

Town Council – July 20, 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 and Land Use Administrator Bertrand

Mayor Jones led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing – Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan

At Mayor Jones' request, Administrator Fitch explained the Six Year TIP process and indicated that said plan was not meant to incorporate all of the Town's road improvement needs, but only those which would be available for federal and state funding assistance.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing to consider the five projects listed on the draft Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for public input. The draft projects are:

- #1 – Guard Street from Marguerite Place to Park Street
- #2 – Spring Street Traffic Circle at Argyle and Spring Intersection
- #3 – First Street from East Street to Spring Street
- #4 – First Street from Spring Street to Court Street
- #5 – Tucker Avenue from Guard Street to Larson Street

Claudia Cross, 555 Hemlock Court and Town Planning Commission Member, encouraged Council to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation to move Priority #5, Tucker Avenue, to Priority #3. Administrator Fitch introduced Exhibit F, a memo dated 7/14/06 to the Mayor & Council from the Planning Commission.

Bob Wingate, owner of The Little Store and Big Store, expressed concerns with Priority #2, Spring Street Traffic Circle, and suggested the Town could find a better use of its public and grant funds. Mr. Wingate suggested that adding a stop sign on Argyle Avenue where it meets Nichols Street would help to alleviate traffic congestion in this area.

Mayor Jones explained that the Six Year TIP is a tool for the Town to use to set road improvement priorities and that the proposed traffic circle was just one of the solutions proposed to alleviate pedestrian and vehicular congestion at the intersection of Argyle and Spring Streets.

Mr. Wingate commented that he still felt there were better uses of Town monies and other cheaper ways to solve this intersection dilemma.

Susan Wingate indicated that the addition of a traffic circle at said intersection would eliminate six critical Town parking spaces and inquired about other aspects of the TIP form and projects listed.

Betty Gilson, 240 Harrison Street and Town Planning Commission Member, asked that Council follow the Planning Commission's recommendation and move Priority #5, Tucker Avenue to Priority #3 so that the other utility companies that have facilities located within the Town right of way would be put on notice that this project is approaching.

Lin Pearson, owner of Petro San Juan, inquired that if said plan is only a tool for the Town to use in planning road projects, would the public be given an opportunity to comment during design of the Spring and Argyle intersection. Mayor Jones answered in the affirmative.

Dan Zehring, suggested that the wording of Priority #2 be changed to read: Spring and Argyle Intersection, rather than Spring Street Traffic Circle to allow other solutions to be considered and developed.

David Allen, Petro San Juan Fuel Truck Driver, indicated that a 72' or 80' fuel truck is not going to be able to navigate a traffic circle at said intersection. Following inquiry, Mr. Allen commented that if he was able to maneuver over the center curb of the traffic circle without obtaining a traffic violation, a traffic circle may be feasible.

Administrator Fitch entered Exhibit E, a letter from Jean Fawcett dated 2/11/05 regarding sidewalks on Marguerite Street; and Exhibit G, a letter from Island Petroleum Services owner Charlie Meyer dated 7/14/06 regarding the Guard Street Project and Carter Avenue sidewalks.

Exhibits A-D were displayed on the corkboard facing Council and the audience. Exhibit A – staff drawn depiction of a traffic circle at the intersection of Argyle Avenue and Spring Street; Exhibit B, C, & D drawings by Gray & Osborne Engineering in 1995 depicting alternative solutions to the Spring/Argyle/Nichols intersection. Exhibit H, an email from Island Concrete Products dated 7/17/06 regarding ferry dwell time in Friday Harbor.

At 5:52 PM, hearing no further public input, Mayor Jones closed the public hearing portion of the Six Year TIP discussion.

Mayor Jones noted that the reason the intersection of Spring Street and Argyle Avenue was added to the Six Year TIP was because the Town Transportation Advisory Committee's Final Report listed said intersection as the top priority for Council consideration.

Mayor Jones reminded Council that the Town Planning Commission also has expressed a desire for the Tucker Avenue Project to be moved up on said Six Year Plan. Discussion followed regarding how Tucker Avenue was placed as Priority #5 on said plan.

Councilmember Rosenfeld commented on the many upcoming road project priorities and whether or not it was wise to put aside Town funds for the intersection of Arygle and Spring, when Marguerite, Lampard, and Carter Streets also need funding for improvements.

Councilmember Gillette suggested that Marguerite Place and Carter Avenue should be added to the Six Year TIP and that the improvements to the Spring Street should be prioritized as last on said list.

Discussion followed regarding arterial designation and funding; the priorities listed and the difficulties facing each project; and the timeframe for funding and coordinating with other projects.

Councilmember Emery commented that the goal of the Intermodal Transportation Committee is to enhance the movement of traffic through Town. Ms. Emery acknowledged that the intersection of Spring and Argyle is troublesome for pedestrians.

Councilmember Illg suggested that Grover Street be added to the Six Year TIP.

Following discussion regarding the priorities listed, other necessary road projects; the use of real estate excise tax (REET) funds; and the priority and timeline of the projects, Councilmember Brooks moved and Councilmember Emery seconded to accept the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan for the years 2007 through 2012 except moving Priority #5, Tucker Avenue to Priority #3, and changing the description of Priority #2, listed as Spring Street Traffic Circle to Spring and Argyle Intersection. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Councilmember Gillette opposed because he felt the Spring/Argyle Intersection should be a lower priority.

Resolution #1532

At 6:27 PM, Mayor Jones opened discussion of draft Resolution #1532. A resolution providing for a Six Year Road Transportation Improvement Plan for the years 2007 – 2012. Councilmember Brooks moved Councilmember Rosenfeld seconded to adopt Resolution #1532. The motion passed 4 to 1 with Councilmember Gillette opposed.

Washington State Ferries Update

David Sowers and Jayne Davis, Washington State Ferries (WSF) representatives, along with Bob Distler, Washington State Transportation Committee, gave a presentation regarding Washington State Ferries' draft Long-

Range Strategic Plan and the implications for San Juan Island. Mr. Sowers indicated that this plan is to guide WSF in their 20 year capital facilities spending policy.

Discussion and inquiry followed regarding the specifics of said plan; a second ferry dock in Friday Harbor; how the Intermodal Transportation Plan correlates with said Long-Range Plan and the Existing Conditions Report; upcoming traffic counts to be done by WSF this weekend; how the San Juan Islands route compares to the Seattle area routes financially; and ways WSF could cut operating costs.

Ms. Davis indicated that the comment period for input on the draft Long-Range Strategic Plan has been extended until July 31, 2006.

Mayor Jones and Council thanked WSF for their presentation.

Public Access

None.

Non-agenda

Administrator Fitch estimated the cost of replacing the sidewalk at 425 Caines Street near the bump out site at \$2,500. Council agreed to this expenditure.

Administrator Fitch clarified that the MPD Engineering design proposal for improvements to Carter Street that was mentioned at the noon Town Council meeting only included the design for Sections B and C of said street.

Claims

Councilmember Gillette moved and Councilmember Illg seconded to approve the payment of claim warrants #28044 through #28105 in the amount of \$106,855.80. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:21 PM, hearing no objection, Mayor Jones declared the meeting adjourned.

David F. Jones, Mayor

Kelle Wilson, Town Clerk