

Town Council – December 15, 2005 @ Noon

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

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

Others present: Town Administrator Fitch & Treasurer Picinich

Mayor Boothman led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public access items forthcoming.

Resolution #1479

Mayor Boothman introduced draft Resolution #1479. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a law enforcement contract with San Juan County for the calendar year 2006. Administrator Fitch explained the particulars of said resolution. Councilmember Gillette moved and Councilmember Brooks seconded to adopt Resolution #1479 as stated. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #1480

Mayor Boothman introduced draft Resolution #1480. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement for dispatching services with San Juan County for the calendar year 2006. Councilmember Brooks noted that the request for additional funds was not presented in a timely manner per Section 6.8 of the draft contract. Administrator Fitch concurred with this statement. Mr. Fitch pointed out the addition of new privacy law language. Councilmember Brooks moved and Councilmember Emery seconded to adopt Resolution #1480. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Fitch reported that the schedule for Phase 3 of the Guard Street Improvement Project would be approximately 30 days later than originally anticipated. Administrator Fitch indicated that if the Town wanted to complete Phase 4 of the Guard Street Improvement Project immediately following Phase 3, it would need to obtain a loan to pay for said improvements and then submit for reimbursement from the federal government.

Administrator Fitch asked Council to approve an additional decorative lighting standard for the Memorial Park Project. Following discussion, it was the consensus of Council to approve said expense.

Administrator Fitch introduced draft Resolution #1481. A resolution to execute an amendment to the agreement between the Town and the consulting firm of Brown & Caldwell for an Operator and Maintenance Manual and an Emergency Action Plan for the Trout Lake Dam not to exceed \$5909.00. Councilmember Gillette moved and Councilmember Jones seconded to adopt said resolution.

Councilmember Rosenfeld commented that he felt this additional expense was unnecessary because this inundation study would be outdated and need to be re-done when the time came to raise Trout Lake Dam.

Councilmember Gillette answered that said study would be a way of notifying San Juan County of the Trout Lake downstream flood basin in regards to allowing future developments within that property. Following discussion, the motion passed 3 to 2 with Councilmembers Jones and Rosenfeld opposed.

Administrator Fitch introduced draft Resolution #1482. A resolution authorizing an agreement between the Town of Friday Harbor and the law firm of Foster Pepper and Shefelman to provide labor negotiation services. Councilmember Jones moved and Councilmember Rosenfeld seconded to adopt Resolution #1482. Following discussion, Councilmember Jones and Rosenfeld agreed to withdraw their motion until after the closed session discussions today.

Administrator Fitch reported on achievements in completing the Department of Ecology (DOE) compliance order requirements in regards to the Town's violation of its Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge permit. Administrator Fitch noted that Brown & Caldwell Engineering had completed the sewer main replacement feasibility study. Administrator Fitch acknowledged that Council had not yet had time to review said study, but due to the upcoming 12/31/05 deadline to submit three options to the DOE, Administrator Fitch asked that Council authorize him to submit said study to meet said deadline. Following discussion, Administrator Fitch assured Council that the options within said study could be modified at a later date. Council authorized Administrator Fitch to submit the study of the three options so as to meet the 12/31/05 deadline with the understanding that further discussions regarding the options would be placed on a future agenda.

Public Hearing to amend the 2005 Town Budget

At 12:25 PM, Mayor Boothman opened the public hearing regarding amendments to the 2005 Town Budget. Treasurer Picinich reviewed the proposed amendments. Discussion followed. No public input was forthcoming.

At 12:29 PM, hearing no public input, Mayor Boothman closed the public hearing on the 2005 Town Budget amendments and introduced draft Ordinance #1296. An ordinance amending the 2005 Budget for the Town of Friday Harbor. Councilmember Jones moved and Councilmember Brooks seconded to adopt said ordinance as stated. Following inquiry, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Boothman moved discussion of draft Ordinance #1297 to later in the meeting.

Ordinance #1298

At 12:31 PM, Mayor Boothman introduced draft Ordinance #1298. An ordinance fixing salaries of officials and non-represented personnel. Councilmember Emery moved and Councilmember Jones seconded to adopt Ordinance #1298. Following discussion

regarding the proposed public service salaries versus private industry salaries, the motion passed 4 to 1, with Councilmember Gillette opposed.

Ordinance #1291-1294

At 12:36 PM, Mayor Boothman opened discussion of draft Ordinances #1291 through #1294. Ordinances pertaining to increasing water, sewer, refuse, and stormwater user rates. Discussion ensued in regards to expanding the number of years to raise rates as a means to soften the impact to users of the increased rates; subsidizing the utility funds with current expense funds; how the increased rates are not related to growth; and changing the basic water inclining rate structure.

Councilmember Jones indicated that the integrity of the 2002 Water and Sewer Rate Study should be maintained. He stated agreement with investigating the use of current expense funds to supplement the utility funds, but expressed the need to move forward with the ordinances as proposed at this time. Councilmember Jones moved and Councilmember Emery seconded to adopt Ordinance #1291 through #1294 as stated.

Councilmember Emery asked that further discussion in regards to using current expense funds to supplement utility funds be placed on a future Town Council agenda.

Councilmember Gillette asked that his comments in opposition to Ordinances #1291-1294 be place in the record.

Councilmember Gillette opposed Ordinance #1291 because excessive funds were being transferred to the water reserve fund and he stated that having a tiered water rate structure is appropriate during times of drought, but not during current times when water is abundant. Councilmember Gillette opposed Ordinance #1292 because of the continued cost of the sludge dryer and its detrimental environmental impacts. Councilmember Gillette opposed Ordinance #1293 because costs could be reduced by converting to the County's co-mingled recycle system and the proposed increase was excessive.

Following discussion, the motion passed 4 to 1.

Ordinance #1297

Mayor Boothman introduced draft Ordinance #1297. An ordinance adopting the budget for the Town of Friday Harbor for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006. Councilmember Jones moved and Councilmember Rosenfeld seconded to adopt Ordinance #1297 as presented. Councilmember Gillette stated opposition to Ordinance #1297 because of continued funding for the parking enforcement program, high utility rates, and lack of general budget tightening. The motion passed 4 to 1.

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) Report

At 12:57 PM, Mayor Boothman opened discussion of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee hotel motel program report. Councilmember Jones explained particulars of the Hotel Motel Excise Tax Grant application process and asked Council to accept the recommendations of the LTAC and approve the 2006 hotel motel grant funding as

proposed for \$120,000. Following discussion, Councilmember Rosenfeld moved and Councilmember Jones seconded to adopt the recommendations of the LTAC. Following additional inquiries, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

At 1:03 PM, Councilmember Gillette moved and Councilmember Jones seconded to approve the Town Council minutes of December 1, 2005 noon and 5:30 PM meetings as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-agenda

Councilmember Brooks distributed information entitled “Elements to Developing a Successful Grant”. Ms. Brooks also distributed minutes from the 12/12/05 Affordable Housing Bank Commission meeting and spoke of ways to enhance the Town Income Study to be updated in 2006. Ms. Brooks asked that the Town Council write a letter to the Board of County Commissioners supporting the draft Expenditure Plan for the future Real Estate Excise Tax funds. Administrator Fitch indicated that John Manning has asked to be placed on the 1/5/06 Town Council noon agenda to discuss this issue. Ms. Brooks noted that the Town will need to re-negotiate our House Bill 2060 funds distribution between the Town and the County because of the new County charter organization. Ms. Brooks suggested developing a “homelessness plan” as a step towards obtaining grant funds.

Mayor elect-Jones indicated that he would like to plan a mini-retreat of the Town Council on Saturday, 1/14/06 to discuss the Town Council 2006 legislative approach. Following discussion, it was determined that most Councilmembers would be able to attend the meeting on that same day from 6 PM to 10 PM in the Islanders Bank Community Room.

Closed Session

At 1:10 PM, Mayor Boothman declared the meeting in closed session to discuss union negotiations. Mayor Boothman indicated that Resolution #1482 may be considered by the Council following closed session.

At 1:50 PM, Mayor Boothman declared the meeting back in regular session.

Councilmember Jones moved and Councilmember Rosenfeld seconded to adopt Resolution #1482 regarding labor negotiation services. The motion passed unanimously.

At 1:50 PM, hearing no further business and no objection, Mayor Boothman declared the meeting adjourned.

Gary G. Boothman, Mayor

Kelle Wilson, Town Clerk