

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**September 12, 2023 6:30 pm**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Molly Hughes; Councilmembers Jenny Bright, Pat Powell, Rick Walti, Mike Moore, and Jackie Henderson.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Treasurer Jennifer Carpenter, Fiscal Clerk Crystal Cruz

**CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The Agenda was approved as submitted

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on August 22, 2023 and the Comp Plan Workshop on August 31, 2023 was approved as amended.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor had a post event meeting with Deb Obrien regarding the Arts & Crafts festival, which was a great success. For future events, they would like access to power in the middle of the parking lot to avoid generator sound. They are also concerned about poor cell service and internet connection in the downtown area; CHWA, the Chamber, the Town, the Port, Astound, are all involved.

The Town had our annual WCIA audit. Our new rep is Drew, replacing Debbie Sellers. The topic was special events. Our application and code are good with no recommendations for change. The Mayor, Clerk Treasurer, Jennifer Carpenter, and Public Works Director, Joe Grogan will be going over property and asset values, as it is believed some are misstated.

There was a Water Plant Open House was on August 26. About 40 people were there during the 2-hour window, and they seemed interested and impressed with water treatment and the plant.

Our new Planning Director, Jesse Davis, will be starting on October 17. Donna has agreed to stay on for a couple of weeks after Jesse arrives to help with onboarding. Donna has been exceptional for the past three years.

The Mayor attended the CHWA open house. They hope to help old and new businesses understand their missions and goals, and the programs they run. It was well attended.

Mayor Hughes, met with Congressman Rick Larsen, Aaron from Food Lifeline, and the new XO at the Base. Congressman Larsen is interested in programs focused on food insecurity among military families and veterans; this is a federal issue. He was also interested in our plans for a food bank and workforce housing. We do not currently have stats on military or veterans, as we do not ask for personal information; we know we serve servicemembers from their attire and stories. Congressman Larsen was at the new location and recorded a video for his weekly newsletter; we appreciate the coverage.

A memorial event for Tokitae, the orca removed from Penn Cove 53 ago, was held on Sunday evening and was attended by approximately 200-250 people. The event was organized by the Orca Network and the Coast Salish Nation.

Before we meet again:

Chamber sponsored State of the Town presentation is tomorrow night in the Rec Hall, and it is sold out. Mayor will be giving the same presentation to the Coupeville Lions on October 4 and will be presenting it at a Council meeting soon. The recording will be posted online and therefore is available to anyone.

Island County speed limit open house on Wednesday, September 20, in the Rec Hall. Stop by between 4:30 and 5:30 to make comments.

### **AUDIENCE INPUT**

None

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Hughes opened the Public Hearing for - Resolution No. 23-07, 2023-2033 Water System Plan at 6:58 pm. The Mayor explained an error occurred and the Town did not post the entire Water Plan to the website for the public to see. Therefore, the Mayor is asking the Council to continue the public hearing until our next meeting on September 26, 2023. There being no persons present or virtual wishing to comment, Mayor Hughes closed the public comment portion of the hearing. Mayor Hughes confirmed no comments had been received by the advertised deadline. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:00 pm

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution No. 23-07 Adopting the 2023-2033 Water System Plan**

Action: A Motion was made by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Powell approving the continuance of the Public Hearing regarding Resolution No. 23-07 adopting the 2023-2033 Water System Plan to the Town Council meeting on September 26, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2024 Budget Calendar**

Action: A Motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, seconded by Councilmember Walti adopting the 2024 Budget Calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Application**

Action: A Motion was made by Councilmember Bright, seconded by Councilmember Henderson authorizing the Mayor to apply for a Recreation and Conservation Office grant and give Public Works Director Joe Grogan administration and project coordination authority. The motion passed with 3 yeas and 2 nays.

#### **Business Licensing Services Agreement with Dept. of Revenue**

Action: The Council requested the Mayor go back and ask for a termination clause change.

#### **Halloween Special Events**

Action: A Motion was made by Councilmember Walti, seconded by Councilmember Moore approving street closures for the Torchlight Parade and Street Dance on October 28th and the Pumpkin Races on October 29th as well as approve Movie Night in the Rec Hall on October 27th and 28th and a Beer Garden to be set up on the Johnson Lot on October 28th. The motion passed unanimously.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Henderson - Tourism board met on 9/7. The 2022 audit is complete, there were no findings, but the auditor did have a couple minor recommendations. The auditor received a written complaint from a member of the community of which the auditor was able to answer stating there was no findings to their allegations. The next audit will be in 2025. They are doing an event in October TBD on BRBO/Short term rentals to discuss regenerative tourism. There is one position open on the Oak Harbor lodge board.

Councilmember Moore – Law and Justice committee had a short meeting on 8/23, nothing to report.

Councilmember Walkti – Utility Advisory committee met on 8/24. Planning is working on mapping reviews. We have the drawings for the Paker Rd sewer extension and Davido created a budget of \$400k - \$500k. The Town will allow out of Town water hookups without a building permit as long as there is a maintenance/Admin Fee. Davido is updating the 2023-2033 water plan, it will go back out to bid for design of telemetry.

Councilmember Bright – Island Transit met on 9/8, the 6 year transit development plan was approved. This includes making moving to hybrid busses a priority. The next phase of maximize Whidbey will be rolled out on 10/1 which includes two on demand overlays on Camano and additional routes on South Whidbey. The last phase will be in 2024. Presentation of the marketing and branding looks great.

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:47 pm**

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Clerk Treasurer Jennifer Carpenter

Molly Hughes

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