



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Monday – July 7, 2008
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Asay called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present were Beaudry, Borek, Drotz, Heddlesten, Neal, Sanderson, and Whalen.

STAFF PRESENT

City Administrator Wilson, Public Works Director Neal, Finance Director/City Clerk Pierce, and Community Development Director Terrell were present.

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS

Mayor Asay requested that an addition be made to the Regular Agenda as Item 6-C to correct a typo in the full time employee list for Public Works.

Mayor Asay deleted the Executive Session from the agenda.

Councilmember Sanderson requested that an addition be made to the Study Session Agenda as Item 11-D to discuss the Council's agenda calendar.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Milton Loflin, 1810 11th Avenue, thanked Councilmember Heddlesten for his comments regarding out of town retreats and the bandstand in the Park, thanked Councilmember Sanderson for his comments regarding the City's stormwater issues, and thanked both Councilmembers Heddlesten and Sanderson for their comments reminding Administration about items that are not showing up on the agenda.

Diane Tomaso, 1709 Milton Way, requested that City Administration look into the cost of televising Council meetings.

Robert McDonald, 1308 15th Avenue, commented on the need for signage in the Parks relating to animal control, having a permanent restroom in Triangle Park, and the need for changes in the noise regulations prior to the Milton Day's event. Mr. McDonald also volunteered to be the Santa at the City's tree lighting ceremony.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from the June 16, 2008 regular meeting, June 20, 2008 payroll direct deposits, checks and benefits in the amount of \$154,069.18, and July 7, 2008 checks/vouchers, numbers 15679-15739, in the amount of \$255,944.80.

Councilmember Sanderson requested that the checks and vouchers be pulled from the Consent Agenda allowing for discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER BEAUDRY MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Councilmember Sanderson seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 7-0.

Councilmembers Sanderson expressed concern with approving voucher payments without knowing the financial status of the City. Councilmember Drotz echoed his concerns.

City Administrator Wilson reported that a comprehensive financial status report will be available at the July 19th retreat.

Councilmember Whalen questioned what supplies were purchased at Fife City Bar and Grill.

Mayor Asay commented that the expense was for the Director's retreat.

COUNCILMEMBER SANDERSON MOVED to approve the checks and vouchers. Councilmember Borek seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 5-2 with Sanderson and Drotz voting no.

REGULAR AGENDA

AB08-059 Ordinance No. 1721-08 Frontage Improvement Code Clarification: Public Works Director Neal presented the proposed ordinance which would amend Milton Municipal Code, Section 12.24.160, to provide adequate clarification of stormwater requirements for frontage improvements.

Councilmember Whalen requested an amendment to the Ordinance to include additional wording be added to read ".....at the direction of the City Engineer or designated City Engineer."

COUNCILMEMBER WHALEN MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1721-08 as amended. Councilmember Heddlesten seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 7-0.

AB-08-060: Tree Trimming in Triangle Park: Public Works Director Neal presented a proposal for tree trimming in Triangle Park in response to citizen complaints (see attachment to minutes).

Jack Chandler, 79 23rd Avenue and Lois Zaroudny, 810 Queens Street, both Park Board Members, made comments on behalf of all Park Board Members supporting the tree trimming proposal.

Councilmember Heddlesten expressed concern with the proposal and the timeframe for presenting the issue to Council for approval, and thanked the Park Board for their hard work with this issue.

Councilmembers Beaudry, Whalen, Borek, Sanderson, Neal, and Drotz thanked the Park Board for all their hard work with this issue, made comments supporting trimming the trees in Triangle Park, and requested the issue be discussed further at the July 19th retreat.

COUNCILMEMBER DROTZ MOVED to authorize the Public Works Director to enter into a contract for tree trimming in Triangle Park, as recommended by the City of Milton Park Board, and authorize the associated budget adjustment to cover the not to exceed cost of \$20,000. Councilmember Neal seconded the motion.

Milton Loflin, 1810 11th Avenue, Robert McDonald, 1308 15th Avenue, Debra Perry, 1205 Hemlock Street, and Jacquelyn Whalen, 1605 13th Avenue, made comments supporting trimming the trees in Triangle Park.

The motion was voted on and carried 6-1 with Heddlesten voting no.

At this time Mayor Asay recessed the meeting at 8:32 p.m. to allow for a 5 minute break. Mayor Asay reconvened the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

AB08-061: Public Works Personnel Correction: Public Works Director Neal presented the request which would allow for the correction of a typo in the classification title for the Maintenance Worker I in the 2008 budget and put it back to a Maintenance Worker II as it originally appeared in the 2007 budget.

COUNCILMEMBER WHALEN MOVED to defer approval of this item until the overall financial status of the City is known. Councilmember Heddlesten seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and failed 2-5 with Beaudry, Borek, Drotz, Neal, and Sanderson voting no.

COUNCILMEMBER BOREK MOVED to adjust the 2008 budget positions for the Public Works Department to allow two Maintenance Worker I and two Maintenance Worker II positions, and allow the Maintenance Worker II position to be underfilled if necessary. Councilmember Drotz seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 6-1 with Whalen voting no.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

City Administrator Wilson expressed appreciation to Tim Nole for his time in helping to adjust the microphones during tonight's meeting. Mr. Wilson also reported on 1) ongoing EMS levy discussions, 2) the July 19th Council retreat and scheduled discussion items, 3) the August 2nd Council Retreat and the items on the calendar that were provided by Councilmembers, and 4) requested changing the starting time for the July 14, 2008 study session to 5:30 p.m.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Whalen inquired/reported on: 1) the status of the repair of the reader board, 2) the status of receiving planning commission meeting minutes, 3) the need for clarification of Council procedures specifically with one or two readings of ordinances, and 4) suggested Administration read Fife's noise ordinance that was recently passed.

Councilmember Heddlesten commented/reported on: 1) attendance at the AWC conference, 2) citizen complaint relating to late night noise problems at Mr. Sudsy's Car Wash, and 3) the need for laptops for Councilmembers if they are going to be expected to access City and/or Council information from the website.

Councilmember Beaudry commented/reported on: 1) the need to further discuss the fireworks regulations in a study session setting, and 2) the noise caused by a change in the flight path of planes coming and going from SeaTac Airport.

Councilmember Drotz commented/reported on: 1) attendance at an Economic Development Board meeting, and 2) inquired about the status of the City's animal control services.

Councilmember Borek commented/reported on: 1) the need for Council reports to be more positive.

Councilmember Sanderson commented/reported on: 1) attendance at the AWC conference, and 2) the positive outcome for using Microflex, which is a company that reviews sales tax receipts.

Councilmember Neal commented/reported on: 1) the new sound system, and 2) apologized for the comments he made at a previous meeting regarding the amendment to the fireworks regulations and for not disclosing that the Faith Family Church had applied for two fireworks stand permits.

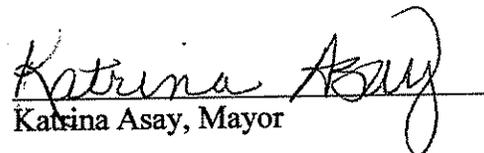
STUDY ITEMS

Mayor Asay reported that Item 11-D, discussion of the Council Agenda Calendar, that was added to the Study Session Agenda, at the request of Councilmember Sanderson, can be pulled. City Administrator Wilson answered Councilmember Sanderson's questions in his City Administrator report.

- A. Draft Resolution - Ratification of Amendments to Pierce County County-wide Planning Policies.
- B. Draft Resolution - Adopt King and Pierce County Buildable Land Reports.
- C. Draft Comments on 2007 Pierce County Buildable Lands Report Consistency Evaluation.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMEMBER BEAUDRY MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Whalen seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10.08 p.m.


Katrina Asay, Mayor

ATTEST:


Barbara J. Fortier, Deputy City Clerk

Attachment to July 7, 2008 Minutes



Agenda Bill No. 08-060

To: Mayor Asay and Councilmembers
From: Public Works Director Neal
Milton Park Board
Date: July 7, 2008 Regular Session
Re: Tree Trimming in Triangle Park

ATTACHMENTS:

TYPE OF ACTION:

Information Only Discussion Action Expenditure Required: \$20,000

Issue: The City of Milton Park Board requests Council approval to contract for tree trimming in Triangle Park.

Discussion: One of the most common citizen's complaints received by the Park Board about Triangle Park has been in regards to the "dark and scary" atmosphere in the wooded area in the center of the park. Some say their children are hesitant to use that area of the park. Many parents have expressed an unwillingness to allow their children to use the restroom there because they consider that to be an unsafe area. In response to the community's concerns, the members of the Park Board, with the assistance of City staff and a certified arborist, have assessed the problems related to our urban forest in that area of the park

Michael David, a certified arborist with Evergreen Tree Care, was kind enough to assist the Park Board in evaluating the health and safety of the trees in Triangle Park. The exceptionally dense forest canopy in the middle of Triangle Park is blocking almost all of the natural light from reaching the ground. There is a large quantity of hazardous, broken and dead debris caught up in this canopy. This debris poses a significant risk of injury to both park users and City employees working in the park. There are several loose branches commonly referred to as "widow-makers". Much of these branches are at significant heights above the ground and could cause considerable damage upon falling. Loose debris can fall at any

time, and windy weather only increases the risks. The forested area in Triangle Park not only looks scary and unsafe to our citizens, it is in fact a considerable safety hazard to park users.

City environments do not mimic natural forest conditions. Sometimes it is necessary to modify the trees for the sake of safety and for the health and preservation of the urban forest. The Park Board strongly urges the Council to authorize a \$20,000 expenditure to perform the following measures for the identified problem trees (approximately 40 in number).

- Wind Sail Reduction which is the strategic removal of branches to reduce movement in strong winds. This is an important safety issue.
- Centering is removing the inner growth of the foliage from trees. It improves the health and efficiency of the trees.
- Balancing makes the tree more appealing to the eye and keeps the weight dispersed evenly for storm safety.
- Dead Wood Removal eliminates the dead branches. This allows a solid barrier of bark to protect trees against dry rot, insect infestation, fire hazard and disease. It also makes them more visually appealing and healthier, increasing their life span.
- There are at least five damaged trees that must be completely removed.

These measures will open the forest canopy to allow light and air into the park, eliminating the “dark, scary and unsafe” atmosphere. It will improve visibility in and through the park. Additional air and light will have measurable health benefits for the trees and will eliminate 100% of the identified hazardous debris in that area.

Evergreen Tree Care has provided the City with the first estimate, upon which this proposal is based. They are prepared to complete the work at the earliest possible date upon approval. With their proposal, work will be done by certified journeymen arborists using hand tools and will include the removal of all debris generated by this job. A one-time application of fertilizer into the root systems of the trees is also included. The Public Works Department is of course gathering estimates from multiple tree trimming services to insure the City is obtaining the best service for the best price.

The Park Board is currently evaluating the possibility of attempting to have Milton designated as a Tree City USA and plans to be an active participant in the new Washington State Evergreen Communities Act. Both emphasize the environmental, economic, and community pride benefits of maintaining and preserving our urban forests.

Developing Triangle Park to its full potential has been an expressed goal of the Council and the Park Board. Authorizing the Park Board’s recommendations making the Park a safe, attractive, open and inviting place for our citizens to visit and enjoy is a fundamental and manifest step toward achieving that goal.

Fiscal Impact: Approval of this expenditure would require a budget adjustment for the total amount expended, not to exceed \$20,000.

Recommendation/Action: “I move to authorize the Public Works Director to enter into a contract for tree trimming in Triangle Park, as recommended by the City of Milton Park Board, and authorize the associated budget adjustment to cover the not to exceed cost of \$20,000.”