

TOWN OF HUNTS POINT

COUNCIL MEETING

May 2, 2011



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fred McConkey opened the meeting at 7:05 P.M. Councilmembers Dee Claypool, Jill Davis, Ted Frantz and Heather Smith were present. Councilmember Kevin Hughes was absent. Staff present was Town Attorney Margaret King, Town Planner Mona Green, Town Engineer Joe Willis, Lieutenant Dan Yourkoski of the Medina Police and Deputy Clerk Linda Longmire. Residents present included Dave Bocek, Jeri Boettcher, Jan Deaton, Heidrun Eberhardt, Lee Eberhardt, Lloyd Embry, Pat Finnely, Ken Fisher, Richard Herzberg, Jean Haehl, Russ Haehl, Dorothy Hass, Rich Hass, Jill Heijer, Michael Heijer, Cathy Beth Hooper, Steve Hooper, Chris Linden, Gary Linden, Vilma McComsey, Darek Milewski, Ernie Norehad, Penny O'Byrne, Janice Olson, Rod Olson, Annie Ottesen, Virginia Park, Donna Shannon, Gary Slotnik, Bruce Swenson, Patti Torode, John Torode and Juliet Vong. Chris Brouh attended representing resident Pat Lumry. ECC representatives Chris Deane, Dan Galvin, Ralph Gleffe, Brad Stein, Karl Westby and Aaron Wiehe along with WSDOT representatives Daniel Babuca, Michael Horntvedt, Julie Meredith and Linda Mullen were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McConkey opened the meeting for public comment.

Bruce Swenson: He recommended that the Town Council consider a resolution addressed to the City of Medina protesting the firing of Medina Police Chief Jeff Chen and request his immediate reinstatement. Medina made the firing decision without consultation with Hunts Point. Since Hunts Point contributes money for the police contract he feels Town should have been part of the process.

Jan Deaton: She is concerned about public access into the neighborhood. At a Bellevue Christian meeting she saw WSDOT drawings that showed an access road off the bicycle path through the Fairweather Nature Preserve that then went through the storm water retention pond area at the south end of Fairweather Boat Basin and ending at Fairweather Place. She stated that citizens were told that public access was not going to happen for the access road between Fairweather and 80th Ave. N.E. and it was only for maintenance vehicles. The residents asked to be able to walk on that road so the 80th Ave. N.E. residents could stay connected to the town. She also stated that she has heard the storm water retention ponds would have public access. The residents were told that there would be no trespassing signs and now residents are being told completely different things from a few months ago.

Ken Fisher: He said that he had heard that Yarrow Point had considered a noise variance. He did not want Hunts Point issuing any noise variance permits. The construction site

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was close to his home and night noise would travel over water easily. He recommended the loop on-ramp design.

John Torode: He referenced previous WSDOT drawings in which one had received Points Community consensus agreement and then residents were later told the cost was too great. The latest drawings seem to represent 220% more concrete than one of the drawings and over 100% more concrete over the other. He questioned how the roundabout design could be less costly than the consensus flyover design.

Annie Ottesen: Ms. Ottesen's concern is about the noise from the roundabout design flowing into Hunts Point. The drawings show the circle would be elevated since it's located on the lid. She asked if 35 foot walls would be located on the lid or would it be wide open exposure into the Town of Hunts Point.

Mayor McConkey closed the Public Comment period and stated he thought that the SR 520 issues would be answered by the WSDOT/ECC presentation. He couldn't comment on Chief Jeff Chen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2011

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the Town Council April 4, 2011 meeting as written. Moved by Smith, seconded by Claypool. Passed 4 - 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

STAFF REPORTS

Medina Police Dept.

Lt. Yourkoski reported that the Town of Hunts Point had no activity at all except for one traffic stop where marijuana was found in the vehicle. The cameras are running and there have been no new developments in the break-in reported last month.

Bellevue Fire Dept.

There was no Bellevue Fire Dept. activity listed in the report.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF COUNCILMEMBER JILL DAVIS

Jill Davis is moving to Mercer Island and is resigning from the Council. The Mayor thanked her for all her hard work. An inscribed clock was presented to Ms. Davis recognizing her contribution to the Town of Hunts Point.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATE JOHN FRANKLIN

Mr. Franklin was introduced to the Council and audience.

MOTION: Approve the appointment of John Franklin to fill Ms. Davis' Council Position No. 1. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Claypool. Passed 3 - 0.

MOTION CARRIED

OATH OF OFFICE

John Franklin was sworn in by Deputy Clerk Longmire to fill Town Council Position No. 1.

MOTION TO ACCEPT PLANNING COMMISSION ALTERNATES

MOTION: Approve the appointment of Joe Sabey and Lloyd Embry as Alternate Planning Commissioners. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Franklin. Passed 4 – 0.

MOTION CARRIED

SR 520 WSDOT PRESENTATION

Ms. Meredith, SR 520 Program Director, WA State Dept. of Transportation introduced the members of the WSDOT and Eastside Corridor Constructors team. The program update described the design and local traffic operations with special emphasis on the 84th Ave. interchange. Ms. Meredith stated that there are really four major projects; Lake WA Congestion Management Process, Pontoon Construction Project; I-5 to Medina Replacement Bridge and HOV Project; and the Eastside Transit and HOV Project. Various members of WSDOT and ECC teams provided individual presentations on all aspects of the four projects with emphasis on the Eastside Transit and HOV Project. At the end of the presentation, members of the audience were able to ask questions.

Public Questions and Statements

Fred McConkey answered John Torode's earlier question of why the flyover design was more money than the roundabout design with the explanation that the 84th Ave. bridge would need to be torn down and a connector road built with the flyover design. It was a money issue of an extra three to five million more.

Ernie Norehad questioned traffic flow if a fender bender occurred and if there was data on frequency of incidents in a roundabout. The Mayor explained that Transpo will be doing a study and more data will be available. Ramp meters are recommended by Transpo for each access and it was requested that a conduit be laid for the possibility of its installation.

Bruce Swenson questioned the ingress length to the roundabout and if it was adequate to handle backup traffic. It was stated that the roundabout has doubled the storage capacity to 658 ft to accommodate backup traffic.

Richard Herzberg stated that residents needed unimpeded access to the community. Gridlock in the roundabout would prevent this and signals at the access points may be required. Noise permits should not be issued until unimpeded access for the community is agreed upon. It was stated that local and carpool traffic would use designated lanes for the measured low volume of traffic. Do not block zones would assist in the control also.

A resident stated that the three plus person requirement for the HOV lane is now required. Mayor McConkey is working to get it to the two plus person as it is now.

Ken Fisher asked what the hours of operation were for construction. The work schedule will be day and night with the nighttime schedule from 7 P.M. to 6: A.M. for the life of the job depending on the different jurisdictions. Hauling will primarily happen during the summer months. Noise permits have been obtained from Yarrow Point, Clyde Hill and Kirkland.

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Annie Ottesen asked about the flow of traffic in and out of Hunts Point during the construction of the roundabout. A half-diamond traffic configuration would be utilized and a stop sign would be needed for egress for a period of 18 to 24 months.

John Torode stated that his concern with having the half-diamond design was its handling traffic in and out of the town and onto the freeway during gridlock on SR 520. It was stated that no matter what design was utilized during construction, if there was congestion on SR 520 all designs would be affected.

Ken Fisher asked whether traffic from N.E. 28th would proceed west to Medina using the HOV lane or the single occupancy lane; and would the Town be able to influence the process for traffic flow from 84th northbound proceeding east to N.E. 28th or north to the Town of Hunts Point. Mr. Fisher's specific traffic route was demonstrated and it was explained that the roundabout was the result of the process of communicating to all jurisdictions and it was a compromise. Continued communications would be a part of the process to successfully deliver the project. The Mayor also stated that a Transpo report with their recommendations on the roundabout was available for residents to read.

Mr. Herzberg asked if the HOV lane during construction could remain at the two person capacity and it was stated that WSDOT would seek clarity on the bill that the legislature had passed. The bill was silent on the number of people required for occupancy on the ramp.

Jill Heijer questioned whether the bus stop would be open during construction for she felt that the increased neighborhood exposure provided a security issue. WSDOT and Mayor McConkey explained that there will be cameras on the lid and Hunts Point is putting cameras on 80th Ave. N.E.

Ms. Deaton emphasized that the bicycle path and detention pond access provided huge exposure and WSDOT's answer to this was that it was a Shoreline Master Program issue.

Ms. Ottesen questioned the schedule for building the sound walls and the audience was told that the Sound Study plans were still being developed, but it would be as early as possible. Ms. Heijer wanted to know if there would be community review for the visual impact was great. The audience was told that the noise study needed to be completed before the design could be completed and the WSDOT website would have a lot of the information as soon as it was available. The Mayor added that attendance at the Planning Commission meetings would be helpful to everyone and to contact Mona Green and let her know what the concerns are.

Efforts to save trees will be made and WSDOT will also study maintaining local access between 80th Ave. N.E. and Fairweather Place.

Mayor McConkey thanked WSDOT and ECC members for their time and thorough presentation.

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TRANSPO STUDY

MOTION: A retroactive motion was made to approve up to \$5,000 for a Transpo study of the roundabout design. Moved by Franklin, second (unintelligible on tape).

Passed 4 – 0.

MOTION CARRIED

VARIANCE REQUEST FROM EASTSIDE CORRIDOR CONSTRUCTORS

Ms. Green stated that ECC has requested a variance on behalf of WSDOT for a nighttime temporary noise exemption for the duration of the SR 520 Eastside Transit and HOV Project. She has worked towards mitigation that would be protective to the Hunts Point community including rescinding the noise waiver at any time if the Town finds that the mitigation measures have not been implemented. The waiver is for an initial period until June 30th and would then have to be renewed every six months. This would give the Town the opportunity to review what has happened and to see if anything else needs to be done. ECC is seeking a noise exemption even though they have not completed their noise study. Hunts Point code says construction hours are 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday. This request is basically a variance from our code. Town Attorney King suggested requiring noise monitoring. This data can then be utilized if there are complaints and we can ask ECC to modify that condition.

To ensure that the residents understood the variance request Councilmember Claypool and the Mayor read the WSDOT letter in its entirety. Discussion ensued with various suggestions for other mitigation requirements.

MOTION: Move that the Town Council pass the variance on the noise exemption requested by ECC as amended with the following conditions: request a system to monitor noise levels; renew the agreement on a three months basis pending review of noise monitoring levels; add to normal work hours to include Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.; and consider alternative accommodations. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Franklin. Passed 4 – 0.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Smith requested ongoing staff updates from Ms. Green and Mr. Willis. Mayor McConkey said that he and Yarrow Point Mayor Cooper and Ms. Green were meeting every Friday for weekly updates and he would provide as much information as possible to the Council and interested parties.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The investigative report on Medina Police Chief Jeff Chen was concluded and it appears that there was a conflict among people. Chief Chen was terminated by the Medina City Manager. Hunts Point is not part of the termination process and he is not a Hunts Point employee. There continues to be ongoing litigation. The Town of Hunts Point has stated that the Town would like to reinstate him and residents feel he did a great job.

Ms. O'Byrne complimented the marine patrol provided by the City of Seattle. They are often a presence compared to the few times one would see the Mercer Island Marine Patrol.

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Clean Up Day is May 22nd. Flyers and announcement will go out soon.

Emergency Practice Day has not been well attended in the past. The mayor is hoping that residents will attend the Medina May 18th meeting for Map Your Neighborhood. A radio check will be held on Clean Up Day at 2:00 P.M. The mayor will also consult with Planning Commission Chair John Torode for possible alternatives.

Town Attorney King has had meetings with two cell phone carriers. The Town Council has to approve their permit, their design of the building to be built, and decide the amount of money per month to charge for the lease. Ms. King will follow up with an email of the proposed agreement. Ms. Green has put the carriers in touch with Rick Huxley for design consultation. Mr. Huxley will be the architect of the new Town Hall.

Town Engineer Willis explained that he received two bids for the overlay of Fairweather Place. He requested a motion for the low bid of \$26,800. The City of Bellevue will pay half the cost of the overlay.

MOTION: Approve the bid of Emerald Paving for \$26,800 for Fairweather Place overlay. Moved by Frantz, seconded by Claypool. Passed 4 – 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

Councilmember Frantz explained that he had been attending the Urban Design meetings for the design of the lids. The details of the plantings, benches and configuration will be available in a document by July 2011.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Vouchers Nos. 148747 through 148778 in the amount of \$114,544.06, dated May 2, 2011, were presented for review, approval and signatures. Approval granted.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting. Passed 4 – 0.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor McConkey adjourned the meeting at 10:08 PM.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED _____