

Town Council – February 16, 2006 @ 5:30 PM

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

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

Others present: Town Administrator Fitch, Treasurer Picinich, Utilities Superintendent Wilks, & Sewer Department Lead Reitan

Mayor Jones led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Submarine Sewer Line Discussion

Mayor Jones opened Council discussion of the Submarine Sewer Line Replacement alternatives. Mayor Jones observed that Council had made decisions previously on Segments A and C and that only direction regarding Segment B including newly added sub-alternatives named Routes A, B, C, D, E were undecided. Mayor Jones asked for input regarding the Brown and Caldwell Engineering technical memorandum dated 2/10/06.

Councilmember Brooks indicated that she preferred Routes A or C within said memorandum.

Councilmember Emery commented that the memo from the utility department staff was helpful in understanding the issue from the crew point of view.

Councilmember Illg observed that the response from Friday Harbor Port Commissioners regarding their concerns about impacting the Port access and recent improvements to Front Street was also appreciated.

Councilmember Rosenfeld indicated that all of the options would have an impact on Front Street. Administrator Fitch concurred with this statement, but clarified that the Town was hopeful that alternative Route A would stop short of damaging the new road improvements near the Port Offices.

Councilmember Gillette expressed that he would like to see an engineering cost estimate to build the sewer pipeline under a water walkway type structure before making a firm decision.

Councilmember Rosenfeld commented that the alternatives that require crossing private properties would be problematic and might delay the process and cause the Town to miss its Department of Ecology (DOE) deadlines.

Discussion followed regarding negotiating with property owners; tidelands; DOE statements; and different components of the alternatives.

Mayor Jones commented that the most important customer is generally the citizens of the Town, but in this case, the most important customer is the DOE because of compliance orders; timeline; and possible DOE grant opportunities. Mayor Jones

observed that the engineers, staff, and the DOE all seemingly agree that the minimized marine option is the most appropriate route to select.

Councilmember Brooks commented that it was her inclination to choose the least expensive route, but the more expensive route has better opportunities to receive DOE grant funds, which would ultimately result in a smaller impact on Town residents.

Lori Stokes, Warbass Way resident, encouraged Council to take the “high ground” and select the option that would impact Town rate payers the least.

Roger Bennett, property owner at 1 Spring Street, encouraged Council to remove the pipeline from the marine environment.

Councilmember Emery moved and Councilmember Rosenfeld seconded to choose the minimized marine route alternative for Segment B, previously known as Segment B Option 3, and known in the technical memorandum dated 2/10/06 from Gray & Osborne Engineering as Route A.

Following discussion regarding depth of pipe placement within 1st Street; whether or not it would be best to coincide this sewer pipeline project in conjunction with 1st Street road improvements; cost differences between the different alternatives; delaying the selection of an alternative until additional engineering cost estimates could be formulated for a sewer pipeline underneath a water walkway; making a decision that will benefit the Town for the long term; and mitigating impacts to local business owners and residents, the motion passed 4 to 1, with Councilmember Gillette opposed.

Dan Levin, 1st Street Business Owner, asked for clarification of the upcoming sewer line and 1st Street improvement process. Administrator Fitch explained that combining the street improvement project with the submarine sewer line replacement project would be financially challenging for the Town. Mr. Fitch indicated that preliminary design for 1st Street improvements would determine the depth for placement of the sewer line within said street, and most likely road improvements would take place at a later date. Mr. Levin asked that the business community be notified well in advance of any planned business disruption. Council agreed that a public notification process would be provided prior to 1st Street road construction.

At 6:22 PM, hearing no further business and no objection, Mayor Jones declared the meeting adjourned.

David F. Jones, Mayor

Kelle Wilson, Town Clerk