

# TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

## MINUTES

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor calls meeting to order at 7 PM

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- i. Neil motions to approve the Agenda with amending moving continued business #3 to #1. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

### IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- i. Gary motions to approve January 8, 2020 minutes; Neil seconds; All in favor; Motion carried.

### V. GUEST SPEAKERS

#### 1. JoAnne Milton – Darrington Street Fair

- i. JoAnne is asking for approval to close Darrington Street from Mountain Loop Highway to Sauk Ave. for the Street Fair for August 8th from 7am to 5pm, helping with the garbage cans and possibly out houses.
- ii. Jim states that the out house at the Airport has been upgraded to a handicapped double and will not be able to be moved. The only other out house is the one at the cemetery, which does not belong to the town. Neil offers to open their bathrooms to the public for the event as well. Kevin offers to have the IGA help too.
- iii. Gary would like to see the Town help with the out houses because the fair does help the Town's economy.
- iv. Dianne suggest contacting the Fire Hall because they have one sitting behind their building.
- v. Gary suggests that the street be shut down from the block of the Red Top, Elwell, to allow more access to the streets to the South of Darrington Street. And will allow River Time to consider having a beer garden.
- vi. – approves the closure of Darrington Street from Elwell Ave to Sauk Ave. and at Emens Ave. at the Brewery and help with one port-a-potty. Billie seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
- vii. A visitor asks about the motorcycle run. He is concerned with who will be putting that together. JoAnne and Neil say that they will not participate in organizing it if it does happen.

### VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS

#### 1. Amy Lucas – Update on the UGA and Comprehensive Plan Update.

- i. Amy and Ryan Larson are here to update the Council on the UGA and Comprehensive Plan Update. They are trying to get on the County docket for the 2020 Comp. plan.

- ii. They present a proposal to amend the comprehensive plan. Ryan gives a brief explanation of the process.
- iii. What is proposed to the Council tonight is the UGA Swap.
- iv. Gary asks if there will be any swapping of zoning from industrial to residential. No. The UGA is only a swap of land, acre for acre.
- v. Kevin asks if the property owners that will be effective will be notified. Yes, two notices have been sent and the planning commission has held an open house.
- vi. Snohomish County is the only jurisdiction that can make these amendments to the UGA.
- vii. The application needs to be turned into the County by October 31<sup>st</sup>, then the County will process the application, then, if approved, the Town would then take measures to enact on the swap.

## 2. Letter of Support to Commissioner of Public Lands for the Darrington Wood Innovation Center.

- i. Neil motions to approve the Letter of Support to Commissioner of Public Lands for the Darrington Wood Innovation Center and for the Mayor to sign. Billie seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

## 3. Feasibility Study on Mountain Loop Highway – council needs to vote on which option they want to support.

### 1. Continue existing conditions

### 2. Minor road and drainage improvements

### 3. 25 MPH design speed

### 4. 40 MPH design speed

- a. Gary thinks that it does not need to be 40 MPH.
- b. This was tabled at the last meeting because the final report on the study had not been made public.
- c. The study is just data for the Forest Service and the County to use to decide what they would like to do with the Highway.
- d. Gary states that he read that Jeff Keys has stated that the County does not have any project in place now.
- e. Reed would like option #2 because the Town is a Timber town and is worried that it will hinder that occupation. He would not like to bring a larger tourism group and would like to see more jobs to the economy of the Town rather than just tourism. The tourism programs that are currently functioning in the Town are not hiring locally. Gary disagrees.
- f. Neil asks if those for option 3 believes that paving the road would bring more people all the way over the Mountain Loop into Darrington. Kevin believes that it will. He believes that having the access, that it would be more feasible for the Forest Service to establish more campgrounds on the North side of Barlow Pass, closer to Darrington. He also states that it would be an addition route of escape in the change of another natural disaster. Kevin believes that Granite Falls is in support of paving the Mountain Loop Highway.
- g. If the program goes forward, it will still be several years before funding is gathered and the project will start.
- h. Neil does state that we could support option 3 with graveling not paving.

- i. Bridget and Jim discuss that there are smaller, day trails on the Verlot side of the Mountain Loop, which seems to be the biggest attraction. The Darrington side does not have those smaller hikes. Most of those day hikers are coming from the South, which Verlot is closer and easier to access.
- j. Kevin states that this is part of an economic revitalization that the Town needs.
- k. Neil would like to look over the study more before voting.
- l. Discussion was had.
- m. Gary motions for council to approve support for option number 3. Billie seconds. All in favor. One opposed. Motion carried.
- n. Gary motions to approve Resolution No. 316. Billie seconds. All in favor. One opposed. Motion carried.
- o. Kevin would like to ask the Council if they would approve of him being a liaison for the Town for this project.
- p. Neil would like to discuss the topic more before making a motion on having Kevin being a liaison.
- q. It is suggested that a council member join with Kevin. Gary offers to go with Kevin.
- r. Gary makes a motion to allow Kevin Ashe to be a liaison for the Town in support of option 3, for this project. Kerry seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS AND APPROVAL ITEMS

### 1. Appoint new Mayor Pro-Tem positions

#### i. Nominations

- a. Gary
- b. Kerry
- c. All in favor of Gary & Kerry as Mayor Pro – Tem for the year 2020. Motion carried.

### 2. New Signature cards for Coastal Community Bank

- i. Reed motions to add Gary Willis and Kerry Frable to signature authority and remove former council member, Kevin Ashe, from Coastal Community Bank accounts. Billie seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

### 3. Termination of Whitehorse Community Park Potable Water and Joint Operation and Maintenance Agreements.

- i. Neil to approve the termination of the Whitehorse Community Park Potable Water and Joint Operation and Maintenance Agreements and for Mayor to sign. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

### 4. Memorandum of Understanding Between Sno. Dept. of Parks, Town of Darrington, Darrington School District and DJAA to manage, operate, schedule, maintain and make capital improvements to Sno-Co Whitehorse Community Park.

- i. Kerry asks about the Town water bill. What if, in the future, the Town needs to increase the flat rate. Dianne explains that it is a flat rate higher than other customers which would off set the over usage in the summer and any cost increases.
- ii. Kevin asks if the county is going to resurrect the ball fields. This MOU is just for maintenance, including of two fields. There is another project that is being worked on for the resurrecting the fields.

- iii. Gary motions to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Sno. Dept. of Parks, Town of Darrington, Darrington School District and DJAA to manage, operate, schedule, maintain and make capital improvements to Sno. Co. Whitehorse Community Park and for the Mayor to sign. Neil seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. **USDA Community Facilities Grant Agreement – New Maintenance Truck**
  - i. Gary asks why the match has changed. Dianne explains that USDA said the match can be in kind or donation. The dealership offered a donation as a match, USDA did not accept that.
  - ii. Gary motions to approve USDA Facilities Grant Agreement for a new Maintenance Truck and for the Mayor to sign. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. **Contract for Professional Services with Earth & Sky Studios – Destination Darrington Website – Funded by LTAC Grant**
  - i. Reed motions to approve the professional services contract with Earth & Sky Studios and for the Mayor to sign. Billie seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
7. **Resolution GR 311- Building Fee Schedule**
  - i. The Town’s building official does not foresee any increases in the near future and suggests that the Town takes out the increase and leave the fee schedule at the 2020 levels.
  - ii. Gary asks if there is an increase in the next few years, can it be changed? Yes, it can be changed as needed.
  - iii. Neil motions to approve Resolution GR 311 establishing a revised Building Fee Schedule and for the mayor to sign. Billie seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
8. **Trust Water Right Agreement with State of WA Dept. of Ecology**
  - i. There was a conference call and the changes that the Mayor wanted to see where made. This agreement will temporarily transfer the water rights to the Department of Ecology.
  - ii. Gary motions to approve the Trust Water Right Agreement with the State of WA Dept. of Ecology and for the mayor to sign. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
9. **Donation of 44 af of Water Rights to the State Trust Water Rights Program from Toby/Brown Creek**
  - i. The audience would like to make sure that the Town does not lose the rights or that Dept. of Ecology will then dictate how the water trust and bank will be set up. The Town will not lose the rights in any way.
  - ii. Neil motions to approve the donation of 44 af of Water Rights to the State Water Rights Program form Toby/Brown Creek and for the mayor to sign. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
10. **Donation of 60 af of Water Rights to the State Trust Water Rights Program from Toby/ Brown Creek.**
  - i. Kerry motions to approve the donation of 60 af of Water Rights to the State Trust Water Rights Program from Toby/Brown Creek and for the mayor to sign. Billie seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
11. **Resolution GR 312 – Transfer of funds to the Parks Fund from the Street Fund to balance 2019 year-end**

- i. The budgets can not end the year at a deficit.
- ii. Gary would has noticed that there are errors in the Resolutions dictating which funds are in deficit and which will be used to balance the deficit.
- iii. Reed motions to approve Resolution GR 312 to transfer funds to the Parks Fund from the Street Fund to balance 2019 year-end as amended. Gary seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

12. Resolution GR 313 – Transfer of funds to the Library Fund from the Street Fund to balance 2019 year-end

- i. Gary asks why there is a deficit in the Library Fund. Dianne explains that the Library is only billed once a year for their water, maintenance and their portion of utilities which causes the Library to run at a deficit.
- ii. Neil motions to approve Resolution GR 313 to transfer funds to the Library Fund from the Street Fund to balance 2019 year-end. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

13. Resolution GR 314 – Transfer of funds to the Airport Fund from the Street Fund to balance 2019 year-end.

- i. Gary motions to approve Resolution GR 314 to transfer funds to the Airport Fund from the Street Fund to balance 2019 year-end as amended. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

14. Resolution GR 315 – Loan funds to the General Fund from the Water Fund to balance 2019 year-end.

- i. This one is a loan because Water funds are restricted funds. This will be paid back, with interest, within one year.
- ii. Gary asks for clarification on the deficit. Yes, the deficit is still 35k.
- iii. Gary asks about the third maintenance person's salary. The third maintenance person's salary does not come out of the general fund.
- iv. Reed motions to approve Resolution GR 315 to loan funds to the General Fund from the Water Fund to balance 2019 year-end. Billie seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

15. Ordinance 751 – Establishing the Property Tax Budget for the 2020 year.

- i. Gary asks if changes are made to the budget, will these percentages change? No.
- ii. Neil motions to approve Ordinance 751 establishing the Property Tax Budget for the 2020 year and for the mayor to sign. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

16. Ordinance 752 – Approval of the final 2019 Budget

- i. Reed motions to approve the final 2019 Budget. Kerry seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

17. Ordinance 753 – Approval of the 2020 Budget

- i. Changes had been made to the budget per the last discussion.
- ii. Gary would like to see some of the budget put into maintenance for the backhoe and not all in legal. Dan explains that the council needs to keep in mind the potential fees for the water bank process.
- iii. Gary asks about the water plan update match. There is no match because it is a loan.
- iv. Billie motions to approve the 2020 Budget. Neil seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

18. Agreement with Sno. Co. Park, Recreation & Tourism. Grant for the Destination Darrington Web Site.

- i. Reed motions to accept the Sno. Co. Park, Recreation & Tourism grant and to approve the agreement and for the mayor to sign. Kerry seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### 19. Resolution GR 317 – Parks and Recreation Plan

- i. Neil motions to approve Resolution GR 317, the Parks and Recreation Plan. Billie seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### 20. DNR Lawsuit on Timber Sales – Skagit County / Snohomish County. Where do we stand?

- i. The lawsuit is for Skagit County only. Nate Nearing is trying to get Snohomish County to sign onto a different lawsuit.
- ii. Kevin ask what needs to be done now. Dan explains that now, supporting Nate is the best we can do now.
- iii. Kevin asks what the collaborative is up to. Dan gives an update on their projects.
- iv. Discussion was had.
- v. Kevin asks if the Town would right a letter of support for the lawsuit. Dan would want to talk to someone involved.

#### 21. Reschedule Feb 26, 2020 Council retreat? Mayor will not be here.

- i. Council decides that they would move the retreat to March 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### 22. Gary asks if the road washout on 530 North of Town will affect the Town over the summer.

- i. No. The county is fixing it now.

#### 23. The Town of Darrington was successful on all three of their CDBG Grants. The Fire Department also was successful and is getting a new ambulance. The Town also received a RMSA Grant for \$5000. All fire hydrants are now uniform, two adapters for the hydrants, and there are new gates up at the airport thanks to this grant.

- i. Kevin would like the Town to elicit a letter stating how well the Town spent their grant from PSRC.

#### 24. Todd Ronning is here to ask if the Red Top can have a band July 4<sup>th</sup>, and for the car show in August from 6pm-1am

- i. Gary makes a motion to allow the Red Top to have a band on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 1am July 5<sup>th</sup>. Neil seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.
- ii. The council has tabled the car show, pending on confirmation of date.

### VIII. COUNCIL/BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

### IX. VISITORS

- i. Jon Allen would like to remind the Council of the economic depression of the Town, and that while the current tax increases are in place, the levies will suffer. The current levy that was just voted on for the school was not passed. Jon would like the Council to see if the Assessors office would be willing to send someone out to have an educational meeting for the public for

property taxes and how they are used. Dianne states that the County holds these meetings at the County buildings all the time.

- ii. Jon Allen is very concerned that the Council passed the resolution for the support of option 3 for the Mountain Loop Feasibility study after listening to the discussion and there were council members that did not understand the full study.

**X. CLOSE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

- i. Neil motions to close the regular council meeting. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

**XI. OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XII. CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- i. Reed motions to close the executive session. Neil seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

**XIII. OPEN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

- i. Neil motions to open the regular council meeting. Reed seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

**XIV. MAYOR'S REPORT**

- i. Dan explains his calendar.

**XV. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE APPROVAL**

**1. Accounts Payable/ Monthly Payments**

- i. Gary motions to approve accounts payable/ monthly payments. Billi seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

**XVI. ADJOURN**

Gary motions to adjourn February 12, 2020 Town Council Meeting at 10:35 PM; Neil seconds; all in favor; motion carried.

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Dan O. Rankin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Dianne Allen, Clerk/Treasurer