

TOWN OF HUNTS POINT

COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 2009



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fred McConkey opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Councilmembers Jeri Boettcher, Ted Frantz, Kevin Hughes, Jim Nordstrom and Larry Williams were present. Staff present was Assistant Town Attorney Margaret King, Chief Jeff Chen of the Medina Police, and Town Administrator Jack McKenzie. Residents present were Annie Ottesen and Jill Davis.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2009

MOTION: Accept the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of November 2, 2009 as written. Moved by Boettcher, seconded by Hughes. Passed 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED

POLICE REPORT

Chief Chen described an unusual event that occurred at a Hunts Point residence. A gardener at the residence noticed a stranger standing in a pump house building and challenged the individual to find out who he was. The stranger ran away. An examination of the building showed nothing was missing or out of place. Police were unable to find the stranger.

Chief Chen also reported that two new officers were in field training at this time.

FIRE REPORT

The fire report showed activity in October with three EMS calls.

COUNCILMEMBER RESIGNATION

Mayor McConkey said he received a letter of resignation from the Council effective December 8th sent by Councilmember Williams. The resignation was accepted by the Council by consensus. Comments of appreciation for Mr. Williams' service came from the other Councilmembers. Mayor McConkey said Ms. Deanna Claypool had agreed to accept appointment to Council Position Five until the next general election.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2010 BUDGET

Mayor McConkey suspended the Regular Meeting and called a Public Hearing to order at 7:17 PM to take comments upon the 2010 Annual Budget. After some discussion Mayor McConkey closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM and resumed the Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Approve and adopt Ordinance No. 479 establishing the Budget of the Town of Hunts Point for Fiscal Year 2010. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Nordstrom. Passed 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED

STRATEGIC PLAN 2010

Mayor McConkey directed the Council to Task 6 of the 2010 Strategic Plan dealing with the Tree Code. He pointed out the changes provided by the Town Attorney. These included having the Town Arborist attend pre-application meetings, improving tree protections during construction, establishing a replacement standard of two trees for every significant tree removed, having the Town Arborist inventory the tree canopy for coverage every five years, establish fines and other practices for trees illegally taken and a mechanism for dealing with disputes between neighbors regarding trees.

Councilmember Nordstrom expresses his concern that the draft ordinance ran dangerously close to threatening property rights. This led to a discussion of protection for certain deciduous trees.

Councilman Hughes said he was interested in seeing that replanting takes place in those cases where tree removal occurs to facilitate construction and then the construction does not occur. Discussion of this subject ensued. Ms. King explained the use of performance bonds as a means of ensuring the replacement of trees.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEE CHANGES

Mr. McKenzie said a study of building fee income and expenses for 2008 showed the cost of fees collected and expenses incurred almost matched. This was an indication that there wasn't room for an increase in building permit fees at this time. The Council reached consensus that the matter of building fee increases should be dropped.

RESULTS OF THE STATE AUDIT FOR THE YEARS 2006, 2007 & 2008.

Mayor McConkey explained the audit finding concerning the financial management of the Fairweather Place Bulkhead Project. There were some problems that had to be resolved.

2009 STRATEGIC PLAN

Mayor McConkey addressed the progress in meeting the 2009 Strategic Plan which had been reviewed with the presentation of the 2010 Strategic Plan at the Council Retreat in October.

BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM

Mayor McConkey announced the information had been turned in for all of the neighborhoods and after compilation it would be provided to the Block Watch captains.

SR-520 PROJECT

Mayor McConkey said he attended a meeting of the Transportation Committee to provide testimony regarding the selection of Option A+ for the final design of the plan for the west end of the bridge. He said the Committee selected Option A+ as the preferred alternative but a lot of people in Seattle were not happy with that.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

Vouchers Nos. 148162 through 148194 in the amount of \$158,336.15 dated December 7, 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 _____