

Oak Harbor City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott Dudley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Jim Campbell gave the Invocation and Mayor Dudley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Scott Dudley
Mayor Pro Tempore Danny Paggao
Councilmember Rick Almberg
Councilmember Jim Campbell
Councilmember Tara Hizon
Councilmember Beth Munns
Councilmember Joel Servatius
Councilmember Bob Severns

Staff Present:

City Administrator Larry Cort
Finance Director Doug Merriman
Development Service Director Steve Powers
Public Works Director Cathy Rosen
Assistant City Attorney Nikki Esparza
City Engineer Joe Stowell
City Clerk Valerie J. Loffler
Chief of Police Ed Green
Deputy Fire Chief Mike Buxton

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Employee Recognition

Keith Jameson was recognized for 15 years of service to the City of Oak Harbor Public Works Department. Public Works Director Cathy Rosen presented Mr. Jameson a fleece jacket.

Community Cheerleader Helen Chatfield-Weeks led a cheer for Keith.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Munns moved to amend the Agenda by placing Item 9.b. after Staff, Mayor and Council Comments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Almberg and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Munns moved to add 9.d., Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Campbell and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Hizon moved, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

Ernest Branigh, representing the North Whidbey Lions Club, expressed heartfelt thanks to Council for their support in awarding Lodging Tax Funds for the Car Show held in August. Mr. Branigh also expressed his appreciation to the Parks and Recreation Department for all their help.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of September 3, 2013
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable Voucher Nos. 155286 through 155434 in the amount of \$1,186,510.92; Voucher Nos. 155435 through 155443 in the amount of \$905.39; Voucher Nos. 155444 through 155604 in the amount of \$467,846.13
- c. Motion to confirm Mayor Dudley's re-appointment of Bruce Freeman to the Planning Commission for a three-year term expiring September 2016
- d. Motion to confirm Mayor Dudley's re-appointment of Sandi Peterson to the Planning Commission for a three-year term expiring September 2016
- e. Motion to confirm Mayor Dudley's appointment of Cedric Niiro to the Oak Harbor Youth Commission to fill an unexpired term expiring October 2015
- f. Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement with Island County regarding Solid Waste Management for a term of six years
- g. Motion to confirm Mayor Dudley's appointment of Brenda Kovach to the Oak Harbor Youth Commission to fill an unexpired term expiring November 2015

Motion: Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Severns and carried unanimously.

STAFF AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

City Administrator Dr. Larry Cort reminded Council of the workshop meetings scheduled for Monday, September 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss employee health benefits; Wednesday, September 25th, at 3:30 p.m. for the regular monthly workshop meeting; and on Tuesday, October 1st, at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the archaeology recovery costs and how it affects the overall city budget.

Mayor Scott Dudley congratulated staff for receiving the Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award for Superior Performance from the Washington State Department of Ecology. Operations Manager Steve Bebee accepted the plaque on behalf of his crew members.

Mayor Dudley suggested standing committees be reinstated, especially the Finance Standing Committee.

Councilmember Almberg spoke in support of the Finance Standing Committee.

Councilmember Munns thanked the community for supporting the Military Appreciation Picnic, including the efforts of over 100 volunteers.

Mrs. Munns also provided information on the Oak Harbor Education Foundation Breakfast to be held on October 8, 2013, at 7:00 a.m.

Councilmember Severns also spoke in support of Finance Standing Committee meetings.

He also announced the annual business expo sponsored by the Economic Development Council is scheduled for October 5-6, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

TOURISM SERVICES AGREEMENT

Chamber of Commerce Tourism Services Agreement

Finance Director Doug Merriman provided the staff report. Mr. Merriman explained 2% Lodging Taxes, including rules and processes for allocating funds, the logistics of the application process, and recent legislative changes.

Speaking in support of funding for the Chamber of Commerce were:

Terica Taylor, Deception Pass Tours
Peggy Burton
Greg Lanza, Bed and Breakfast Owner
Le Linder
James Johnson, Whidbey Taxi

Kathy Reed, Executive Director of the Chamber, provided a presentation outlining the financial overview and accomplishments of the Chamber. She also responded to questions from the Council.

All Councilmembers spoke in support of the Chamber contract extension, although Councilmember Campbell felt more coordination with the Island County Tourism Board was essential.

Mr. Merriman clarified issues for Council including the application process for 2% funds, the length of the Chamber contract, the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, and percentage of sales tax generated from the Pioneer Way businesses.

Motion: Councilmember AlMBERG moved to direct the Chamber of Commerce to present their 2014 budget proposal at the October 15th regular meeting and to postpone to November 6, 2013, final review and possible approval of the Tourism Services Agreement, which may or may not include an increase in the City's contribution to the Chamber, and which may or may not include a time extension to the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Servatius and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 1670: Relating to Standing Committees

City Administrator Dr. Larry Cort provided the staff report.

Ordinance 1670 **An Ordinance of the City of Oak Harbor, Washington Amending Ordinance 1663 Suspending the Regular Meetings of City Council Standing Committees Established under OHMC 1.04.015; Authorizing Special City Council Workshop Meetings; and Providing for Sunset of this Ordinance**

Councilmembers Servatius, Paggao, Severns, and Hizon supported regular workshop meetings, specifically because all Councilmembers are present versus three in attendance at a standing committee meeting.

In response to Councilmember Servatius' question about what information Council wasn't getting without the Finance Standing Committee in place, Mayor Dudley expressed concern about the impact of the archaeological recovery effort on the overall city budget.

Councilmembers discussed ideas to address finance issues during regular workshop meetings.

Motion: Councilmember AlMBERG moved to adopt Ordinance 1670. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Paggao and carried unanimously.

At 8:05 p.m. Mayor Dudley announced a five-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

Ordinance 1669: Relating to the Parks Code - Introduction and Motion to Set a Public Hearing
Public Works Director Cathy Rosen provided the staff report.

Mrs. Rosen responded to questions from Council regarding vendors in the parks and allowing alcohol at special events in certain locations.

Motion: Councilmember AlMBERG moved to set a public hearing for October 1, 2013, to consider Ordinance 1669. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Munns and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC MEETINGS

Wastewater Treatment Plant SEPA

Development Services Director Steve Powers and City Engineer Joe Stowell explained the SERP process for funding and new regulations for environmental review.

Mayor Dudley opened the public meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Jeff Trumbore recommended staff review the report before submission pointing out some disconnects relating to moderate and high risk items. He suggested they be tracked separately.

Helen Chatfield-Weeks spoke in support of the new wastewater treatment plant stating it is exciting and wonderful to hear how far Oak Harbor has come on the project.

The public hearing closed at 8:56 p.m.

Motion: Councilmember Servatius moved to suspend the Council Rules and extend the meeting to 10:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hizon and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Servatius asked if the document was available online and if staff had other leads on grants.

Councilmember Munns suggested staff communicate well and often so that citizens could accept and plan for a rate increase.

Staff and Council discussed participation by the Navy and the different assumptions and methodologies used by different consultants and engineers.

NEW BUSINESS

Animal Recovery Services

Police Chief Ed Green provided the staff report.

Councilmember Severns asked Chief Green about the number of calls for animal control on Navy property, and Councilmember Almberg questioned what was included in the unit price.

Motion: Councilmember Munns moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Forest City for Animal Recovery Services in Base Housing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Campbell and carried unanimously.

Assistant City Attorney - Prosecution

City Administrator Dr. Larry Cort provided the staff report.

Police Chief Ed Green provided a recommendation for Ms. Lewis, including a “thumbs up” from his staff.

Councilmembers expressed their support and welcomed Ms. Lewis.

Motion: Councilmember Munns moved to confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Erin Lewis as Assistant City Attorney-Prosecution and to authorize the Mayor to sign an Employment Contract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Severns and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:43 p.m. the Mayor announced an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. The executive session would last approximately 25 minutes and no action would be taken.

At 10:12 p.m. the Mayor announced another five minutes would be necessary for the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:17 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilmember Almberg moved, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Valerie J. Loffler, City Clerk