

## **Town Council – November 3, 2005 @ 5:30 PM**

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

Members present: Emery, Gillette, Jones, & Rosenfeld  
Council excused the absence of Councilmember Brooks.  
Others present: Town Administrator Fitch & Treasurer Picinich

Mayor Boothman led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
There were no public access items forthcoming.

### Preliminary 2006 Town Budget

Mayor Boothman opened the work session on the preliminary 2006 Town Budget. Mayor Boothman explained the timeline for the 2006 budget process. Treasurer Picinich gave an overview of changes between the draft and preliminary 2006 budget.

Regarding a news article that San Juan County has eliminated funding for the ferry traffic control program from its 2006 draft budget, Administrator Fitch asked if Council were still interested in funding said program. Following discussion, it was the consensus of Council to continue to budget for 1/3 of the program costs for 2006 anticipating that the County may reconsider, and with the understanding that more discussion will be forthcoming next year prior to contract review.

Councilmember Emery questioned the lack of capital outlay for street improvements. Discussion followed regarding various past projects and the recommendations made by the Town's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). It was determined that the \$3,000 budgeted under street improvements would be sufficient to put grooved pavement at the entrances to Town limits to remind travelers that the speed limit within Town is reduced and satisfy one of the TAC requests. Discussion followed regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Phase of the Guard Street project.

Treasurer Picinich began discussion of the capital reserve history. Discussion ensued regarding various items budgeted within the capital reserve.

Following inquiry by Administrator Fitch, Council discussed the proposed \$15,000 funding of the San Juan Island Chamber Visitor Information Center from Hotel Motel funds. Following discussion regarding setting a precedent which might encourage others to request a portion of the basic hotel motel 2% funds, Councilmember Jones moved and Councilmember Emery seconded to approve funding for said Visitor Information Center out of the basic 2% hotel motel funds in the amount of \$15,000. Following more discussion regarding refining the granting of funds to only those you need assistance in operating a visitor information center facility; limiting the funding for one year; and how this relates to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Jones indicated that the funding under the hotel motel capital reserve grant program should be increased from \$90,000 to \$115,000.

Preliminary 2006 Town Budget discussions continued. It was noted that San Juan County has not proposed a solid waste tipping fee increase. Administrator Fitch noted that labor costs are still to be negotiated and were not in said budget. Councilmember Emery asked for a list of employees and their current wage. Administrator Fitch indicated he would provide said list.

Councilmember Gillette stated that he would like to eliminate the proposed 8.5% water rate increase and the tiered water use fee schedule. Mr. Gillette suggested that if the tiered water use fee schedule was eliminated then the cross connection program could be reduced and save costs. Utilities Superintendent Wilks clarified that as long as the Town water system and private well systems are on the same property a cross connection program would be required by the Department of Health because of the potential for someone to tie the two systems together and create a cross connection.

#### Claims & Payroll

Councilmember Jones moved and Councilmember Emery seconded to approve the payment of claim warrants #26986 through #27038 in the amount of \$166,383.54 and payroll warrants #11158 through #11209 in the amount of \$163,968.01. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Non-agenda

Mayor Boothman noted an email from the Economic Development Council (EDC) inviting Council to attend a roundtable discussion to be held on November 16, 2005.

#### Ordinance #1289

Councilmember Rosenfeld moved and Councilmember Jones seconded to adopt Ordinance #1289. An ordinance establishing that the regular meeting of the Town Council on November 17, 2005 at 5:30 PM will be held in the Friday Harbor High School Commons Room located at 45 Blair Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Additional Non-Agenda

Pertaining to an email from Bill Persich, Brown & Caldwell engineer, distributed to Council by Administrator Fitch, Councilmember Gillette moved and Councilmember Emery seconded to accept the cost estimate of \$5,900 to include additional dam inundation studies for the scenario of a future raised dam. Following discussion regarding whether or not it was necessary to complete this study at this time, the motion passed 3 to 1 with Councilmember Rosenfeld opposed.

At 7:37 PM, hearing no further business and no objection, Mayor Boothman continued the meeting until November 8, 2005 at 5:00 PM for the purpose of holding an open house regarding the Guard Street Improvement Project. The meeting adjourned.

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Gary G. Boothman, Mayor

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Kelle Wilson, Town Clerk