

TOWN OF COUPEVILLE
Regular Council Meeting
October 22, 2024
6:00pm

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

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy Clerk Chris Jolly, Clerk-Treasurer Corine Jackson, and Public Works Director Joe Grogan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the October 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 8, 2024 Regular Council Meeting were approved as submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Hughes attended the Island County Museum's annual dinner and auction fundraiser to celebrate their 75th anniversary. The event was well attended and they were able to raise a lot of money.
- Coupeville NET participated in the national "Great Shakeout Drill" on October 17, 2024. Over 30 volunteers participated in the drill, which had incidents in all 11 neighborhoods. The drill was a little different this year, which was great because there were plenty of curveballs to practice responding to.
- Mayor Hughes gave the state of the Town address at the annual Chamber event on October 15, 2024.
- Mayor Hughes will attend the Council of Governments meeting with our legislative representatives this week. The wrong list of priorities were sent on behalf of Coupeville. Mayor Hughes will make sure they get the correct list.
- Mayor Hughes reminded the Council of several important dates between this meeting and the next Council meeting, including:
 - November 4, 11:00am – 2:00pm, the Town Council will hold it's final 2025 Budget Workshop. It is open to the public. No action will be taken at that meeting.
 - November 5 is election day! Get your ballots in early!
 - November 7, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association will host a public meeting at the Rec Hall.
 - November 8, 5:30pm – 8:00pm, the annual Ebey's Community Potluck will be held in the Crockett Barn.
 - November 11, at 11:00am will be the Town's Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial on the corner of 6th Street and Center Street.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Hughes presented the State of the Town address to the public. The presentation included photos of staff, photos of public works projects, and statistics on the year's business (Jan. 1 – August 31).

AUDIENCE INPUT

Ricardo Reyes spoke to the Council regarding crosswalks that need to be repainted and crosswalk ADA ramps that need to be repaired. Reyes was also concerned about landscaping in the medians in the Kreuger Farms neighborhood, and asked if the Town could clarify whose responsibility it is to take care of it.

John Vermillion spoke to the Council regarding his concerns about the broken crosswalk ADA ramps.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:25pm, Mayor Hughes opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 798, levying taxes on real property subject to taxation within the corporate limits of the Town of Coupeville, Washington. Mayor Hughes asked the Council if anyone had a conflict of interest. There being no conflict of interest, Mayor Hughes and Clerk-Treasurer Corine Jackson proceeded with the presentation. The Mayor opened the floor for public comment.

John Vermillion asked the Council why they approve a tax levy increase before the budget process is complete. The Council and Clerk-Treasurer Jackson explained the state prescribed timeline the Town has to follow on the budget process.

Ricardo Reyes asked for an explanation of the tax levy percentage and why the Town will only receive \$4,300 from the levy lift. The Council and Clerk-Treasurer Jackson explained the breakdown of property taxes and what percentage the Town actually receives from each taxpayer.

No letters from the public were submitted by the deadline. The Mayor closed the public comment portion of the hearing. The Mayor gave the Council the opportunity to ask clarifying questions or provide comments. Hearing no comments or questions from the Council, Mayor Hughes closed the public hearing at 7:38pm.

NEW BUSINESS**Ordinance 798 Levying Taxes on Real Property**

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, seconded by Councilmember Bright, to adopt Ordinance 798 and set the 2025 Property Tax Levy budget in the amount of \$450,000, to account for a 1% increase and additional revenue the Town may be entitled to, due to new construction and improvements in 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Trust Board Appointments

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Walti, seconded by Councilmember Moore, to appoint Jennifer Schmitz and Lynda Austin to the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Trust Board for terms ending October 1, 2028. The motion passed unanimously.

2% Grant Awards for 2025 Funding Year

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, seconded by Councilmember Moore, to award 2% grant funds as follows:

Coupeville Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$25,000.

Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association in the amount of \$3,500.

Island County Museum in the amount of \$4,500.

Whidbey Health Foundation in the amount of \$0.

Whidbey Island Maritime Heritage Foundation in the amount of \$2,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

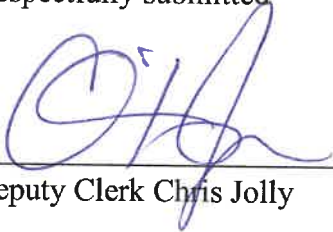
Councilmember Walti

Councilmember Walti reported that the Utility Advisory Committee met on Monday, October 21, to discuss Transportation Improvement Board grants.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:53pm

Respectfully submitted

MAYOR



Deputy Clerk Chris Jolly



Molly Hughes