

**Town of Coupeville  
Regular Council Meeting  
March 9, 2021  
6:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Hughes, Councilmembers Jenny Bright, Rick Walti, Jackie Henderson, and Michael Moore.

**Council Action:** A motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, second by Councilmember Walti, to excuse Councilmember Pat Powell from the March 9, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Treasurer Kelly Beech, Planning Director Donna Keeler

**CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Mayor requested to add an AUDIENCE INPUT section following the DISCUSSION period. The Agenda was approved as amended.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 23, 2021, were approved as submitted.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Hughes met with Planning Director Donna Keeler to discuss a Comp Plan Update work plan. Planning Director Keeler will present a timeline and work plan at a future Council Meeting.
- Mayor Hughes reported the VFD (variable frequency drive) went out on Well 1-08, and Utilities Superintendent Joe Grogan is working on getting that well up and running again.
- Mayor Hughes informed the Council that the Utility Advisory Committee met with the Town's Rate Study Consultant and the project is moving forward.
- Mayor Hughes has been working with Utilities Clerk Allison Gubata to manage the Community Garden. So far 43 plots (out of 60) have been rented for the year.
- Finally, Mayor Hughes informed the Council that the bid openings for the combined water and sewer line replacements in Town this year, will be at 3:00 pm tomorrow.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Appoint Mayor Pro Tem for term of March 9 to June 30, 2021**

**Council Action:** A motion was made by Councilmember Walti, second by Councilmember Moore, to appoint Councilmember Jenny Bright as Mayor Pro Tem for a period ending June 30, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Walti reported that the Utility Advisory Committee met to discuss the Town's rate study. Specifically, the group discussed the Capital Improvement Plan for the utilities. The rate study will look at a ten-year projection. More information will be presented to the Council at a future meeting.

Councilmember Henderson attended the Island County Tourism Board meeting this month. Some of the updates discussed during the meeting were the Spring campaign magazine,

partnering with Washington State Ferries for tourism promotion on the ferries themselves, and a planned visit by King 5 aimed at promoting tourism to Island County.

Councilmember Bright attended the Island Transit Board meeting this month and she reports that ridership is down, but stable. Island Transit is prepared for ridership to begin going back up as COVID restrictions are relaxed.

Councilmember Moore reported that the Law & Justice Council heard from Judge Hawkins that some Island County inmates are being housed off-island due to a lack of space in the jail. Judge Cliff is working on mediation for potential evictions, when the moratorium is lifted.

### **DISCUSSION**

Mayor Hughes led the Council in a discussion about reducing the size of Coupeville's deer herd. The Mayor informed the Council of her research into birth control for the deer (which is not available for use in our area), relocation (which is not sanctioned by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife), and hunting programs. The Council asked the Mayor to follow-up with owners or large wooded parcels, outside of the Downtown area, to discuss the possibility of controlled hunts, by permission only, managed by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Mayor Hughes presented a draft Ordinance prohibiting feeding deer within Town limits. Council discussed this potential Ordinance at the Regular Council Meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Councilmembers agreed they would like the Ordinance include penalties that begin with a warning, and then step up to a flat fine of \$150. Mayor Hughes will bring a final draft of the ordinance back to the Council at the next meeting for consideration of adoption.

### **AUDIENCE INPUT**

A Coupeville resident addressed the Council, warning that prohibiting feeding will lead to the deer that are conditioned to come into Town to find a meal, to begin grazing on residents landscaping instead. She added that she supports the ordinance.

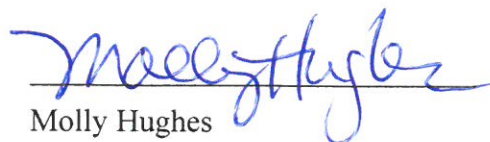
**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Clerk Treasurer Kelly Beech

MAYOR:



Molly Hughes

*A complete video recording of this meeting is available upon request from the Clerk-Treasurer.*