

# **TOWN OF HUNTS POINT**

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 5, 2009**



### **CALL TO ORDER**

In Mayor Fred McConkey opened the meeting at 7:03 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, Lt. Dan Yourkoski of the Medina Police, Deputy Clerk Linda Longmire and Town Administrator Jack McKenzie. Residents present were Bruce Swenson, Mark Bloom, Ken Fisher, and Jill Davis. Also present were James Fruedenberg of Clearwire, Matt Cagan of Verizon and Derrick Priebe of T-Mobile.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2009**

**MOTION:** Accept the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of September 14, 2009 as written. Moved by Nordstrom, seconded by Hughes. Passed 3-0.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Lt. Yourkoski reported that there was no police activity in Hunts Point in September.

### **FIRE REPORT**

The fire report showed increased activity in August with five incidents, one fire, two EMS calls and two false alarms.

### **KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER JANE HAGUE**

Ms. Hague spoke to the problems King County has in balancing their 2010 Budget. She said their Current Expense Budget came in at \$621 million and the Revenue side was \$40 million less. She, and most of the rest of the KC Council, had promised no new taxes. This was causing a serious crunch in achieving a balanced budget.

Ms. Hague said that there had been attempts to balance the budget using furlough days and staff reductions but the unions had foiled the County's efforts, in one case requiring payment to staff that had voluntarily taken days off. That payment was \$13 million.

In addition to the budgetary problems with the general operating funds a large problem with the Howard Hanson Dam, a flood control project on the Green River system above the Duwamish Valley, required the relocation or barricading of several County Governmental Offices located around the City of Kent. This preventive action has an estimated cost of \$35 million.

Ms. Hague described the efforts of the County Council to improve bus service on the Eastside while dealing with a \$120 million shortfall in Metro Transit. This is

separate and apart from the general county operation. She discussed rate increases and improvement of service with a short bit of light rail.

Ms. Hague mentioned that the King Conservation District wished to discontinue the general distribution of aid to the other local governments in the County in favor of doing grants with the money they did not commit to their own projects. This would be a major change and remove project money for drainage and storm water control for small agencies like Hunts Point.

#### CLEARWIRE POLE SHARING

Mr. McKenzie informed the Council that work had been progressing on arranging for tenants on the Clearwire Pole. It appeared that the replacement pole would be twenty feet longer and twice the diameter of the present pole.

He also said that the Town Attorney had a member of staff who was an experience expert in the area of utility leases and franchises. Ms. King added that his name was Chris Bacha and he was available to aid Hunts Point in its negotiations with Clearwire and the other wireless companies.

Mr. McKenzie also said that the tenants had agreed on a single building for all of them and that it would have to be air conditioned and have a standby generator installed. This led to considerable discussion about building design, size and equipage.

Mayor McConkey warned the potential tenants about the impact of construction on SR-520. Mr. Cagan said they were in close contact with WSDOT about the matter.

Discussion about impacts on the near neighbors followed.

#### COMCAST FRANCHISE RENEWAL

Mr. McKenzie explained that the time was drawing neigh to start negotiations for the franchise with Comcast Communications for cable services. He said the last time this happened was in 2005 leading to a five year agreement that expires on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. FCC rules require that Comcast notify us of the need for renegotiation two years before the old agreement expires.

Mr. McKenzie reminded the Council that Hunts Point engaged in the negotiations as part of a consortium of cities and towns that included Clyde Hill, Medina, Newcastle, Burien and Normandy Park. The decision to join the consortium was made due to the large amount of changes in communications law since the last negotiations occurred. The membership in the consortium cost the Town one year's franchise fees.

Ms. King said there was a question regarding the calculation of "gross revenues" by Comcast that was not settled at the last negotiation and would probably come up again. She said Mr. Bacha told her that the definition of gross revenues had been in dispute for some time. Comcast determines the definition and applies it. Anyone who disputes their determination is invited to sue them. Since this would be a multi-million dollar effort no one has taken them up on it.

After some discussion the Council went on to other business.

### **2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Mr. McKenzie said this preliminary budget reflected the diminishing revenues and stable expenditures to be expected in 2010. He said that there were two residential construction projects that have, or will be, issued permits before year-end 2009. The start of these projects should improve income from the sales tax to a level above the \$5,000 to \$8,000 monthly level. In the recent past sales tax revenues have run at the \$15,000 monthly range due to the major projects which are reaching completion this fall.

He said the Current Expense Fund (001) is projected to have income of 798,859 and expenses of \$899,811. The difference of \$100,952 is a close match for the 2009 budget experience. The pattern of sales tax downward from \$214,289 in 2008 to a projected \$147,300 in 2010 is a major cause of the shortfall. This will be partially offset by growth in the combined utility taxes from \$92,720 in 2008 to a projected \$124,761 in 2010.

Mr. McKenzie said the Street Fund (101) is projected to have revenues of \$53,525 against expenses of \$18,500.

The Capital Improvement Fund (302) is projected to have revenues of \$75,000 and expenses of \$94,000. The expenses include \$25,000 from LID assessments and \$30,000 for the adaptation of the Video Surveillance System to recognize license plates.

Mayor McConkey asked about the status of the current Video Surveillance System. Mr. McKenzie said it had been recently upgraded to allow direct monitoring of the Hunts Point cameras by the monitor located in the Police Department at Medina City Hall.

### **HALLOWEEN GATHERING**

Mayor McConkey told the Council that group of residents wished to hold the annual Halloween gathering at Town Hall and have family activities and trick or treating in celebration of the day. He said they had requested a \$250 grant to fund the activity in advance of donations.

**MOTION:** Allocate two hundred and fifty dollars from the Current Expense Fund to be used for a Halloween Gathering at Town Hall. Moved by Hughes, seconded by Boettcher. Passed 4-0. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **RETREAT PLANNING**

Mayor McConkey announced the Annual Retreat would be held on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. He said a continental breakfast would be available and lunch would be served. The morning session will involve the Council and Staff and the afternoon session would include the Planning Commission, Park Commission and contract staff. Subjects to include, Shoreline Management Act, Boy Scout Projects, the Block Watch Program, the 2010 Budget, the SR-520 Project, Halloween activities and the 2010 Strategic Plan.

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**Councilmember Williams questioned if others had been concerned about “pushback” from the residents over the update of the Shoreline Management Plan for Hunts Point. After discussion it came down to the fact the this update had been established by the State Legislature and there was little room for variation from their intentions.**

**AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS**

**Vouchers Nos. 148095 through 148126 in the amount of \$70,634.28 dated October 5, 2009 were presented for review, approval and signatures. Approval granted.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mayor McConkey adjourned the meeting at 8:16 PM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jack McKenzie**  
**Town Administrator**

**APPROVED** \_\_\_\_\_