

Oak Harbor City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

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

Mayor Dudley announced that Councilmember Hizon was absent and asked that the Council entertain a motion to excuse her absence.

Motion: Councilmember Almberg moved to excuse Councilmember Hizon. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Severns and carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Staff Present:

City Administrator Larry Cort
Public Works Director Cathy Rosen
City Attorney Nikki Esparza
City Clerk Anna Thompson
Chief of Police Ed Green
Police Detective Terry Gardner
Police Officer Ronald Esparza
Fire Chief Ray Merrill
Deputy Fire Chief Mike Buxton
Fire Lieutenant Paul Schoer
Administrative Assistant Angela Braunstein
Several Career Fire Fighters in attendance

Councilmember Tara Hizon was excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Councilmember Campbell gave the invocation. Mayor Dudley led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION

Removal of the Post Office Oak Tree on March 23, 2014 – Background on the Decision, Report on the Operation and Future Steps.

Dr. Court opened the presentation with a brief history of the Post Office Oak Tree. He then introduced Public Works Director Cathy Rosen and Shawn Dugan of Tree Solutions.

Public Works Director Cathy Rosen presented detailed analysis and report of the Oak Tree's health issues since April 1995 on a power point presentation.

Shawn Dugan of Tree Solutions spoke on the research performed on the Post Office Oak Tree beginning in April of 2012.

Dr. Cort provided additional information with respect to action taken by City staff and City Council which lead to the decision to remove the Post Office Oak Tree.

Cathy Rosen returned to describe the removal details of the Post Office Oak Tree which took place on March 23, 2014. Tree Solutions was contacted on Monday, March 24th to exam post-mortem remains.

Shawn Dugan explained their findings of the post-mortem analysis. Mr. Dugan provided photographs of the decay and cracks found in the trunk and limbs of the tree.

Mayor Dudley turned to the Councilmembers for questions.

Councilmember Munns asked about insurance complications with the City in relation to the decaying Oak Tree.

Councilmember Servatius asked about the comparison of basal tomography of the tree trunk after removal as presented on the power point.

Councilmember Severns asked additional questions regarding the decay of the Post Office Oak Tree as depicted on the basal tomography photograph post-removal. He then asked about the weight of the two branches that fell in 2013. Mr. Dugan answered that the limbs were very dense and very heavy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Dudley explained that no Executive Session would be held and asked that the Councilmembers make a motion to remove the item from the Agenda.

Motion: Councilmember Almberg motioned to remove Consent Agenda item 10, seconded by Councilmember Campbell and carried unanimously.

Motion: Councilmember Severns moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Munns and carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Dudley opened the comment period at 6:57 p.m.

Those speaking in opposition to the removal of the Post Office Oak Tree were:

Mary Pierzchal
Helen Chatfield-Weeks
Earle Darst
Gary Piazzon
Isle Williams
Steve Erickson of Whidbey Environmental Action Network
Pat Wallace

Motion: Councilmember Almberg made a motion extended public comment period for an additional 15 minutes, Councilmember Severns seconded, and carried unanimously.

Those speaking in opposition to the removal of the Post Office Oak Tree were:

Martha Yount
Carol LaFond
Melissa Duffy
Dr. Michael Ratray
Angie Homola
Wendy Campbell-DeWinter

Mayor Dudley closed the public comment period at 7:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Munns asked to pull Consent Agenda Item d, the Employee Contract for Kellye Mazzoli as the proposed Executive Assistant to the Mayor.

Motion: Councilmember Severns moved to approve Consent Agenda Items a, b, c, and e, Councilmember Almberg seconded, unanimously approved.

- a. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held March 18, 2014 and Minutes of the Workshop meeting held March 26, 2014
- b. Approval of *Accounts Payable Voucher Numbers*:
 - Voucher Numbers 157677 through 157688 in the amount of \$804.07
 - Voucher Numbers 157689 through 157839 in the amount of \$682,667.36Approval of *Payroll Check Numbers*:
 - Direct Deposit Numbers 30643 through 30790
 - EFT Numbers 600 through 604
 - Payroll Check Numbers 97056 through 97110
- c. Motion to approve re-appointment of Greg Wasinger to the Planning Commission
- d. Motion to sign Employment Contract for the Executive Assistant to the Mayor
- e. Motion to authorize purchase of Traffic Paint

Mayor Dudley introduced Kellye Mazzoli to the Council.

Motion: Councilmember Munns moved to approve the motion to sign the Mayor's Executive Assistant employee contract for Kellye Mazzoli. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Campbell and carried unanimously.

STAFF, MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

City Administrator

Dr. Cort proudly announced that the City successfully closed on the Whidbey Island Bank property. Dr. Cort then mentioned that a Workshop will be opened on April 17, 2014 at the Elk's Lodge at 6:00 p.m. to provide the public an opportunity share comments, ideas, and priorities with the Councilmembers regarding the new Waste Water Treatment Facility.

Dr. Cort introduced the public hearings to be held at the April 15, 2014 Council Meeting.

Councilmember Alberg asked to reschedule the Workshop to April 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. and the proposed date was confirmed by the remaining Councilmembers.

Mayor Dudley discussed upcoming projects and stated that he would like to provide the Councilmembers with details on these future developments at the April 23 Workshop.

Councilmembers

Councilmember Paggao spoke on the Deborah Palmer homicide which took place 17 years ago and the monetary award for individuals who produce information regarding this unsolved mystery.

Councilmember Alberg cleared up some of the misunderstandings regarding the decision to remove the Post Office Oak Tree. He apologized that the issue to bring this decision to the citizens beforehand was not addressed.

Councilmember Munns thanked the food bank volunteers for their efforts and support.

Councilmember Severns echoed Councilmember Alberg's concern regarding the decision to remove the Oak Tree and was very interested in the public's comments to improve the integrity of the City and the Garry Oak Trees of Oak Harbor.

Councilmember Severns thanked the staff for the thorough presentation and stated that the Councilmembers need to be more proactive going forward and execute City decisions in a better fashion.

Mayor Dudley announced a five-minute recess at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor Dudley reconvened the Council meeting at 7:53 p.m.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC MEETINGS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Annual Report

Chief Merrill provided the staff report on the 2013 Annual Fire Department Report.

Chief Merrill provided the Council with a personnel update and announced Paul Schoer as the Fire Department's new lieutenant.

Chief Merrill presented video footage of an actual structure fire that took place in Canada.

Councilmember Alberg asked about the standard distance from water hydrants.

Chief Merrill provided a power point presentation to the Council.

Mayor Dudley opened the meeting for public comment at 8:29 p.m., no comment, closed the public comment period at 8:29 p.m.

Councilmembers AlMBERG, Munns and Mayor Pro Tem Paggao asked Chief Merrill several follow-up questions.

Councilmembers Severns and Campbell thanked Chief Merrill for the detailed report and the department's sincere diligence in serving Oak Harbor.

Councilmember Servatius thanked the Fire Department for their superior services with the budget that they had been given.

Mayor Dudley thanked Chief Merrill for the great presentation and the excellent services rendered by the Fire Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Severns moved, seconded by Councilmember AlMBERG, to adjourn, and unanimously carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Anna M. Thompson, City Clerk