

Town Council – November 2, 2006 @ Noon

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

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

Mayor Jones led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Access

During the public access portion of the meeting, Debbie Pigman, San Juan Island Chamber of Commerce Director, thanked the Town Council for their financial support of the Island Lights Festival. Ms. Pigman asked Council to financially support sidewalk cleaning equipment; personnel costs; and smaller trash/cigarette receptacles as a part of the effort to keep the Town looking cleaner. She indicated that the San Juan Realtors Association is willing to donate \$10,000 towards the purchase of a sidewalk cleaning machine.

Ralph Hahn, President of the Economic Development Council (EDC), thanked the Town Council for past support and explained recent organizational changes that the EDC has implemented. Mr. Hahn indicated that because of said changes, public entities such as the Town/Port/County are being asked to give more than their usual economic development contributions.

Edith Dickinson, Argyle Avenue, expressed concern that a yard waste burning ban will go into effect on January 1, 2007 and no other provisions have been established to handle the community's yard waste. It was noted that a yard waste program was in the draft 2007 Town budget.

Sharon Kivisto, PO Box 1118, encouraged Council to revisit the merging of the Town and San Juan Island Fire Departments as the timing is ideal in that both the Town and County have vacant Fire Chief positions at this time.

Guard Street – Phase 4

At 12:18 PM, Mayor Jones opened discussion of the proposed Guard Street improvements from Marguerite Place to Park Street. Administrator Fitch explained funding sources for said project. Tani Stafford, Gray & Osborne Engineers, described the two Guard Street – Phase 4 concepts and the challenges that face each concept. Ms. Stafford explained that during Phase 4 the franchise utility improvements will be done prior to the Town's road improvements. Discussion and inquiry followed regarding the concepts; the different right of way acquisition necessary for each concept; the intersection of Park and Guard Street configuration; large vehicle traffic; Carter Street improvements; where the funding shortfall could be paid from; and the impact of adding bike lanes or a traffic circle to right of way costs and parking lanes.. Mayor Jones noted that Council would need to make there final concept decision at the November 16, 2006 Town Council meeting.

Spring Street Crosswalk

Mayor Jones opened discussion of an additional crosswalk at the intersection of Spring/Blair/Caines Streets.

Mayor Jones indicated that a crosswalk at said intersection could either go straight across or diagonal from Blair Street to the south side of Spring Street. He indicated the straight across option would eliminate the right hand turn lane from Blair Street to Spring Street. Administrator Fitch estimated the cost of the necessary improvements at \$5,000 to \$10,000. Following discussion between Council, staff and Ms. Stafford, Councilmember Rosenfeld moved and Councilmember Emery seconded to leave the design particulars to adding a crosswalk at this intersection to Administrator Fitch. Councilmember Gillette indicated he was opposed to leaving the issue at the staff level, but in favor of adding a crosswalk at this location. Councilmember Illg spoke in favor of keeping the right hand turn lane from Blair Street onto Spring Street. The motion passed 3 to 1, with Councilmember Gillette opposed.

Hotel Motel Funds

Mayor Jones opened discussion of the allowable uses of hotel motel tax revenues. Council answered in the negative to Mayor Jones' inquiry if they were aware of the allocations recommended by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

Following discussion it was determined to table further discussion until the next meeting. Administrator Fitch expressed concern regarding the different directions given from the regional state auditors versus Jan Jutte, the person identified by the regional state auditors as the expert regarding hotel motel tax use. Councilmember Rosenfeld encouraged Mr. Fitch to call and speak with Ms. Jutte directly.

Resolution #1541 & 1542

Mayor Jones opened discussion of draft Resolution #1541. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order #3 on the contract with Award Construction, Inc. for the Guard Street Improvement Project – Phase 3 in the amount of \$8,221.13. Administrator Fitch explained the particulars of draft Resolution #1541 and Resolution #1542. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order #4 on the contract with Award Construction, Inc. for the Guard Street Improvement Project – Phase 3 in the amount of \$4,541.56. Councilmember Rosenfeld moved and Councilmember Emery seconded to adopt Resolutions #1541 and 1542 as stated. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Fitch reported on the ceremony where the Town received an award from the Public Works Trust Fund in recognition for paying off their 20-year loan.

Administrator Fitch asked if Council were interested in allocating \$10,000 toward the purchase of pandemic flu antiviral medications in the 2006 budget. Mr. Fitch explained the particulars of the invitation to purchase said medications from Dr. James, San Juan County Health Official. Following discussion it was determined that further discussion would be held during the evening Town Council meeting.

Administrator Fitch noted that the Town's Department of Ecology (DOE) \$2.87 million Grant Application was mailed on 10/27/06 and received by DOE on 10/31.

Mr. Fitch reported that the Guard Street – Phase 3 project may be completed by Wednesday, 11/8/06.

Mr. Fitch noted that the installation of the SolarBee floating solar circulators on October 27/28 in Trout Lake went well and distributed pictures of said equipment.

Administrator Fitch reported that an additional 50,000-70,000 gallon water reservoir to be located in the Hillview Terrace area may be necessary to improve fire pressure in the north area of Town. Administrator Fitch indicated that he would have cost estimates for Council in future. Discussion followed regarding the particulars of the process and project.

Administrator Fitch mentioned that the fire chief selection group has met one time to discuss said applicants. Discussion followed regarding the group dynamics.

Minutes

Councilmember Rosenfeld moved and Councilmember Gillette seconded to approve the Town Council minutes of October 19, 2006 noon and 5:30 PM meetings as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Claims & Payroll

Councilmember Rosenfeld moved and Councilmember Emery seconded to approve the payment of claim warrants #28480 through #28519 in the amount of \$169,202.73 and payroll warrants #11895 through #11941 in the amount of \$173,968.58. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-agenda

Administrator Fitch indicated that if tonight's public hearing regarding the submarine sewer line replacement project is well attended by the public and exceeds the Council Chamber's capacity, the meeting may be required to be rescheduled to another time and large location.

Administrator Fitch asked for clarification regarding the Council's earlier request for salary comparisons of administrative positions in other San Juan County organizations. Council agreed that a general comparison of positions, not a specific comparison of persons, was acceptable.

At 1:37 PM, hearing no objection, Mayor Jones declared the meeting adjourned.

David F. Jones, Mayor

Kelle Wilson, Town Clerk