

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, August 19, 2013

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

The second Council meeting for the month of August was called to order by Mayor Nichols at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dan and Kaye Lyon, 22430 Dogwood Lane. Councilmembers present were William Anderson, Elizabeth Mitchell, Mike Quinn, Kent Saltonstall, and Tom Whitson. Clerk Treasurer Joyce Bielefeld and Town Administrator Eric Faison were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Saltonstall moved to approve the minutes of August 5, 2013 as amended. *Councilmember Mitchell* seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes as amended carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Councilmember Anderson moved to approve Claims Checks #8675 through #8693 including EFT's for the total amount of \$24,806.83. *Councilmember Whitson* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

COUNCIL REPORTS: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nichols commented that the September meeting will be on Tuesday, September 3 and the second meeting in September will be cancelled. Mayor Nichols requested that the first meeting in October be changed from October 7 to October 14.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: None

FIRE CONTRACT:

Mayor Nichols introduced Chief Cowan from Shoreline Fire Department and invited the Council to ask questions about the proposed fire and EMS contract. Councilmember Anderson asked about the response times to the north side of Woodway and whether Chief Cowan had driven both routes (via Hwy 99 and via Richmond Beach Road). Chief Cowan responded that he had tested both routes and the response time was nearly the same. He also said that response vehicles generally travel ten miles per hour over the speed limit.

Councilmember Saltonstall asked how calls would be dispatched and how payment for dispatch would be handled. Chief Cowan responded that Woodway currently receives dispatch from Southwest Snohomish County Communications Agency (SNOCOM). If SNOCOM continues to dispatch calls for Woodway, then Shoreline would pay the dispatch fee. If SNOCOM transfers the calls to North East King County Regional Public Safety Communication Agency (NORCOM), Shoreline Fire Department may need to pay both agencies. Chief Cowan said there would be approximately an additional 17

seconds per call if they are transferred to NORCOM. Councilmember Saltonstall said that he asked the SNOCOM director about call transfer time; she said that it would take about 30 to 50 seconds longer.

Councilmember Quinn asked if Shoreline could serve more residents faster than Fire District 1. Chief Cowan responded that 70% of the residents would get quicker service because of the density in the southern portion of Woodway.

Councilmember Mitchell asked if the dispatch delay could be reduced. Chief Cowan responded that they would find the most efficient routes.

Councilmember Whitson asked about the events that would trigger a contract cost increase, specifically if the number of calls exceeded 85 per year. Mayor Nichols said that there have been approximately 40 calls per year in the recent past. Chief Cowan said that the intent of the language was to renegotiate the contract if the call volume increased consistently, not just for a one-time emergency event.

Councilmember Anderson asked about the emergency medical services (EMS) personnel and vehicles of the Shoreline Fire Department. Chief Cowan responded that a Basic Life Support (BLS) crew would be dispatched first and then, if necessary, the call would be upgraded and an advanced life support (ALS) crew would be dispatched. Each of the stations maintains a crew and vehicles for BLS and ALS services.

Mayor Nichols asked to what hospital a patient will be transported. Chief Cowan said that it is a patient's right to choose the hospital where they will be transported.

Chief Matt Cowan stated they would use the additional funds paid by Woodway to hire another firefighter and to purchase an additional aid vehicle.

When asked how they are associated with the City of Shoreline, Chief Cowan stated that the City annexed into the fire department, essentially creating a fire district. The Fire Department works primarily with the City of Shoreline building department for fire permit approval. Chief Cowan also explained how the Shoreline Fire Department provides ALS services in various portions of King County.

Councilmember Saltonstall asked Fire District 1 Chief Widdis if Snohomish County Fire District 1 (FD1) would have to lay off firefighters if Woodway chooses not to renew the contract with FD1. Chief Widdis stated that they would not lay off any personnel and the costs would go up in other areas.

Councilmember Quinn asked about the rationale behind Fire District 1's reduced contract amount and what new services Fire District 1 would provide in the coming year.

Chief Widdis responded that the Commissioners reviewed the costs for their various contract cities and realized that Woodway's contract specified increases more than other cities. The Commissioners felt that it would be appropriate to offer Woodway a reduced contract amount in the future. Chief Widdis also responded that FD1 recently

took over the fire rescue boat and they have a medic crew at station one in Edmonds. He stated that they could provide faster paramedic service because they have more stations closer to Woodway.

Councilmember Mitchell commented that Woodway has had a contract with FD1 for only three years. She asked Chief Cowan to respond to the statement that Shoreline would have longer response times if the primary medic unit was unavailable. He stated that there are three units available. The closest unit that has two medics; backup would come from Kenmore. They have mutual aid agreements with other service providers in the area, including Seattle.

Councilmember Whitson asked when Shoreline Fire Department would begin enhancing their service. Chief Cowan stated that they have already started after the last council meeting.

Councilmember Anderson asked how FD1 is controlling their costs. Chief Widdis responded that they have reduced the battalion chief shifts down to 12 hours per day instead of 24 hours per day at each of the stations. He said they are also looking at ways to deploy the calls in non-traditional ways including deploying a crew for an 8-hour shift during peak times rather than the traditional 24-hour shift.

Chief Cowan said that Shoreline Fire Department was looking to develop new revenue streams and control costs by using different schedules.

Councilmember Anderson expressed frustration with the Fire District 1 Commissioners and commented that, as Woodway has good relationships with other south Snohomish County cities and entities, he is concerned about crossing the county line for fire services.

Councilmember Saltonstall said that, as Woodway is part of South Snohomish County, Woodway should contract with a Snohomish County fire service.

Councilmember Quinn expressed his frustration with Fire District 1's high cost. He said that he felt that it was appropriate to cross county lines to get the best deal for citizens.

Councilmember Mitchell stated that she didn't feel it would affect Woodway's relationships with other Snohomish County cities and that, because our state representatives come largely from Shoreline, we are already involved in King County. She said that it did not seem risky to sign a contract with Shoreline Fire Department and appreciated the fact that 70% of Woodway residents would get faster service through Shoreline Fire Department.

Councilmember Whitson expressed his frustration with Fire District 1 and said that he wants to continue to build a relationship with Shoreline Fire Department.

ACTION: *Councilmember Saltonstall* moved to finalize and renew the contract with Fire District 1. *Councilmember Anderson* seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion

failed with Councilmembers Anderson and Saltonstall voting yes and Councilmembers Quinn, Mitchell, and Whitson voting no.

ACTION: *Councilmember Mitchell* moved to finalize a contract with Shoreline Fire Department. *Councilmember Quinn* seconded the motion. The motion carried with 3 yes and 2 no votes.

RESOLUTION #13-367, STATEMENT OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESSES PURSUANT TO SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S PLANNING POLICY JP-2:

Mayor Nichols explained that each participating member of Snohomish County Tomorrow was asked to pass a resolution agreeing that they would participate in a dispute resolution process. Snohomish County Tomorrow would develop a process for mediation and/or alternative dispute resolution to aid in the prevention and resolution of interjurisdictional land use disputes.

ACTION: *Councilmember Mitchell* moved to approve Resolution 13-367; a statement of intent to participate in dispute resolution processes pursuant to Snohomish County's planning policy JB-2. *Councilmember Quinn* seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: *Councilmember Quinn* moved to amend the agenda to add a discussion on the Town Hall project contingency. *Councilmember Mitchell* seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN HALL CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY DISCUSSION

Town Administrator Eric Faison reviewed the town hall project costs and the change orders. He requested additional funds to cover final expenses for the Town Hall project. The Council discussed construction costs, change orders, and the original contingency amount.

ACTION: *Councilmember Quinn* moved to increase the contract for the town hall project by \$50,000. *Councilmember Mitchell* seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Nichols recessed to Executive Session at 9:04 pm for approximately ten minutes to discuss possible litigation.

Mayor Nichols reconvened the meeting at 9:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. *Councilmember Quinn* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

Joyce Bielefeld, Clerk Treasurer

Carla A. Nichols, Mayor

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