

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, March 2, 2015

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

Mayor Nichols called the first Council meeting for the month of March to order at 7:00 p.m. at Woodway Town Hall, 23920 113th Place West. Councilmembers William Anderson, Tom Howard, Elizabeth Mitchell, Kent Saltonstall, and Tom Whitson were present. Clerk Treasurer Joyce Bielefeld was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Mitchell moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2015. *Councilmember Saltonstall* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Councilmember Anderson moved to approve Claims Checks #9418 through #9433 including EFT's for the amount of \$14,236.28. *Councilmember Mitchell* seconded the motion. Mayor Nichols requested that the claim check for the Town's credit card include more detail. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Mitchell moved to approve Payroll Checks #9414 through 9417 and EFT's for the amount of \$46,465.09. *Councilmember Anderson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION:

Councilmember Anderson moved to amend the agenda to add item 7, Authorize Mayor to sign Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County for overlay improvements. *Councilmember Whitson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: Lisa Bauer, 21919 Makah Road, stated that she heard a rumor that the electric company is putting the southern part of Woodway on a different substation. She also heard that the Point Edwards Condominiums would be taken off the substation and the electric company would put Woodway on the substation. She suggested the Town Hall be transferred to the Brightwater substation so it could be an emergency center during power outages.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Anderson reported that he attended the recent Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA) meeting. He said there will be another meeting tomorrow to discuss the long term future of ESCA.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nichols reported that she attended two recent ESCA meetings. She stated that, if all member cities moved to Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management (DEM), it would allow for hiring of four additional full-time staff positions while the member cities would realize a substantial cost savings. The ESCA board decided that each member city needs to report by the March ESCA meeting whether they will continue with the current ESCA organization or move to the County's DEM

program. If the vote were to move to the County, it would not happen until January 2016. She suggested that the Woodway Council discuss the issue at the March 16 Council meeting.

Mayor Nichols reported that she asked Public Works Director Bryant to prepare a memo on how he works with Snohomish County PUD especially on issues relating to tree trimming along electrical lines. She stated that the PUD has regulatory power to require a property owner to remove a hazardous tree.

Mayor Nichols reported on the Council's earlier discussion about Deer Creek vs. Willow Creek. She said Deer Creek is within Olympic View's water reserve while Willow Creek starts in Edmonds, flows through a culvert under Woodway Park Road and then is open all the way through the Estates and down to the fish hatchery

Mayor Nichols reminded the Council that a Council Retreat will be held on March 6, 2015 from 2-5 pm in Edmonds. She asked Council to forward any agenda items they would like to discuss.

Suzanne Hunter, 21901 Makah Road, thanked the public works staff for their hard work especially in keeping Woodway's roads clean.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: None

DISCUSSION OF NOOTKA ROAD:

Mayor Nichols explained that this item is important because this street is scheduled to have an overlay this summer and if the road is going to be reconfigured, that decision should be made prior to the overlay.

John Brock, 11401 Makah Road, asked the Council to consider removing the traffic calming restrictions on the north end of Nootka Road at Pine Street. He submitted a list of fifteen names and signatures of neighbors, as well as several email messages, in support of the idea. He explained the background of the one way road, the current situation, and concluded that the traffic calming measures attempted to solve a problem that never came to pass. He stated that removal of the one-way restriction at an appropriate time was in the best interest of all residents of Woodway Park Estates, visitors, and those that provide services to the neighborhood. He urged the Council to consider reopening Nootka Road to two-way traffic and thanked the Council for consideration.

Suzanne Hunter, 21901 Makah Road, shared that she was part of the group who petitioned to have Nootka Street reopened to traffic nearly 10 years ago.

Gordy Hunter, 21901 Makah Road, stated that it was important to hear from the residents who live closest to the intersection, as they would bear the majority of the impact, including additional traffic and parking.

Tom St. John, 21900 Nootka Road, stated that he lives on top of Nootka and asked how many units and parking stalls would be included in Point Edwards building 10. Mayor Nichols said the plan was to build 68 units and there would be both underground parking and an above grade parking lot behind the building that will have 50 parking spots. Mr. St. John stated he did not think there would be a lot of traffic but was concerned that the area would become a parking lot during construction. He hoped the town would work proactively on parking to keep it from becoming a problem.

Lisa Bauer, 21919 Makah Road, shared that she and her husband are against opening the road to two-way traffic at this time. She thinks that the egress-only intersection has acted as a deterrent to additional traffic. She suggested moving the traffic monitoring sign farther down the hill and to the east (just west of the intersection of Makah Road and Whitcomb Place). She requested the Council consider waiting until after the construction of building 10 at Point Edwards before making a decision regarding two way traffic.

Mike Jones, 11535 Makah Road, stated that he thought the traffic counter deterred many people from coming in the wrong way on the one-way road; he has seen people pull in and then back up and out. He is also shared concerns about the parking issue. He stated that when the road was open to both lanes of traffic, people used it as a parking area and parked along the road. He stated that the driving time to use other routes within Woodway was only a couple of minutes longer.

Councilmember Anderson, 11515 Bella Coola Road, stated that he has mixed feelings on this issue. He stated that when the development was approved, both Chinook and Nootka were considered for full closure. He commented that when one road is closed, it affects many other families who live along the alternative routes. He also expressed his concern about the parking issue and the new construction.

Dianne St. John, 21900 Nootka Road, stated that people already drive in the wrong way on Nootka Road.

Jim Korbein, 11333 Makah Road, stated that he had mixed feelings; for him, it was not a question of driving time, but a concern about increased parking and traffic if the road were opened to two-way traffic. He suggested that the Council review the current parking ordinance with the purpose of increasing fines for illegal parking.

Lori Jones, 11535 Makah Road, stated that people were coming through the one-way road illegally on a regular basis. She commented that, during construction of Point Edwards, the construction company used the upper bluff for a staging area and now she wondered where the construction workers would park their vehicles. She recommended waiting until the impact of the construction is over before considering whether to open the road to two-way traffic.

Lisa Bauer, 21919 Makah Road, commented that Point Edwards building 10 was not going to be solely condominiums but will also include apartments, therefore some of the residents will be transient. She stated that since there will be apartments, the residents

would be working rather than retired and that would create more traffic. She recommended waiting until the impact of the construction is over before considering opening the road to two-way traffic.

Mike Jones, 11535 Makah Road, recommended waiting until after the construction of building 10 is complete before considering opening the road to two-way traffic.

Councilmember Anderson stated that he had asked Public Works Director Terrance Bryant about the impact of doing the overlay and then subsequently opening the road to two-way traffic. Public Works Director Bryant said that there would not be much of a financial impact.

SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT DRAFT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT:

This Interlocal agreement would allow coordinated work on various projects, including Deer Creek Park. The Snohomish Conservation District supports Woodway's goals of preserving the native growth areas and urban forest lands and could provide outreach or classes to the community on various topics, such as bluff management, backyard habitats, and conservation topics.

ACTION: *Councilmember Mitchell* moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Snohomish Conservation District draft Interlocal Agreement subject to the attorney's approval. *Councilmember Saltonstall* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SNOHOMISH COUNTY-OVERLAY IMPROVEMENTS:

This Interlocal agreement allows Snohomish County to do overlay improvements to Woodway roads as requested by the Public Works Director.

ACTION: *Councilmember Howard* moved to authorize the Mayor to sign Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County for overlay improvements. *Councilmember Anderson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION-CHOICE OF SUBJECTS:

Mayor Nichols announced that Dorothy Jorgensen, 104, a 50+-year resident of Woodway and mother of resident Buck Jorgensen, recently passed away.

Mayor Nichols announced that the City of Orting, with a population of 7000 residents, performs two annual community emergency evacuations because they are in a lahar area. She was impressed with this level of community preparedness and felt Woodway could benefit from Orting's experience as we prepare our own plans for natural disasters.

Mayor Nichols said she had a draft letter ready to send to area real estate agents with the purpose of the agents having a better understanding of Woodway, its culture, its

governmental structure and community services .The Council suggested a few amendments to the letter.

In response to a question at a previous meeting, Mayor Nichols shared that there is currently a bill in the legislature for funding LIDAR mapping throughout the state because of potential landslide hazards. Woodway's bluff (due to the presence of Burlington Northern Railroad) would be included in that mapping project.

Mayor Nichols asked for Council's opinions regarding a proposed entry sign that could be used in the Woodway Reserve. The sign is a large, honed rock with etched lettering. She will share cost estimates at the next meeting.

Councilmember Saltonstall commented that he noticed all of the new garbage service cans are high visibility blue, not green and wondered if we could request green rental cans in Woodway.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Saltonstall moved to adjourn the meeting. *Councilmember Mitchell* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

Joyce Bielefeld, Clerk Treasurer

Carla Nichols, Mayor

(These minutes accurately reflect what was said at the Council Meeting. Publication does not vouch for the veracity of these statements.)