

February 16, 2016

## Steilacoom Town Council Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER:**  
February 16, 2016

**Mayor Lucas** called the regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

**ROLL CALL:**

In attendance were Mayor Lucas, Councilmembers Stovall, Crumley, Franklin and Smith. Councilmember Henderson was excused. Staff members in attendance were Town Administrator Loveless, Attorney Hoffman, Public Safety Director Rodriguez, Public Works Director Burlingame, and Administrative Assistant Bollman.

**Mayor Lucas** led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**Councilmember Franklin** moved and **Councilmember Smith** seconded to approve the following items on the consent calendar:

1. Minutes of February 2, 2016
2. Payroll Checks #101845 - #101851 in the amount of \$181,583.94
3. Claims Checks #101875 - #101933 in the amount of \$53,174.26 and Manual Check #101872 in the amount of \$60.00
4. Re-appointment of Steven Hilleary to Planning Commission (AB 2714)
5. Surplus Property (AB 2716)

Yes: All

**AUDIENCE INPUT:**  
Non-Agenda Items

No public comments.

**PRESENTATION:**

Pierce County Reads – Patti Cox

**ACTION ITEMS:**  
Utility Billing Procedures  
(AB 2713)

**Town Administrator Loveless** delivered the staff report and responded to questions from the Council.

**Mayor Lucas** invited members of the public to speak. The following people spoke:

**Brian Reader** from Reader Management Co., Lakewood. In 27 years of being in this business he has never had a utility provider bill owners or management companies for tenant electric bills. This change would be very time consuming due to electric bills being variable. He feels that eviction is a much harsher penalty verses turning the tenant's power off, which is the Town's current practice. There are better ways to handle this problem.

**Lenore Rogers**, 206 Balch Street, Steilacoom. She has three rental properties in Town. She is on a fixed income therefore this change would be a hardship.

**Charles Peiffer**, 1503 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom. He is very opposed to this change due to the fact that he is not in the business of lending money. He does not want to pay for his tenant's electric bill and wait to be paid back.

**AB 2713 continued:**

**Randy Grice**, 4518 Gene Court, University Place. He has not had any problems in the past with his rentals. He suggested a tiered system or raising electric deposits substantially.

**Heather Thomas**, 107 Champion Street, Steilacoom. She feels that this change would create extra bookkeeping for her. Perhaps the Town needs to hire more help for utility billing.

**Sally Johnson**, 106 Champion Street, Steilacoom. She stated that utilities paid by the property owner would not only be a hardship but would also not encourage conservation on the tenants part.

**Brenda Leech**, 1311 Starling Street, Steilacoom. She appreciates the Town's challenges but to pass it on to responsible landlords is unfair. It comes down to screening in order to get the right tenant. This proposal would also be an unfair burden to military families renting their homes.

**John Leech**, 1311 Starling Street, Steilacoom. He requested that there be a distinction between good landlords and poor landlords.

**Noah Tchobanoff**, 2501 Cincinnati Street, Steilacoom. He opposes this proposal. He feels that it will raise rents and gives no incentives to conserve water and/or electricity. He felt it was the cost of doing business for the Town. He encouraged the Town to deal with problem users and increase utility deposits, late fees and reconnection fees.

**Dan Tchobanoff**, 1611 Washington Street, Steilacoom. He expressed that there may be a staffing problem within the billing department. This proposal forces the landlord to become an unpaid agent for the Town.

**Marilyn Martinetto**, 2300 Worthington Street, Steilacoom. She is not a landlord because of the frustrations. The question comes down to who bears the burden. It's up to the landlord to get the right tenant. Therefore, she would hate to see the Town have to pay for extra staff. The profits made through utilities pay for the Town's infrastructure.

**Brandon Anderson**, 48 Queets Street, Steilacoom. He suggested that the Town offer on-line payment option, collecting higher deposits and providing more staff to deal with the challenges.

**Jon Sandvik**, 1211 Sequalish Street, Steilacoom. He is a renter and feels that it should not be the owner's responsibility.

**Michael Lewis**, 908 Union Avenue, Steilacoom. He stated that ultimately the owner of the property is responsible for the bill. He asked what the timeframe is between a renter moving out or being disconnected and the owners being notified. He asked if paperless billing was an option. He stated that he was against this change.

February 16, 2016

**Steilacoom Town Council Minutes**

**AB 2713 continued:**

No action taken by Councilmembers.

**NEW ITEMS:**

**Mayor Lucas** introduced Agenda Bill 2715 (Ordinance #1540)

**Mayor Lucas** introduced Agenda Bill 2717 (Ordinance #1541)

**REPORTS:**

**Mayor**

**Mayor Lucas** reported the following:

- Tonight at the Lakewood City Council meeting the Partners for Parks Committee provided a check for \$100,000 to the City of Lakewood for the Waughop Lake trail project.
- The Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt at Cherrydale School is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.
- A rental inspection initiative has been in the news lately. It may be of interest.
- The Steilacoom Kiwanis Club and Foundation raised over \$40,000 for schools, children and community events.
- The Pierce County Region Council project application deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Mayor, Public Works Director and electric crew leader will be giving a presentation at the Steilacoom schools next week.
- The Click Company has made a decision to go into video vs the internet broadband. Therefore, no Click extension into Steilacoom.
- Next week University Place will be hosting an in-district Pierce County Regional Council meeting.
- Next Tuesday is the 20 year celebration of the City of Lakewood.
- The Steilacoom High School crab feed is February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center.
- Shared many of the accomplishments of a resident, John Anderson, who recently passed. A true backbone of this community.
- The Pierce County Chairman for the 6<sup>th</sup> District is Doug Richardson this year.
- The Association of the United States Army will be having a fundraiser for Community Connector Soldiers and Families at Steilacoom High School on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. This basketball game will be against First Responders of Pierce County and soldiers from JBLM.
- The School District will be holding an open public meeting to discuss the School Resource Officer position. Look for that in the near future.
- On behalf of the Mayor and Council we are thankful for all the public input tonight.

**Administrator**

**Town Administrator Loveless** had no comment.

**Attorney**

**Attorney Hoffman** had no comment.

**Public Safety**

**Chief Rodriguez** reported the following:

- There has been a variety of calls for service this month including a SWAT operation on Friday in Tacoma.
- One of our officers was injured during an arrest last week.
- Our new PSO, Smitley, is now fully on board. He is a great addition to the Department.
- Officer Derig attended a three day night vision goggle tactic class.
- Officers Feleppa and Hamrick participated in the First Responder training program which was sponsored by the Homeland Security Department in Kennewick for three days.
- Tomorrow the Department is hosting Blue Courage for two days, which is a leadership course for officers. This training is usually held at the academy, so it is an honor to have them here in Steilacoom.
- Over the past month Chief has received several compliments about the Departments professionalism, compassion and teamwork. He is very proud of the team.
- Thanked Marilyn Martinetto for assisting the Department in removing patches off of old uniforms. We appreciated her help.

**Public Works**

**Public Works Director Burlingame** reported the following:

- The Town has had a lot of rain lately. We have wet properties throughout Town.
- The Cherrydale Park playground equipment is being prepared. The crew is excavating the area now.
- Last week the mechanic has been working hard on our vactor truck which was in need of a new transmission. Several staff members have been helping our mechanic, Mike Shaw. Great job at repairing this piece of equipment. It has saved the Town a good deal of money by keeping the job in house. We are blessed with an outstanding crew.
- Puget Sound Regional Council is requesting future projects that may be eligible for federal grant funding. We are concentrating our efforts on construction funding for non-motorized improvements along the Tunnel of Trees into Lakewood.

**Council**

**Councilmember Stovall** had no comments.

**Councilmember Franklin** had no comments.

February 16, 2016

**Steilacoom Town Council Minutes**

**Councilmember Crumley** reported the following:

- Thanked Chief for bringing the Blue Courage training into Town.
- Commended our mechanic for saving the Town thousands of dollars. Speaks to the quality of employees that the Town has.
- He recently attended the annual Steilacoom Food Pantry meeting to discover that our own Paul Loveless has been re-elected president and treasurer. He thanked him for helping, on his own time, to collect and distribute food to residents in need.

**Councilmember Smith** reported the following:

- Reported that a sinkhole has developed in front of his house on First Street. He suggested throwing a patch on the hole.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The February 16, 2016 regular meeting of the Steilacoom Town Council adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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**Town Administrator**

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**Mayor**