

Town Council – September 16, 2004 @ 12:00 PM

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

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

Staff present: Town Administrator Fitch, Land Use Administrator Bertrand, & Treasurer Picinich

Mayor Boothman led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

During the public access portion of the meeting, Harry Kuheim expressed dismay at an offensive political bumper sticker seen on a car at Eagle Cove. Mr. Kuheim presented a petition supporting the banning of obscene language from vehicles traveling on public roads. Following discussion, Mayor Boothman indicated further discussion could ensue during the non-agenda portion of the meeting.

Sharon Spangler, 495 Rose Lane, inquired about the timeline for reforming the Transportation Advisory Committee. Ms. Spangler indicated that she would be interested in serving on said Committee. Mayor Boothman explained that the Council would be discussing the issue on the 1st agenda in October.

Athletic Association Presentation

Don Galt, representative for the Friday Harbor Athletic Association, gave an overview of the history of said Athletic Association and their building efforts. Mr. Galt asked Council to relieve said Association from approximately \$19,212.00 in water and sewer hookup costs and other permitting fees. Mr. Galt asked Council to write a letter endorsing the Athletic Association's development efforts to build sports fields and facilities on the School District's land at the end Carter Avenue. Following inquiry, Mr. Galt indicated that the San Juan Island School District has not completed its discussion regarding this project.

Councilmember Rosenfeld commented that if the project could incorporate walking paths and park type facilities, perhaps the Town could justify participation in the project. Mr. Rosenfeld suggested holding a public meeting to hear from the neighbors in the area and determine if there is community support for the project. Mr. Galt responded that passage of the school bond in 1997, which anticipated the use of this property for sports fields, indicated community support.

Councilmember Emery inquired if a zoning designation change would be necessary in the future for said use. Land Use Administrator Bertrand responded that a community park is allowed within the single family zone with a conditional use permit, but if the property is used as a school facility, it would then require a reclassification to a Public Service zone.

Councilmember Jones expressed concerns with procedures and indicated he would like the School District's input before making a decision.

Bob Mancuso, School Board Member, reported that said School District is still in the research process.

Following further discussion, Mayor Boothman postponed further discussion until a later time.

Memorial Park Renovations

At 12:27 PM, Mayor Boothman introduced David Waldron, Architect for the Memorial Park Renovation Project. Mr. Waldron explained the proposed renovations as: making the circle of said Park more of a circle; moving the circle farther up the street and slightly to the north to give the elm tree more root room; eliminating two parking spaces on Spring Street in front of the Front Street Ale House to allow enhanced unloading of large trucks from the ferry; increasing the size of the shoreline sidewalk; moving benches to the shoreline sidewalk area; addition of new trees and an arbor within the shoreline sidewalk; and addition of paver tiles on the east side of the circle between the Park and the sidewalk.

Mr. Waldron explained that the project was more expensive than originally anticipated and explained various options for reducing said project costs. Councilmember Brooks suggested letting private people purchase paver tiles with their names on them to help lower costs.

Councilmember Emery suggested the Park become a “true” turn around; forcing traffic to go around the Park instead of turning left onto Front Street without traveling the circle.

Following discussion regarding paver tile colors and bidding options, Councilmember Rosenfeld suggested eliminating the paver tiles entirely and leave said area as a street with the addition of standard crosswalks to save costs.

Councilmember Rosenfeld proposed postponing the project until further research could be done regarding whether or not this project will impede the speed of ferry offloading and how it correlates with the Intermodal Plan. Mr. Rosenfeld also suggested that the memorial at said Park could possibly be moved slightly.

Lorraine Larsen, 230 C Street, stated that the Memorial Park Committee is trying to have Memorial Park designated as a Historic Park and moving the memorial could jeopardize this designation. She observed that Memorial Park is beautiful as it currently exists, but if the Town wanted to expend funds to improve it, they could, but asked that the memorial not be moved.

Mona Meeker, 617 Franck Street and member of the Memorial Park Committee, stated that the project should not be postponed and should be beautified in respect for island pioneers and their families.

Carl Mueller, American Legion Representative, indicated support for the project from the local Legion and asked that it not be postponed.

Roger Bennett, 1 Spring Street, expressed support for said project. Mr. Bennett asked that red paver tiles be used to connect the paver tiles placed in front of his building on Front Street with the Park. Mr. Bennett suggested recruiting retired folks to carry paver tiles to save on labor costs.

Administrator Fitch explained how the decision by Council could affect the construction timeline if the anticipated opening date was to be Memorial Day 2005.

Councilmember Emery cautioned that a Council decision to approve Park renovations may impact future discussions regarding ferry traffic circulation. Ms. Emery suggested Council “look at the big picture” and delay the decision until further research could be conducted regarding ferry traffic and the Intermodal Plan. Ms. Emery specified that should Council approve the Park renovations, then it should schedule time to look at alternative traffic flow in the near future.

Mayor Boothman suggested that the Town may have to find alternative traffic solutions to the ferry offloading issue, that do not involve the Town delaying said project, such as eliminating two-way traffic on Spring Street.

Councilmember Rosenfeld agreed with Councilmember Emery that the project had value, but Council should not put itself at cross purposes with the ferry offloading issue and Intermodal Plan.

Councilmember Brooks moved and Councilmember Jones seconded to approve the construction drawings presented for renovations to Memorial Park. Mayor Boothman asked for further discussion. Councilmember Rosenfeld began discussion.

Councilmember Gillette moved to end debate on the issue. The motion passed 3 to 2, with Councilmember Emery and Councilmember Rosenfeld in the opposition to ending debate.

The motion on the floor passed 3 to 2, with Councilmember Emery and Councilmember Rosenfeld in the opposition.

Public Works Facility

At 1:07 PM, David Kinderfather, Architect and Wayne Haefele, Engineer, presented the design proposal for the Town Public Works Facility to be located on Harbor Street. Mr. Kinderfather and Mr. Haefele explained the site design challenges for said proposed Facility. Discussion and inquiry ensued during the presentation regarding surface water; building materials; costs of the project and

how the Town anticipates paying for it; locating said Facility at the Town's Landfill site instead; the Town outgrowing its current location; phasing the project; and ways to cut costs of the project.

At 1:41 PM, Councilmember Emery moved and Councilmember Jones seconded to extend the meeting fifteen minutes. The motion passed 4 to 1 with Councilmember Rosenfeld in the opposition.

Administrator Fitch explained that a decision was not necessary at this time regarding the design proposal of said Facility.

Resolution #1415

At 1:44 PM, Mayor Boothman introduced draft Resolution #1415. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract for improvements to Caines Street. Councilmember Rosenfeld moved and Councilmember Brooks seconded to adopt Resolution #1415 as stated. Following inquiry, the motion passed unanimously.

Non-agenda

Council began discussion of Mr. Kuheim's request during the public access portion of the meeting regarding offensive bumper stickers. Following discussion regarding several suggestions, Council did not come to a definitive conclusion on this issue.

At 1:51 PM, hearing no objection, Mayor Boothman deferred the remainder of the agenda items to the evening Town Council meeting.

Gary G. Boothman, Mayor

Kelle Wilson, Town Clerk