TOWN OF HUNTS POINT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY September 14, 2015
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Joe Sabey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:
Ted Frantz
Elaine Coles
Dan Temkin
Ken Fisher
Pat Finnelly

Council Member Absent:
None

Staff:
Sue Ann Spens, Clerk Treasurer
Stacia Schroeder, Town Engineer
Mona Green, Town Planner
Lt. Dan Yourkoski, Medina Police

Public Attendees:
Penny O'Byrne, Park Commission Chair
Mark Bloom, Resident
Bob Schofield, Resident

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident Mark Bloom commented on the following:

1. The current zoning code treats space in below-grade basements the same way it treats space that is above ground. Since below-grade construction does not alter the outside appearance of a home, he wondered why that space is included in GFAR and asked the Council to consider amending the Zoning Code to exclude it. Town Planner Green answered that the Town recently implemented some changes to the Zoning Code with regard to GFAR and daylight basements that may have resolved this issue already. Mr. Bloom will review the new code with Ms. Green to learn more.

2. He coaches a kids soccer team that regularly uses Hunts Point Park for its practices. Several years ago the Town completed a project to improve drainage throughout the field, but now the grass in the vicinity of the drains is dying, leaving behind ruts. Mr. Bloom is concerned that the ruts pose a tripping hazard

and asked if the contractor who installed the drainage can be compelled to fix the system. Town Engineer Stacia Schroeder and Clerk-Treasurer Spens will look for documentation of the work done and determine the best way to remedy the situation.

3. Concerning the park and its use, Mr. Bloom commented that he reserved the field for his team's practices by calling Town Hall and working through the existing permitting process. Occasionally another team will already be using the field when he and his team arrive at their reserved time, and the other team will not yield. He wondered if there is some way for the Town to post a notice with the schedule of reservations. Clerk-Treasurer Spens will review the process for reserving the field and determine what will best address this situation.

   While discussing this, the question of whether the Town should install "Play at your own risk" signs came up. Town Attorney Long will review current legal thinking about the value of such signs in public spaces.

4. A recent problem on SR520 brought traffic throughout the Points Cities to a near standstill. He was trying to leave town for a doctor's appointment and, after sitting for 20 minutes trying to reach the 84th Ave Roundabout, he gave up and went home. He noted that this appointment was not critical, but if he had been trying to get to the Emergency Room, it could have been. He asked the Council to consider how to address such a situation.

Resident Bob Schofield asked the Council if there are plans to mitigate the appearance of the shiny cabinet near the entrance to Hunts Point. Mayor Sabey answered yes. Mr. Schofield then asked if the Town can do anything about the purchase of homes by absentee owners who have no intention of living in them or renting them to others. There is one such unoccupied home near his property that has been unoccupied for so long that it has become a haven for rats and rabbits. He asked if the Town can either regulate or mitigate such ownership. Town Planner Green will review the Town's nuisance regulations to learn if there is any relief there.

CONSENT CALENDAR Consists of routine items for which Council discussion is not required. A Councilmember may request that an item be moved to Regular Business for discussion. Consent items are approved with one vote.

Motion: Approve the Consent Calendar, including minutes of August 3, 2015 Council meeting as amended and the September 8, 2015 Warrant Register for warrant numbers 150556 through 150583 in the amount of $53,155.91. Moved by Frantz seconded by Temkin.
Passed 5 - 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

STAFF REPORTS

Medina Police Department: Lt. Dan Yourkoski reported that in August there were no citations in Hunts Point and the traffic infractions reported were mainly due to the SR520 problems mentioned earlier. He explained that an accident on the bridge deck stopped the flow of westbound traffic on SR520, which then backed up commuters onto the city streets throughout the area feeding westbound SR520. He agreed with Mr. Bloom that traffic completely stopped moving through the 84th Ave Roundabout, trapping cars on Hunts Point with no way to leave.

After some discussion about the problem and possible solutions, he suggested that the Council work with police to establish a protocol for an alternate escape route that can be used in the event of an emergency. It was noted that if a resident has a serious medical emergency, they can and should call 911 so that an ambulance will respond to render aid and/or transport the injured party to the hospital.

Bellevue Fire Department: Report noted.

Clerk's Report:

Council Financial Authority - Clerk-Treasurer Spens reminded Councilmembers that no individual Councilmember has the authority to expend Town funds or commit Town services without the full Council's approval.

Century Link - She reported that the agreement with Century Link for use of existing conduits is in review with Town Attorney Jay Long. Mr. Long asked the Council for input on an appropriate term for the agreement, noting that he thinks a 5-year term would be appropriate, while Century Link is proposing a 20-year term. It was the consensus of the Council that 10 years was probably an appropriate term. In addition, the Council would like Century Link to put everything underground and eliminate the aboveground boxes that litter the right-of-way.

2016 Budget - Clerk-Treasurer Spens reminded the Council that the budget cycle for 2016 begins next month with the review of a preliminary budget focusing primarily on revenues and revenue sources. Budget work will continue in November with the review of a proposed budget and passage of the property-tax levy for 2016. A final budget will be adopted by ordinance in December. She asked staff and Councilmembers with specific funding needs to notify her of those needs as soon as possible and to offer other budget suggestions/estimates, as desired.

Memorial Benches - Clerk-Treasurer Spens reported that four benches have been installed in front of Town Hall replacing the teak benches. She is still working to find an appropriate marker on which to install memorial plaques. She is also working to find new homes for the benches in Hunts Point Park and suggested placing them near the Play Area and the Tennis Courts.

WRIA 8 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 15-245 authorizing the Mayor to execute an Interlocal Agreement for the watershed basins within Water Resource Inventory Area 8. Moved by Finnelly, seconded by Coles.
Passed 5 - 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Clerk-Treasurer Spens explained that the proposed Interlocal Agreement was prepared at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Division (FEMD), which reviewed and approved the Town's emergency plan. The Town's emergency plan already specifies this relationship and the Town has an existing agreement with Medina for police services, but FEMD chose to require this Interlocal Agreement to memorialize the specific emergency-response duties.

Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 15-246 authorizing the Mayor to execute an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Medina for Police Services in an emergency. Moved by Fisher, seconded by Finnelly.
Passed 5 - 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

HUNTS POINT CIRCLE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Town Engineer Stacia Schroeder reviewed the status of this project and updated the Council on Bellevue's Water-Main Replacement project. She then noted that PACE has reduced the estimated fee to design the new rolled curb and gutter proposed for Hunts Point Circle. Upon discussion, the Council decided to continue this discussion next month and that they will need to review the Planning Commission's original recommendations for Hunts Point Circle and see the plans they used to develop those recommendations.

PROPOSED PARKING CODE CHANGES

Clerk-Treasurer Spens recapped the Council's earlier discussions on this topic and reminded them that they had asked her to work with Chief Burns to develop parking rules that are easier to understand and more enforceable. She reported that she and Chief Burns developed several ideas, including:
1. Write separate rules for each street. While this makes some aspects of the code redundant, the rules will be much easier to state and, one hopes, to follow.
2. Consider starting a guest-pass program so that residents are able to accommodate overnight guests without fear of ticketing.
3. Clarify just what rules will apply to contractor vehicles, including those used for construction projects, landscaping, worker transport.
4. Reorganize the parking code chapter, eliminating sections that are no longer needed and rearranging much of what remains.

In discussing these proposed changes, the Council decided to adopt the Planning Commission's two previous recommendations and have them included in the draft code that results from the new Planning Commission study, i.e.
1. Revise the no-parking hours from 9pm - 6 am to 11 pm to 6am; though one councilmember questioned whether there should be any restriction on overnight parking.
2. Adopt the RCW parking rules so that Medina Police can impose consistent fines that recapture the true cost of issuing parking citations. Staff will work with Medina Police to obtain the RCW citations to be referenced.

Motion: Amend the parking code to change the No-Parking hours from 9pm - 6 am to 11 pm - 6am and to adopt the RCW parking rules by reference. Moved by Frantz seconded by Fisher.
Passed 5- 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion: Instruct the Planning Commission to study parking restrictions and rules on a street-by-street basis, including whether to restrict overnight parking for residents, and forward draft code language to the Council with a recommendation. Moved by Temkin seconded by Finnelly.
Passed 5 - 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE / PARKS COMMISSION DUTIES

Mayor Sabey opened by stating that the Beautification Committee has started meeting to develop plans for improving the appearance of several areas in Town, including the Hunts Point Traffic Circle, Town Hall grounds, and several rights-of-way (ROWs) that the Town landscaped several years ago and has been responsible for maintaining since. He explained that one of the original members of the Committee, who was also a member of the Parks Commission, recently expressed concerns that the work being taken on by the Committee overlaps with the duties already assigned to the Park Commission in HPMC Chapter 2.20. Mayor Sabey feels it behooves the Council to briefly discuss these concerns and determine how best to proceed.

Penny O'Byrne commented that she is also a member of both the Parks Commission and the Beautification Committee and that she knows of no other members of the Parks Commission who are concerned about the Beautification Committee's activities. She added that she is thrilled that the Council is taking an active interest in re-landscaping these areas, because the improved appearance will benefit everyone in Hunts Point.

Councilmember Temkin updated the Council on the Committee's guidelines and read the group's Charter. He added that the committee is working on a Request for Proposals from landscape architects to develop plans for all areas that enhance the Town's "curb appeal". He mentioned that the committee would like to gain access to some of the WSDOT property to provide a landscape buffer

between Town Hall and the 84th Ave Roundabout, to screen the equipment box from motorists' view, and the screen the sound wall to mitigate its appearance. He added that the Committee would like authorization to spend no more than $2,000 to collect the information landscaping firms need before they can develop proposals. This money would be used for minor expenses, including paying the Town Arborist to examine the trees in a couple of the areas and make recommendations.

Mayor Sabey noted that access to WSDOT property may be problematic at this time, since the four Points Cities that border SR520 are just beginning to negotiate a maintenance agreement for these areas. He added that if time is of the essence, he is willing to approach WSDOT with the question, but obviously there is no guarantee.

Motion: Authorize the Beautification Committee to spend up to $2,000 to obtain the preliminary information needed to develop landscaping plans for the traffic circle, Town Hall grounds, and other public spaces. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Coles.
Passed 5 - 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sabey reported that meetings to negotiate a maintenance agreement with WSDOT will begin within the month at Medina City Hall. He expects the end product will be an Interlocal Agreement between WSDOT, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina, and Yarrow Point.

He noted that a number of the WSDOT trees have died and Town Planner Mona Green will be looking at them and working to get them replaced. He also noted that he hears frequent complaints about the garbage cans on the lid being full to overflowing.

Executive Session: The Council adjourned the regular session at 8:39pm for an executive session to discuss pending litigation. The session is expected to last five minutes.

At 8:44pm, the Council reconvened its regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Moved by Temkin, seconded by Coles.
Passed 5-0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

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Sue Ann Spens, Clerk/Treasurer