

TOWN OF HUNTS POINT

COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fred McConkey called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Councilmembers Jeri Boettcher, Ted Frantz, Kevin Hughes, and Larry Williams were present. Councilmember Jim Nordstrom was absent. Staff present was Assistant Town Attorney Margaret King, Chief Jeff Chen of the Medina Police, Town Engineer Joe Willis and Town Administrator Jack McKenzie. Also in attendance were Hunts Point residents Henrik Nielsen and Bruce Swenson and Michael Hornvedt, Julie Meredith, Lindsay Yamane and Chelsea Tennyson of the Washington State Department of Transportation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF August 6, 2007

MOTION: Approve minutes of the Council Meeting of August 6th as written. Moved by Boettcher, seconded by Hughes. Passed 4-0. **MOTION CARRIED**

POLICE REPORT

Chief Chen said there was very little criminal activity in Hunts Point in August.

Mayor McConkey inquired about the circumstances surrounding the theft of a car in Hunts Point on an earlier date. Chief Chen explained the keys to the car were in the pocket of a jacket the owner left close to the car. It was his feeling that the theft was a crime of opportunity.

Chief Chen described some of the criminal activity that had occurred in Medina. Councilmember Hughes asked about the status of the surplus vehicle the Town was buying. Chief Chen said he would be completing the declaration of surplus soon and closing the deal before the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor McConkey mentioned the Town had acquired signs warning drivers of the illegality of “cut-through” and “turn around” traffic to circumvent the queue to the on ramp. Mr. Willis said the sign would be mounted on the camera mast in the center of the traffic circle at the same time the signs are installed for the speed tables on Hunts Point Lane.

Mayor McConkey inquired about the status of Medina’s surveillance camera system. Chief Chen said that SecureFocus submitted the only proposal and was being retained to design and install the system. He said the City Manager of Medina was working with SecureFocus to establish cameras in two locations as a test. Mayor McConkey added that Councilmember Nordstrom was working with Medina and SecureFocus to make certain the added cameras in Hunts Point would be compatible with Medina’s.

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Chief Chen announced that Medina had obtained an additional grant from the Homeland Security Department in the amount of \$127,000 to increase the communications capabilities of the Command Coach. He called the upgraded Command Coach a “one of a kind asset for Eastside law enforcement”.

Chief Chen said his department was now at full staff.

FIRE SERVICES REPORT

Mayor McConkey reported there were three EMS calls, one service call and a false alarm in July. He remarked that it seemed there were fewer false alarms now, than in the past.

STREETLIGHTS ON HUNTS POINT LANE

Mr. Willis reported the new streetlights have been installed and the speed tables should be installed by the first of October.

HUNTS POINT ROAD PROJECT

Mr. Willis announced the Hunts Point Road Project was now complete and the final estimate presented by Merlino Construction had been paid. Mr. McKenzie said the Town held over \$79,000 in retainage, which will be used to pay any claims against Merlino from outside sources. After sixty days, if there are no claims, the retainage will be paid to Merlino and the project books will be closed.

MOTION: Accept the Hunts Point Road Project as complete. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Hughes. Passed 4-0. MOTION CARRIED

STAND-BY GENERATOR FOR TOWN HALL

Mr. Willis suggested the purchase of a generator from Quinn Electric should be approved. He came to this conclusion after the call for bid process by the City of Medina also drew only one response, also from Quinn.

MOTION: Accept the bid offer of Quinn Electric for the purchase and installation of a standby generator to serve Town Hall at a cost of \$41,661. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Williams. Passed 4-0. MOTION CARRIED

POINTS DRIVE OVERLAY PROJECT

Councilmember Frantz pointed out the transition from four lanes to two in the eastbound direction was established in a way that made it difficult for drivers to negotiate. Mr. Willis explained the lanes were temporary and the regular striping would provide for an easier transition.

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TRAFFIC SPEED STUDY

Councilmember Williams provided a recap of activities to date including putting the speed study results into Excel so they could be manipulated into charts and graphs and, charts and graphs had been prepared by Councilmember Frantz and Mr. Nielsen. Mr. Nielsen described his methodology for summarizing the data and charting it. Councilmember Frantz explained his graphs showed the percentages of levels of speed for each day of the study. Discussion followed.

A discussion of the various means of slowing traffic ensued. Some of the solutions included a stepped up police enforcement effort and lane narrowing techniques such as widening the fog lines to give an appearance of narrowing. It was suggested that a trimming of the growth covering the speed limit signs so people could see them would be of help.

SR-520 PROJECT DESIGN

Ms. Meredith introduced the program and gave a historical perspective on the project to date. She said the project had an estimated cost of \$4.38 billion. A funding source schedule was displayed. She narrated a power point presentation on the various design considerations for the project. She spoke favorably about the collaboration WSDOT has enjoyed with the Eastside Communities. Discussion and questions and answers followed. She commended Mayor McConkey for his eighteen years of service on the Translake/SR-520 Project.

Mr. Yamane described the design process in detail and spoke to the current results of the process. He pointed out the Points Communities Mayors were key to bringing the Eastside design to fruition. He then explained how the design of the westbound on-ramp from 84th Avenue Northeast to westbound SR-520 would work. He also described the configuration of both the 92nd Avenue Northeast and the Bellevue Way ramps to give access to SR-520.

Mr. Yamane said the Regional Bike/Pedestrian Pathway would be located on the north side of SR-520 and would be separated from the Points Loop Trail. Discussion and questions followed.

A display of traffic simulations with narrative followed. This was very informative. Questions were taken during the narrative. The timing of construction, assuming funds become available, would be in the time period between 2013 and 2020.

Mr. Hornvedt gave a presentation on traffic operations through the use of micro-simulations illustrating how various traffic volumes perform at the present time and in the future. He said an average day's traffic at the present time was used for the basis and volumes were increased at 3% to 2030. Questions and answers were also a part of this presentation.

Further questions about traffic patterns and street usage on 84th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Points Drive at the on ramp followed.

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GRANT FOR TOLLING

Councilmember Boettcher inquired about the offer of a \$123 million grant announced in the news media. Ms. Meredith said it was an Urban Partnership Grant. The request for the grant was a joint effort between the Puget Sound Regional Council, King County and the State Department of Transportation to study management of traffic through tolling, transit, technology and telecommuting. The State Department of Transportation was selected by the Federal Department of Transportation. In order to get full funding WSDOT has to demonstrate they are pursuing tolling, working with the State Legislature on tolling matters and can implement tolls in the 520 corridor by 2009. She said members of the legislature are very cautious about this grant.

Mayor McConkey pointed out that, should the Regional Transit Investment District funding package not be approved by the voters in November, the SR-520 Project will be put on hold pending funding.

QUIET PAVEMENT

Councilmember Frantz said the quiet pavement being tested on SR-520 was a great improvement over the old pavement. Everyone agreed. Ms. Meredith said it was a test scheduled to cover five years and decisions regarding its further use would be taken then.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING

Mr. McKenzie said the necessary soil tests at the building site were underway. The project can't go forward until this information has been supplied to the architects.

TOWN HALL RENTAL

Ms. King said the memorandum prepared by Ms. Madche pointed out the legal requirement for obtaining compensation for the use of Town facilities. The State Constitution does not allow the Town to make contributions or gifts.

Mr. McKenzie said the question was raised last winter when the Council attempted to make a grant to the Hunts Point Circle of the Overlake Service League. People were disconcerted to find that gifts cannot be made to good cause non-profit organizations.

Mayor McConkey said the proposed rental rate for Town Hall was \$10.00 for the first hour and \$5.00 for each half-hour after that. This led to a discussion of what constituted fair compensation. Consensus was reached on the rental rate described above.

Ms. King was asked to draft an ordinance establishing the rental rates agreed to.

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MILFOIL CONTROL STATUS REPORT

Mayor McConkey announced the milfoil control program was over for the year. He said the mowing of the weeds did not provide the level of control that was desired. In order to prevent another bad weed year next year Aquatechnex was asked to conduct a round of weed control using 2-4D this year.

Mayor McConkey announced that Yarrow Point was working to establish an aquatic weed control program similar to Hunts Point's. They expect to finance it using a local improvement district.

Mayor McConkey proposed using Aquatechnex for chemical weed control and Aquatic Weed Control, Inc., for cleanup of floating vegetation. After discussion the Council reached a consensus to use this proposed program in 2008.

RAISING THE BASE REQUIEMENT FOR BUILDING PERMIT

Mayor McConkey read a memorandum from the Planning Commission recommending the base level of project cost requiring a building permit be raised from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Among the reasons stated was the fact that the \$1,500 base was established in 1995 and, in the ensuing twelve years costs have increased sufficiently to make inconsequential jobs eligible for a building permit.

MOTION: Adopt a base level of job cost requiring a building permit from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Moved by Williams, seconded by Boettcher. Passed 4-0. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ANNUAL RETREAT

Mayor McConkey announced the Annual Council Retreat was scheduled for October 19, 2007 at the Golf Club at Newcastle.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

Vouchers No. 14167 through 14203 in the amount of \$98,384.37 dated September 10, 2007 were presented for review, approval and signatures. Approval granted.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mayor McConkey adjourned the meeting at 10:20 PM.

Jack McKenzie, Town Administrator

APPROVED_____