

## **City Council Minutes – April 13, 2020**

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Mayor Laurie Gere called to order the Anacortes City Council meeting of April 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Jeremy Carter, Anthony Young, Ryan Walters, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and Matt Miller all participated in the meeting in absentia via video conference.

### **Announcements and Committee Reports**

**COVID-19 Update:** Mayor Gere provided a brief update on steps being taken in response to the COVID-19 epidemic and sources of information for the public. The mayor encouraged the public to submit questions for her weekly Wednesday afternoon Community Briefing on COVID-19.

**Public Safety Committee:** Mr. Miller reported from the electronic committee meeting the prior week. He said the Fire Department had reported no positive cases of COVID-19 among Fire Department staff, lower call volume and adequate resources. The Police Department reported normal patrol activity.

**Fiber Committee:** Mr. McDougall reported from the electronic committee meeting the prior Thursday. He shared statistics on customer sign up rates and installation counts in the three pilot zones. Mr. McDougall explained Fiber crew efforts to work with customers to allow installations without entering the customer premise to comply with social distancing requirements.

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Carter reported from the electronic committee meeting the prior Wednesday. He said the group discussed the new affordable housing sales tax and suspension of utility service shut off for non-payment. Mr. Walters added that Waste Management had requested rate increase to cover a state tax increase and that the Anacortes Cinema had requested rent forgiveness for the property it leases from the City of Anacortes.

**Housing Affordability & Community Services Committee:** Ms. Moulton reported from the electronic committee meeting earlier in the evening. She discussed the \$68K of additional CDBG funding that would be awarded to Anacortes due to COVID-19 and the committee's initial exploration of the most effective way to use those funds. She also encouraged any local landlords who can afford to do so to consider waiving rent for residential or commercial tenants.

**Planning Committee:** Mr. Walters reported from the electronic committee meeting earlier in the evening. He said the Planning Department is still receiving and processing permits but most construction is stopped except for specific allowed exceptions. Mr. Walters said the group also discussed ideas for preserving the 9<sup>th</sup> Street view corridor in conjunction with the Port's north basin project. Ms. Cleland-McGrath added that in light of the COVID-19 restrictions, the committee agreed on the wisdom of postponing action on the Shoreline Master Program and Critical Areas Regulations updates until a viable method for accepting public comment was available.

### **Public Comment**

*Per Section 3 of Resolution 2082 Ratifying Proclamation of Emergency and Providing Temporary Procedures to Respond to the COVID-19 Epidemic, adopted by the Anacortes City Council on March 16, 2020, the public comment portion of Council meetings and any scheduled public hearings were temporarily suspended to discourage public in-person attendance of City Council meetings. The public was encouraged to comment via email or written comment addressed to: City Clerk, P.O. Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221. Public comments received prior to the meeting become part of the record for the meeting, just as if presented in person.*

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Young, to approve the following Consent Agenda items. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- a. Minutes of April 6, 2020
- b. Approval of Claims in the amount of: \$620,997.64
- c. Contract Award: Microsoft Office 365 Software Subscription #20-110-ITS-002

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:  
EFT numbers: 96819 through 96871, total \$568,338.23  
Check numbers: 96872 through 96891, total \$47,745.43  
Wire transfer numbers: 266733 through 267007, total \$21,358.41

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Contract Award: Skagit River Raw Water Pipeline and Clearwell Project #20-048-WTR-001**

Public Works Director Fred Buckenmeyer requested City Council consent to award a contract in the amount of \$11,511,850.00 to IMCO General Construction to perform the Skagit River Raw Water Pipeline and Clearwell Project. Mr. Buckenmeyer briefly described the scope of work of the two projects covered by the contract and responded to councilmember questions. He recommended approval. Mayor Gere requested that staff elaborate on the funding for the project. Mr. Buckenmeyer and Finance Director Steve Hoglund discussed the plan to issue bonds for the project later in the year and noted that the debt service cost for this anticipated capital project had already been factored into the current rates for all regional water system ratepayers.

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall, to authorize the Mayor to sign contract 20-048-WTR-001 as presented. Vote: Ayes – Cleland-McGrath, Young, Miller, Carter, McDougall, Walters and Moulton. Motion carried.

There being no further business, at approximately 6:35 p.m. the Anacortes City Council meeting of April 13, 2020 was adjourned.