

Town Council – January 4, 2007 @ Noon

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

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Clerk Wilson administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Councilmember Kelley Balcomb-Bartok.

Councilmembers present: Kelley Balcomb-Bartok, Carrie Brooks, Debbie Emery, Wally Gillette, & Liz Illg

Others present: Town Administrator, C. King Fitch, & Treasurer, Wendy Picinich

Jim Cole, clergyman for the Christ the King Church gave the invocation.

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

Departmental Reports

Community Development

Land Use Administrator, Mike Bertrand, distributed the year end Building Department Report and commented that although less single family residential building permits were issued in 2006 than 2005, development is anticipated to increase in 2007 based on the creation of the County Village Estates and Friday Cove subdivisions.

Mr. Bertrand explained the upcoming 2007 Town Comprehensive Plan Review reclassification requests; urban growth area expansion; and process.

For the benefit of new Councilmember Balcomb-Bartok, Mr. Bertrand explained the duties included within the Community Development Department.

Mr. Bertrand asked for clarification regarding the upcoming discussion between the public and Town Council in regards to the Draft Washington State Ferries Master Plan for Friday Harbor.

Following discussion, Council indicated they wanted an open public forum so that the public would feel comfortable giving their comments. Councilmember Illg asked Mr. Bertrand to formulate the advantages and disadvantages of said draft master plan to the Town for said public meeting. Mr. Bertrand reminded Council that a decision regarding said draft plan is imminent after the January 18th public forum. Council agreed that with staff assistance they would be able to formulate a response regarding said plan for Washington State Ferries that same night.

Discussion and inquiry followed regarding Community Development Department activities.

Historic Preservation

At 12:16 PM, Historic Preservation Review Board Coordinator, Sandy Strehlou, explained the history and origin of the Town's historic preservation program; thanked Council for increasing her budgeted hours from 24 to 32 in 2007; gave an overview of 2006 activities; design review procedures; accomplishments; and anticipated 2007 historic preservation programs and activities.

Utilities

At 12:28 PM, Utilities Superintendent, Mike Wilks, noted that he oversees approximately 19 Utility Department employees that provide utility maintenance and operations for the Town.

Mr. Wilks indicated that the sidewalk cleaning machine demonstration was disappointing; as the equipment was too large and hard to maneuver for the downtown core smaller sidewalks.

Mr. Wilks gave an overview of storm related Utility Department activities; current storm drain and sewer system excavation projects; and grants. Mr. Wilks emphasized that the solar powered floating circulators have continued to work at Trout Lake during the recent inclement weather. Mr. Wilks noted that the new utility worker position approved by Council would be advertised soon. Discussion and inquiry followed regarding Guard Street improvements; chip sealing; water meter assistance; and litter control.

Fire

At 12:41 PM, Interim Fire Chief, Tom Eades, announced that the Annual Town Fire Department Awards Banquet will be held Friday, January 12, 2007. Mr. Eades stated that the Town Fire Department unofficially started in approximately 1913 and was formally founded in 1953. Mr. Eades described the current department personnel and equipment. Mr. Eades reported 124 incidents in 2006, mostly non-emergency type calls. Discussion and inquiry followed.

System Administration

At 12:53 PM, System Administrator, Steve Dubail, distributed and commented on the Autumn 2006 Activity Summary for the System Administration Department. Discussion and inquiry followed.

Ride Share Program

Mayor Jones noted that per a request by the San Juan Ride Share Program, this discussion would be postponed.

Planning Commission Nominee

Mayor Jones explained that the Planning Commission nominee under consideration has declined his offer.

Administrator's Report

At 1:02 PM, Administrator Fitch reported that water and sewer connection fee revenues were below average in 2006.

Mr. Fitch mentioned that discussion regarding a request by the developers at 151 West Street for a limited license to use the public right of way for placement of a 90 foot crane during construction should be forthcoming at the January 18th Town Council meeting. Mr. Fitch indicated that he is working with various agencies to implement proper safeguards to protect the public. Discussion followed regarding the particulars of the crane use.

Mr. Fitch noted that the intersection of Caines/Blair/Spring Street is currently under design by MPD Engineering, Inc. and that most likely the right hand turn lane from Blair Avenue to Spring Street will be eliminated.

Administrator Fitch explained that additional water system facility pressure zones need to be built to accommodate fire suppression requirements in the north end of Town. Discussion and inquiry followed regarding the particulars of the project, including: the hydraulic model; amendment process for the 2002 Water System Plan; location; costs; and other possible solutions.

Minutes

At 1:37 PM, Councilmember Emery moved and Councilmember Gillette seconded to approve the Town Council minutes of December 21, 2006 noon and 5:30 PM meetings as written. One correction was noted. The motion to pass the minutes as corrected passed unanimously.

Citizen's Response

None

At 1:38 PM, hearing no further business and no objection, Mayor Jones declared the meeting adjourned.

David F. Jones, Mayor

Kelle Wilson, Town Clerk