

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
February 8, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Treasurer Kelly Beech, Planning Director Donna Keeler, Utilities Superintendent Joe Grogan

CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 25, 2022, were approved as presented

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Hughes advised the Council that work on the interpretive panels for Town Hall, The Rec Hall, and the historic barn at the Community Green has commenced.
- Mayor Hughes informed the Council of all of the activity at the Community Garden recently, including the development of classes for the gardeners, and the future installation of composting bins.
- Mayor Hughes reported that the Neighborhood Emergency Team will be adding a ham radio as one of their resources, and that there are already ham radio operator volunteering with the program.
- Mayor Hughes advised the Council and audience that they may be receiving a visit from a NET volunteer in the near future, as the volunteers are out and reintroducing themselves to residents this month.
- Mayor Hughes attended a virtual meeting focused on the Washington State Ferry Service, and learned that despite communications up until this point, the new ferries aren't expected to be added to the fleet until 2025. This means that the Whidbey island ferry service will continue to be inconsistent and insufficient for the islands needs. Mayor Hughes plans on writing a letter to representative of every district served by the ferry system expressing the Town's concern about this latest update.
- Mayor Hughes will be in a short video, shot by Whidbey Camano Tourism. The organization is working on promoting a bill in the legislature that will provide funding for filming in rural areas.
- Mayor Hughes informed the Council that the Cistern Project will start by the end of the month, and should be finished by the end of March.
- Finally, Mayor Hughes reminded the Council that the Chamber's Chocolate Walk will be on February 12th, and that Town Hall will be closed on February 21st for Presidents Day. Some upcoming event she mentioned were Mussel fest, Marh 4th – 6th, Town's Spring Clean-up Day on April 9th, and the Farmer's Market Opening Day on April 16th.

PRESENTATION

Planning Director Donna Keeler gave a brief presentation on a prospective Vision Statement as part of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update. The suggested statement was originally created by the Town consultant, and then edited over the course of two Planning Commission meetings, before tonight's presentation. The Council and Mayor gave specific feedback on what they thought was missing from the proposed Vision Statement, and suggestions on what they would want to see in a Vision Statement, based on the research data collected during the recent survey. Planning Director Keeler will bring the Council's comments back to the Planning Commission, and they will continue to work on the draft Vision Statement.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Lynn Hyde, Executive Director of Historic Whidbey expressed concern over the Council's discussion about the future of the Johnson Lot. Ms. Hyde mistakenly assumed the Council had already made a decision on how to proceed with future plans for the lot. Ms. Hyde also sent an email to all Councilmembers regarding this subject, and she wanted to confirm they had received the email.

NEW BUSINESS**Approval of 2022 Mussel Festival Special Event Application**

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Walti, second by Councilmember Moore, to approve road closures related to Special Events Application #2022-01 for the 2022 Mussel Festival. Councilmember Henderson added that the Town should clarify with the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association, how their COVID protocols will handle people who refuse to comply. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Island County Interagency Agreement for 2022 Street Work

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Bright, to authorize the Mayor to approve the Island County Public Works Interlocal Agreement for street and trail work in 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Bright shared with the Council, Island Transit's "Island Transit Maximized" survey is live, and invited everyone to learn more about this initiative, and take the survey, by visiting the Island Transit website: www.islandtransit.org/island-transit-maximized. She added that Island Transit will be holding two virtual public meetings to discuss this initiative on February 17; information about the times and login information for these meetings is on the organization's website.

Councilmember Moore advised the Council that the Law & Justice Council meeting was cancelled in January, and that the next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd.

DISCUSSION

Utilities Superintendent Joe Grogan led a discussion on the State's new General Permit for Wastewater Treatment Plants. He summarized how the new permit will affect operations and budget in 2022, and indicated that future impacts will be based on testing results in 2022.

Mayor Hughes led a discussion about how to proceed with decision making regarding future plans for the Johnson Lot. Councilmembers agreed that the Town should re-evaluate not only the Johnson Lot, but all Town properties and their current uses, to see if they should be considering any change in use for any town-owned property. The Council feels the Planning Commission could be part of this review, using the Comprehensive Plan as a guide. Council also agreed that if the Town determines there is a better, more appropriate use for a parcel; the Town should have a formal process for soliciting proposals, before entering into an agreement with any organization.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:08 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.