

TOWN OF COUPEVILLE
Regular Council Meeting
June 10, 2025
6:00pm

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

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy Clerk Chris Jolly, Assistant Planner Lisa Walsh, Clerk-Treasurer Corine Jackson, and Public Works Director Joe Grogan

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:00pm, Mayor Hughes called the meeting to order and led the Council in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, seconded by Councilmember Powell, to excuse Councilmember Michael Moore from the June 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Hughes added an Executive Session to the meeting agenda.

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Bright, seconded by Councilmember Henderson, to approve the agenda of the June 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 27, 2025 Regular Council Meeting were approved as submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- At the Council of Governments meeting, Executive Director of Island Transit, Melina Adams, gave an update. Island Transit is no longer looking at hydrogen buses as there is not a way to have hydrogen delivered to the island. They are now looking for hybrid diesel/electric buses.
- Public Works interviewed and hired two new Public Works Techs. They started the first week of June and have jumped right into mowing, watering, and other standard maintenance.
- Mayor Hughes attended the Planning Commission meeting on June 3, 2025, because some local businesses were stirred up about sign code enforcement. The Planning Commission is considering taking more public input on the subject and may bring the subject to Town Council.

- The trees adjacent to the Boardwalk construction project were removed due to shell midden being found embedded in the root balls. An arborist was consulted and it was determined that the trees could not be saved. The new view of the cove is spectacular.
- The Historic Preservation Commission has an opening. The Town is looking for a volunteer for that position.
- Much of the Town Hall staff went to the Whidbey Playhouse theater to see the Sound of Music because the Town's part-time public works employee, Lachlan Waterbury, is playing Uncle Max. It was a fun evening, and the actors put on an excellent show.
- The Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association's annual Buskers Series has begun on Front Street every Wednesday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. You can see the summer lineup on their website.
- Coupeville will host several big events on June 14th. Indivisible Whidbey is hosting an all-island protest at SR20 and N. Main St. The Pride parade and event will be that afternoon. And later the same day, the Gifts from the Heart Food Bank will hold a Grand Opening celebration at their new location.
- Town Hall will be closed on June 19, 2025 in honor of the Juneteenth holiday.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Barbara Summers addressed the Council urging them to take action on the Coastal Adaptation Strategy and not push it off until 2028 when the Shoreline Master Plan is updated. Summers hopes to find solutions to flooding and scouring that fit within Town Code.

Dorte Callahan of the Coupeville Garden Club addressed the Council to send a special thank you to the Public Works team for their help with the plantings around the new public restrooms outside the Coupeville Rec Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

Accounts Payable and Payroll

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Walti, seconded by Councilmember Bright, to approve May 2025 Payroll EFT transactions, and May 2025 A/P Transactions and EFT payments for a total of \$188,605.67. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Coastal Adaptation Strategy – Next Steps

Assistant Planner Lisa Walsh presented to the Council. With the completion of the studies conducted under the Coastal Adaptation Strategy, staff seeks recommendations from Council on priorities and next steps. The Council agreed that the priority should be updating shoreline regulations and Town Code as it applies to barriers.

Barbara Summers spoke to the Council again about changing the definition of sea wall in the Town Code so that some mitigating improvements could be made along the foundation of her building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:32pm, the Council took a 10 minute break to allow staff and audience to leave and went into Executive Session at 7:42pm, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) to consider the selection of a site of the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price, and pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee, with no action to be taken. The Executive Session was expected to last until 8:00pm with the Council reconvening the Regular Meeting to adjourn. The Executive Session ended early, at 7:50pm.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted,


Deputy Clerk Chris Jolly

MAYOR


Molly Hughes