

TOWN OF HUNTS POINT

COUNCIL MEETING

March 7, 2011



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fred McConkey opened the meeting at 7:04 P.M. Councilmembers Dee Claypool, Jill Davis, Ted Frantz, Kevin Hughes, and Heather Smith were present. Staff present was Assistant Town Attorney Margaret King, Lieutenant Dan Yourkoski of the Medina Police, Town Engineer Joe Willis, Town Planner Mona Green and Deputy Clerk Linda Longmire. King County Councilmember Jane Hague and residents Elaine Coles, Jan Deaton, Ken Fisher, Vilma McComsey, Annie Ottesen and Bruce Swenson were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2011

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the Town Council February 7, 2011 meeting as written. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Davis. Passed 5-0.

MOTION CARRIED

POLICE REPORT

Lt. Yourkoski reported that the Town of Hunts Point had no activity during the month. The continuing investigation of the individuals responsible for the burglaries in Medina, Clyde Hill, and King and Snohomish County communities has led to four arrests. The cameras are not credited with deterring the burglaries, but after the fact, they have confirmed that the individuals were in Medina on the days of the incidents which makes the case more solid for the Medina Police.

FIRE REPORT

The incident summary from the Bellevue Fire Department showed no major problems in Hunts Point.

REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER JANE HAGUE

Councilmember Hague provided summaries of several important King County regional issues. Among the topics discussed were:

1. Transportation and tolling of the Evergreen Point Bridge
2. Municipal and regional budgets
3. Negotiations resulting in new labor policies
4. Implementation of a strategic plan
5. Incorporation of unincorporated areas
6. Rethinking of ways to deliver services
7. Reconfiguring South Kirkland's Park and Ride
8. Following recommendations of audits

Mayor McConkey commented on some of the difficulties that the Points Communities were having with SR 520 issues, especially the problems with local traffic for the Town of Hunts Point. He informed Councilmember Hague that the Planning Commission had made a recommendation to the Town Council for the closure of the SR 520 west bound

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

March 7, 2011

Page 2 of 4

ramp at 84th which would cut down approximately 80% of the traffic. In addition, he mentioned the inequality of the money being spent on the project between the East and West side of the bridge. The offer of assistance from Councilmember Hague was declined at this time, but Mayor McConkey stated that the Town may need her help at a later date.

STRUCTURE IN RIGHT-OF-WAY, HUNTS POINT ROAD

Mayor McConkey addressed the progress in removing the statue of the bear in the right-of-way. The residents agree to move the structure to the center of their yard.

HEDGE AT 4224 HUNTS POINT ROAD

The problem of the overgrown hedge is in the process of being settled. Part of the difficulty was a language barrier. Upon investigation, it was learned that the two parties involved both spoke Mandarin.

ARCH WORK PROGRAM 2011

MOTION: Approve the 2011 Arch work program for \$1,569.00 for affordable housing on the Eastside. Moved by Hughes, seconded by Claypool. Passed 5 – 0.

MOTION CARRIED

SCORE AGREEMENT FOR INMATE HOUSING

This agreement allows another alternative to the King County jail.

MOTION: Authorize the mayor to sign the agreement for inmate housing in the South Correctional Entity facility. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Davis. Passed 5 – 0.

MOTION CARRIED

MAYOR'S REPORT

Executive Recruiters' Proposals

Mayor McConkey stated that Town Administrator Jack McKenzie retired February 28, 2011. The staff had a small party where he stated that the Hunts Point staff was the best he had worked with in forty years of employment. Prior to his departure he completed some research and the result is two proposals for a countrywide search for a city manager. The proposals are from Prothman and Waldron & Company for an estimated cost of \$18,000 and \$25,000 respectively. Mr. McKenzie will also contact some friends who may be interested in the position. The Town Hall staff, along with Mona Green and Joe Willis, is doing a good job and there have been no major issues. Because of the cost of the two firms and the significance of the extent of the search, the Mayor is reluctant to use the firms at this time. He polled the Councilmembers for their opinions. It was the consensus to utilize Mr. McKenzie's contacts first; then possibly contacting AWC and finally contacting Prothman and Waldron. Councilmember Frantz suggested that Mr. McKenzie may be willing to assist the Town when constructing next year's budget on a consulting basis. Councilmember Smith inquired about the time frame for the Mayor working without an administrator. Mayor McConkey felt that he was good for about six months. The pressing issues at this time concern SR 520. These are issues that he has been dealing with for many years, often on a weekly basis. Mr. McKenzie will be doing volunteer work for the Town for he has agreed to set up a Foundation for the Town of Hunts Point. Any monies collected for the Town would be utilized for Town needs such as a new police car or applied to the building of a new Town Hall.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

March 7, 2011

Page 3 of 4

SR-520 Project

The Planning Commission's main topic in the previous hour meeting was traffic. Chairman John Torode sent an email memo that explained his own traffic count completed the evening of March 3rd during normal evening traffic. He predicts a tremendous backup of cars on the proposed two lane road that will be built to handle traffic to accommodate SR 520 and Hunts Point traffic when the 84th overpass bridge is torn down. The projected date for the bridge being removed is June 2011. Mayor McConkey explained to the Planning Commission that this was discussed at the Mayors' meeting and the Points Mayor's consensus was that the proposal of the two lane road was unacceptable. It appears that the more the Eastside is inconvenienced, the more money can be saved. The disparity between the money being spent between the East and West sides of the bridge was brought to the attention of WSDOT. WSDOT is working on a response to the Points communities and will respond to the Mayors in a week or two.

The Mayor foresees traffic chaos in the Point's Communities unless the SR 520 west ramp is shut down. The Planning Commission made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that all alternatives be explored to mitigate traffic for Hunts Point and, as a final resort, they recommended the west bound SR 520 on-ramp be closed. The Mayor needs the Town Council's authorization to utilize this option as a possibility. This would mean that the ramp located at Bellevue Way would be utilized for all traffic proceeding to Seattle via the Evergreen Point Bridge during an approximate 15 month construction process. Councilmember Hughes suggested an alternative for Hunts Point local traffic. He would like the ability to access a second frontage road built from Hunts Point to Evergreen Point. This would enable Hunts Point residents and visitors from having to queue with the large amount of vehicles travelling to and from Seattle. The Mayor thought this an excellent concrete suggestion and would pursue it with WSDOT. Discussion ensued on the closure of the SR 520 west bound ramp.

1. The Planning Commission also recommended that the Town reaffirm with WSDOT its position that the loop design is its fallback design choice if the Flyover design fails. The half-diamond is not to be considered.
2. Build 84th in two stages. Explore the viability of having one lane open each way (north and south) for traffic on the 84th overpass.
3. Approximately 40 or 50 Hunts Point residents would be inconvenienced each day with the closure of the west bound on-ramp, but it would be the best option for overall.
4. The 84th bridge would have to be removed no matter what design on-ramp is chosen.
5. Concern was expressed that there are important decisions being made without communication to the residents.
6. The movement on the project is changing from day to day.

MOTION: The Mayor negotiates and explores the best mitigation possible for the Town of Hunts Point with WSDOT and, if needed, recommend shutting down the west bound entrance to SR 520. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Davis. Passed 4 – 1 (Hughes).

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: That the Town of Hunts Point reaffirms its position with WSDOT that the Council voted on the flyover design option for a consensus vote with the other Points

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

March 7, 2011

Page 4 of 4

Communities, but the loop design is the preferred choice and the half-diamond is an unacceptable design. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Claypool.

Passed 5 – 0.

MOTION CARRIED

There will a WSDOT Open House on March 23, 2011 at the Chinook Middle School.

Councilmember Smith commented that Town communication is needed. The Mayor concurred and he will have SR 520 information out as soon as possible, but things are changing daily. Once something is approved, it will definitely be forwarded to the public. There is also a WSDOT Hotline; contact can be made with Mona Green and Joe Willis; and the Mayor will have a newsletter out once there is more concrete information.

Tully's Town Meeting

Tully's Town Meeting will be April 20th, 6:30 P.M. Town Hall staff will make arrangements.

Clean-Up Day

The third Sunday in May (the 15th) is Clean-Up Day. Annie Ottesen is chair along with Juliet Vong. A house has not been chosen for the party at this time.

Bid on 80th Ave. N.E. Camera

SecurFocus, Inc. has provided the Town with a bid of \$23,840 for camera installation on 80th Avenue N.E. Before any consideration of the bid, the Town needs to check on the frontage road. The Mayor will consult with SecurFocus before a decision is made and also contact Medina Police Officer John Kane.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Vouchers Nos. 148683 through 148714 in the amount of \$114,603.43, dated March 7, 2011, were presented for review, approval and signatures. Approval granted.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McConkey adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED _____