

TOWN OF HUNTS POINT

COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 1, 2009



CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Mayor Fred McConkey Mayor Pro-Tem Ted Frantz opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Councilmembers Jeri Boettcher, Kevin Hughes, Jim Nordstrom and Larry Williams were present. Staff present was Assistant Town Attorney Margaret King, Chief Jeff Chen of the Medina Police, Deputy Clerk Linda Longmire, and Town Administrator Jack McKenzie. Residents present were Penny O’Byrne, Dee Claypool, Jill Davis, Annie Ottesen and property owner Nader Naini. Also present was Jeff Saboda or Robert Mahoney Architects.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2009

MOTION: Accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held as a Town Meeting on April 22, 2009 as written. Moved by Boettcher, seconded by Nordstrom. Passed 4-0. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2009

MOTION: Accept the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of May 4, 2009 as written. Moved by Nordstrom, seconded by Williams. Passed 4-0.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Chen said there were two incidents involving criminal activity in Hunts Point during May. One was a break in and theft from a yacht moored in the 3400 block of Hunts Point Road. The other was the theft of a large bonsai tree from a yard on Fairweather Place.

He went on to say that Medina Police were doing deep background checks on three candidates for employment with the department.

FIRE REPORT

There were two emergency medical calls and one false alarm in Hunts Point in the month of April.

TREE CODE REVISION ORDINANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Frantz introduced the subject and called for comments about the proposed revisions to the Tree Code.

Mr. Naini, 3405 Hunts Point Road, provided his views on the draft ordinance. He called it an “egregious” ordinance and said, if adopted, it would have a seriously deleterious effect upon property values in Hunts Point. As an example of the egregious nature of the ordinance he cited the portion of the draft that described the measures to be taken to protect trees during construction. He further stated that the

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 1, 2009

Page 2 of 3

negative impact resulting from changes in the code will be substantial in his estimation.

Mr. Saboda said he was at the meeting because a client owned 3600 Hunts Point Road. This client was planning to build in the future and he was curious about the affect the changes in code would have on his plans. Mr. Saboda also indicated a general curiosity he had about the new code. He mentioned that he and Scott Baker, the Town Arborist, had walked the client's property to establish a plan for retention of the native trees and the grade of the lot to minimize disruption to the property during construction.

A discussion of the effects of construction on trees on neighboring property was begun. It focused on damages to the roots of trees. Mr. Saboda mentioned that roots from neighboring trees encroaching on adjacent property were the same as tree branches overhanging the property line. The property encroached upon has the right to cut off the encroaching growth. Ms. O'Byrne pointed out that there were ways to avoid such action. Ms. King said that there sometimes are factors that make them impossible.

The layout of the amended ordinance was questioned. Ms. King explained the symbolism used in delineating the various changes. Strikeouts are old language that has been removed. The underlined items were new or added language. The highlighted language reflects the changes previously requested by the Council.

There followed a brisk discussion on the pros and cons of tree protection in Hunts Point. Included was some inquiry about the legitimacy of the requirement for a tree canopy cover of sixty percent.

A group review of the information contained in the proposed Compendium Manual was undertaken. This included the choices of replacement tree species and the ANSI Standards of tree care.

Mayor Pro-Tem Frantz assigned Ms. King to work with the Arborist and Park Commission members to prepare an outline document explaining the reasoning behind the changes proposed in the amended code.

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. McKenzie said the Annual Report for 2008 was completed and copies were provided for the Council. The report shows Hunts Point solidly in the black and operating prudently.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

Vouchers Nos. 14744 through 14784 in the amount of \$51,678.70 dated June 1, 2009 were presented for review, approval and signatures. Approval granted.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Frantz adjourned the meeting at 9:33 PM

APPROVED

Jack McKenzie
Town Administrator