



SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES TOWN COUNCIL

Thursday, March 7, 2024 – Council Chambers – Afternoon Session

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jackson called the regular session of the Town Council to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers: Richard Geffen (Position No. 2), Anna Maria de Freitas (Position No. 3), Mason Turnage (Position No. 4) and Barbara Starr (Position No. 5). Steve Hushebeck (Position No. 1) was excused. Councilmember de Freitas left the session early.

Mayor, Raymont Jackson; Town Administrator, Denise Kulseth; Finance Director, Bethany Berry and Clerk, Amy Taylor.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Jackson conducted the flag salute.

PUBLIC ACCESS TIME

Members of the public commented on the Holliwalk issue. Staff commented that it was inappropriate because the administrative appeal for the Holliwalk Development is open.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Geffen, seconded by Starr, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows. Motion passed 4-0 with Hushebeck absent.

A. Payment of Claims & Payroll

- 1) Claim warrants: # 60618 to 60637, including credit card payments; dated February 15, 2024; in the amount of \$18,263.06.
- 2) Claim warrants: # 60638 to 60675, including EFT payments; dated February 22, 2024; in the amount of \$248,248.18.
- 3) Claim warrants: # 60676 to 60704; dated February 29, 2024; in the amount of \$77,511.96.
- 4) Payroll warrants: #20057 to 20064, including the employee direct deposit and ACH payments #21 to 25; dated February 29, 2024, in the amount of \$354,580.01.
- 5) Treasurer checks: #11058 to 11067; dated January 1, 2024, to January 31, 2024; in the amount of \$6,236.54.
- 6) Treasurer checks: #11068 to 11077; dated February 1, 2024, to February 29, 2024; in the amount of \$10,059.08.

B. Minutes

- 1) Approval of the Summary of the Minutes dated February 1, 2024.
- 2) Approval of the Summary of the Minutes dated February 15, 2024.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor’s Correspondence

At 12:30 p.m., Mayor Jackson and the Council argued regarding correspondence sent from the office of the Mayor to other agencies without Council input. One letter was issued to San Juan County regarding a site-specific water issue involving to a County employee and the other a multi-agency letter to Washington State Ferries. The Council members said the Mayor too often acted alone, failed to share information, and was not a team player. The Mayor defended his actions, saying that purely administrative matters with no legislative element were his responsibility and within his power to act unilaterally. Debate followed regarding the Mayor’s duties, responsibilities, and management style. No action was taken.

SJC Land Bank – Beaverton Valley Marsh

At 1:30 p.m., Mayor Jackson introduced Doug McCutchen, SJI Preserve Steward, to provide an update on their activities. The Land Bank anticipates opening the trail linking Linde Park to Beaverton Valley March during the summer. Additionally, the Land Bank will be opening additional trail on Cady Mountain and Three Corner Lake Road. Mr. McCutchen invited the Council to visit the preservation project on Mount Grant. The Council thanked the Land Bank.

FCS Group – Utility Rate Study

At 1:45 p.m., Administrator Kulseth introduced Brooke Tacia, FCS Group, to make a presentation regarding the upcoming utility rate study. Ms. Tacia gave a presentation on what is involved in developing a utility rate study, including choosing goals and policy considerations; reviewing operating costs, debt service and capital costs as well as forecasts, and an analysis of how rates are allocated among customer classes. The Council and Mayor thanked Ms. Tacia for the detailed explanation. No action was taken.

FUTURE AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Starr inquired when the Council could discuss the public comments regarding the Holliwalk Development design variance. Community Development Director Ryan Ericson stated that the Council had previously made motions on the administrative issue of the design variance and may reopen discussions at their discretion.

Moved by Starr, seconded by Geffen, to reopen discussion regarding the findings for the design variance application on March 21, 2024 or soon thereafter. Motion passed 3-0 with Hushebeck and de Freitas absent .

Public Works Director Jesse Douglas-Seitz requested that the Council hold another work session regarding development of a design standard for alleys such as Holli Place so a uniform approach can be achieved by staff. Discussion followed about presentation materials.

Finance Director Berry noted that the April utility billing will be “prorated” to bring base and usage fees into sync for the new system. Ms. Berry explained that it would benefit Town customers to absorb transaction fees. **Council consensus to initiate the configuration of new billing software to absorb transaction fees.**

Councilmember Turnage inquired about the status of permits and code enforcement issues for Finnegan Ridge. Community Development Director Ryan Ericson stated that the Town has properly notified the owner of expiring permits.

Community Development Director Ryan Ericson apologized for his choice of words earlier in the session concerning the Finnegan Ridge Development. He expressed regret that issues concerning the Finnegan Ridge Development were drawn into the conversation about the Holliwalk Development and noted that the situations are not similar.

CITIZEN RESPONSE

No citizen response was forthcoming.

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94 **ADJOURNMENT** – Hearing no further business and no objection, Mayor Jackson adjourned the meeting at 2:49
95 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
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98 **These minutes were approved by motion of the Town Council . The original document is retained by the Clerk in**
99 **the Town Council’s permanent records. Attest: Amy Taylor, Town of Friday Harbor Clerk**