, indicated that biodiesel could be stored for approximately six months. Mr. Meyer suggested the Town write an incentive to provide biodiesel fuel into its fuel bidding specifications to encourage competition.

Councilmember Jones suggested bidding for all types of fuel available and then formulate a decision based on the bids received.

Mr. Meyer asked Council to recognize and value the benefits provided by biodiesel.

Councilmember Gillette suggested using the #2 diesel in an effort to keep Town fuel expenditures as low as possible and to preserve the equipment the Town currently owns, which is designed for #2 diesel.

Councilmember Emery advocated using biodiesel in an effort to encourage the use of environmentally safe products and find another way to save Town funds.

Councilmember Rosenfeld agreed that biodiesel should be included in the Town's next fuel bid specifications and that the additional cost of said biodiesel use could be saved elsewhere in the Town budget.

Following discussion, it was determined that within these last months of the current fuel contract, Mr. Wilks would conduct comparisons so that Council could have a better understanding of the impacts to the Town and its equipment and the issue would be discussed again before the next bidding specifications were created.

Caines Street Design

Mayor Boothman opened discussion of the sidewalk in front of the Weissinger/Kennedy building on Caines Street. Rachel Dietzman, MPD Engineering representative, produced an updated drawing of the Caines Street area that depicted trees that could be placed in the area between the old sidewalk, newly proposed sidewalk, and the Weissinger/Kennedy building entrance.

Mayor Boothman observed that the issue before Council was whether to remove the old sidewalk that runs parallel to the Weissinger/Kennedy building entrance or to keep the sidewalk.

Bill Weissinger stated their preference for the removal of the old sidewalk.

Following inquiry, Utilities Superintendent Wilks estimated the cost of removal of the old sidewalk at approximately \$1,000-\$1,500 if completed by the Town crew.

Following discussion, Councilmember Brooks moved and Councilmember Gillette seconded to remove the existing sidewalk on both sides of the entrance to the Weissinger/Kennedy building.

Ms. Dietzman mentioned that most people will take the path of least resistance, and even though the old sidewalk may be removed, and a new sidewalk placed around the foliage, pedestrians may still walk straight through the foliage and make their own pathway.

Following discussion, the motion passed 3 to 2 with Councilmembers Emery and Rosenfeld in the opposition.

Minutes – tape sequence #2400

Councilmember Rosenfeld moved and Councilmember Jones seconded to approve the Town Council minutes of May 18, 2004 as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-agenda – tape sequence #2597

Mayor Boothman asked if any Councilmember planned to attend the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) annual conference in June. None of the Council planned to attend said event.

Mayor Boothman asked Council to approve the appointment of Claudia Cross to the Town Planning Commission, Position #2. Councilmember Rosenfeld moved and Councilmember Jones seconded to appoint Ms. Cross to said Commission. Councilmember Gillette asked the Mayor to give notice on the Town Council agenda in the future so that Council can have longer to consider a proposed appointee. Mayor Boothman indicated that he would try and accommodate Councilmember Gillette's request. Mayor Boothman gave a short history of his knowledge regarding Ms. Cross. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Rosenfeld suggested offering a standard \$500 reward for the arrest and conviction of those doing any vandalism within the Town limits. Following discussion, it was the consensus of Council that such a reward should be considered on a case-by-case basis and not standard procedure.

At 1:17 PM, hearing no further business before Council and no objection, Mayor Boothman declared the meeting adjourned.

Gary G. Boothman, Mayor

Kelle Wilson, Town Clerk