

**TOWN OF YARROW POINT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2010
7:00 PM**

The following is a summary of the proceedings and is not a verbatim transcript. The meeting is recorded, and the audio files are public record.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor David Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor: David Cooper

Mayor Pro-Tem: Lisa Mushel

Councilmembers: Carl Scandella
Tim Dillon
Bruce Jones
Roger Myklebust

Staff: Sara McMillon – Town Clerk-Treasurer
Mona Green – Town Planner
Stacia Schroeder – Town Engineer
John Joplin – Fiscal Coordinator
Wayne Stewart – Town Attorney
Officer Nathan Cobrea – Clyde Hill Police

Guests: None.

APPEARANCES:

No one from the public addressed the Council.

MINUTES:

MOTION: Councilmember Lisa Mushel made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting January 12, 2010, as presented. Councilmember Roger Myklebust seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

MOTION: Councilmember Bruce Jones motioned to approve the Consent Calendar as presented including the payment approval report dated February 4, 2010 approving payments as shown totaling \$148,606.63. Councilmember Roger Myklebust seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Officer Nathan Cobrea, Clyde Hill Police – Officer Cobrea reported that a person violating a protection order was arrested in Yarrow Point. Councilmember Mushel asked if the town must pay for jailing costs, and officer Cobrea explained that if the crime occurs in Yarrow Point as in this case, the town pays.

Stacia Schroeder, Town Engineer – Mrs. Schroeder reported that the storm water drainage line at the end of NE 42nd Street was videoed. The line is at least 50 years old and contained longitudinal cracks. In two areas, large holes exist in the top portion of the line. A heavy transverse offset exists right above the lift station. Mrs. Schroeder recommended that the town start repairs at the outlet and go up the street.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

AB 10-004 – Report on Status of Municipal Code Revision

Town Attorney Stewart reported on the status of this ongoing project. Starting about a year and a half ago, he has presented ordinances amending the town code. Changes involve eliminating outdated or obsolete language. Building Official Steve Wilcox will soon introduce needed revisions to the building code. Mr. Stewart said he will present two additional revisions.

Councilmember Myklebust noted that the International Building Code (IBC) is changed every two to three years. Mr. Stewart said that Mr. Wilcox's recommended revisions are due to the adoption of a new IBC. Yarrow Point can make modifications, but cannot be less restrictive than the state. Mr. Stewart said one major IBC change is that all new construction must have a fire sprinkler system. Fire sprinkler systems seem to be a plus for everyone, Mayor Cooper noted.

Yarrow Point adopted the King County animal control code by reference last year, but King County will no longer provide animal control and sheltering services, Mr. Stewart said. Mayor Cooper reported that the City of Bellevue is considering a regional solution. The town may be able to work out a contractual agreement with Bellevue to provide the services. Councilmember Mushel noted that animal control is not a great concern in Yarrow Point. Frequently residents will request control of coyotes, Mayor Cooper said. Town Clerk McMillon reported that Public Works Coordinator Istvan Lovas recently was bitten by a dog that was not restrained on a leash.

AB 10-005 – Discussion of Proposed Council Study Sessions

Mayor Cooper said officials and staff have suggested that study sessions might be an effective way for the Council to receive more information and discuss certain topics of importance before the Council meeting. In the City of Medina, a finance committee discusses expenditures before the meeting begins. Study sessions are public meetings.

Councilmember Scandella said he is in support of holding study sessions on a trial basis. Mr. Myklebust stated the sessions should focus on a particular issue. Councilmember Jones stated that he is in favor of the sessions as a shared learning experience, and Councilmember Dillon said he thinks it is important for new Councilmembers to receive some background information. Mr. Scandella also noted that study sessions could be an important tool for new Councilmembers. Councilmember Mushel also expressed support.

Town Attorney Stewart said the Council should not make decisions on a small packet of information, and study sessions should be held as needed. He recommended that the study sessions be closed to public participation. If the public is provided with an opportunity to address the Council during study sessions, the regular Council meeting could just be started an hour earlier. The purpose of the study sessions is to provide the Council with an opportunity to discuss issues in a more informal setting.

Mr. Stewart said the public will have the opportunity to comment on an issue when it moves from a study session to the regular Council agenda. Mrs. Mushel said the Council should not immediately act on something discussed during a study session so that the public will have a chance to provide feedback before a decision is made. Other members of the Council agreed.

Councilmember Jones said one hour before the regular Council meeting would be the ideal time to hold a study session. Councilmember Mushel said if consultant staff attends the study session, costs to the town will increase. Mayor Cooper said the information shared during the session will be invaluable.

Mr. Myklebust, who served on the planning commission for many years, said sometimes the planning commission wanted Council feedback without putting an item on the agenda. The study sessions could be a good way to communicate with advisory boards and staff.

The Council discussed some planned expenditures and the recent downward trend in revenue. They agreed that a study session should be held in March on the Town's finances, one hour before the regular Council meeting.

AB 10-006 – Report on AWC Elected Officials Essentials Training Session

Mayor Cooper and Councilmember Jones recently attended Association of Washington Cities (AWC) elected officials training. This one-day session was useful in learning about legal requirements and prohibitions involved in serving as a public official. One important take-away was that all e-mail concerning town business is a public record,

Mayor Cooper said. Town e-mail accounts have been set up for the Council so that they can keep town e-mail separate from private correspondence.

Mayor Cooper urged all of the Council to attend the AWC training. Mayor Cooper and Bruce Jones have attended more than once, he said. After reviewing the written materials staff has provided and attending AWC training, the Council should be well prepared.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Councilmember Lisa Mushel motioned to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Councilmember Bruce Jones seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

APPROVED:

David Cooper, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara McMillon, Clerk-Treasurer