

CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting
September 17, 2007
Monday, 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Asay called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Present were Councilmembers Beaudry, Borek, Drotz, Heddlesten, Neal, Sirack and Whalen.

STAFF PRESENT: Interim City Administrator Carter, Chief Rhoads, Public Works Director Neal and Deputy City Clerk Marcelia.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:
None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Milton Loflin, 1810 11th Ave., shared some suggestions for “20 year improvements” in a variety of City services (police, fire, parks, stormwater, electric & water, and City administration). He started by commenting on the electric company: he wanted council to consider some changes. He stated that there is a possibility of problems ahead with connections to Bonneville. Bonneville has warned the City for years that they are under pressure to raise rates to market rates – there could be a hefty increase in utility prices for citizens. He shared the benefits associated with selling our power company to Tacoma Power, including an internet connection called Click – which is much cheaper than Comcast. At the next meeting he’ll talk about the City’s parks – *Can we do it better?*

Steve Tomaso, 1709 Milton Way, asked for clarification on the SR99 speed limit change approved by council not too long ago. He mentioned that the Orting Gazette stated that Orting is trying to do the same thing and found that an engineer needs to do a traffic study and certain criteria has to be met. Mayor Asay responded by saying that the City is still waiting to hear back from the State on that. The engineering study was done through the State.

Larry Holmquist, 503 27th Ave., commented on the lack of maintenance of the planted strips between the curbs and sidewalks throughout the City. Last June, he shared that there are thistles growing in the strips. He has made the City aware of the issue several times, yet nothing is ever done.

Ed Weinbrecht, 1508 Hemlock St., commented on the speaker system in council chambers – citizens can't always hear what's being said. He suggested that citizens raise their hands if they can't hear tonight, just to let the Mayor know how poor the sound system is. He asked when a new system would be put on the agenda. Mayor Asay asked council to please use their mics.

Councilmember Whalen expressed his concern in regards to Mr. Holmquist's comments and requested that the information that will be provided to Mr. Holmquist be provided to the council as well.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- (A) Minutes: August 13, 2007 Study Session & September 4, 2007 Regular Meeting
- (B) September 5th Payroll: direct deposits, checks and benefits in the amount of \$221,177.15.
- (C) Checks/Vouchers: numbers 13750 – 13809, in the amount of \$282,680.82.
- (D) Provisional Police Officer Position
- (E) Jovita Blvd. Interlocal Agreement

Councilmember Whalen pulled (A) the August 13, 2007 Study Session minutes, (B) the September 5th payroll, (D) the Provisional Police Officer Position, and (E) the Jovita Blvd. Interlocal Agreement. He asked that items (D) and (E) be placed on the Main Agenda for discussion.

Councilmember Drotz moved that the checks/vouchers and the September 4, 2007 minutes be approved. Councilmember Beaudry seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

(A) August 13, 2007 Study Session Minutes:

Councilmember Whalen asked about the policy of grant acceptance on page 5 on the minutes; he asked if this is an item that will be coming to council. Mayor Asay answered that it will.

Councilmember Whalen moved to approve the August 13, 2007 Study Session Minutes. Councilmember Beaudry seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

(B) Payroll:

Councilmember Whalen shared his concern regarding the documentation that is no longer being provided to council. Without that documentation, he has a hard time supporting the approval.

Councilmember Drotz moved to approve the September 5th payroll. Councilmember Borek seconded. Motion carried 6-1. (Opposed: Whalen)

MAIN AGENDA:

AB07-106A Planning Commission – Term of Office, Ordinance 17xx-07:

Mayor Asay opened the floor for citizens to comment on this item.

Jackie Strader, 1809 13th Ave., representing 133 citizens, presented a petition asking that council not support or approve the proposed Planning Commission terms of office ordinance. She stated that the ordinance was based on incomplete information. She presented a visual that she prepared. She stated that the best interest of Milton hasn't been defined clearly.

Cyndi Baker, 401 25th Ave. Pl., requested that council listen to the citizens and do what the people want.

Ed Weinbrecht, 1508 Hemlock St., shared that, after 32 years on the Planning Commission, he doesn't see how a member can operate with having less than 6 years of service on the commission. He stated that he is against the change.

Richard Casey, 2500 Alder St. #21, as a member of the Planning Commission, he supports the 3 year term change and expressed his appreciation for City Staff for their excellent work.

Jim Manley, 2209 Virginia Ct., supports the City Council and Mayor on this issue. He stated that someone had mentioned that he does not support the new ideas and standards – he wanted to clarify that that is not true.

Jacquelyn Whalen, 1605 13th Ave., addressed the ordinance – shared that she believes the whereas's contradict each other and commented on the words shared by her fellow Planning Commissioners. She stated that her job is to represent the voices of the citizens. The whereas's don't support disbanding the Planning Commission. She stated that she does not support the ordinance.

Mayor Asay shared an email from Rod Hash, a Planning Commissioner, stating that he is in support of the term change.

Bryan Ott, 102 17th Ave. Ct., stated that we need to put the personal attacks aside and do what's best for Milton.

Councilmember Borek made a motion to table the ordinance to the beginning of next year. Councilmember Drotz seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilmember Whalen called for the Point of Order: Mayor Asay stated that council just tabled an ordinance of the City of Milton, Washington, disbanding the Planning Commission and replacing it with a Planning Commission that will have three year terms instead of six year terms and fixing a time when the same shall become effective. Councilmember Whalen called for the Point of Order to appeal to council. Councilmember Heddlesten seconded the appeal.

Mayor Asay called for a three minute recess at 7:41 P.M. and reconvened the meeting at 7:43 P.M.

Mayor Asay read from council Policies and Procedures: “if a councilmember wishes to make a motion to table an issue, they shall state their intentions to do so and inquire whether any councilmembers wish to make statements or provide information prior to the motion being made and seconded.” She stated that the motion has been tabled but did agree to brief comments by the council.

Councilmember Whalen stated that the council is ignoring what the general population is asking them to do.

Councilmember Drotz stated that it’s very clear that it’s an election year. She also brought up that the chair of the Planning Commission and one of the councilmembers are married. The rumors that have been passed around the City are unfounded – let’s take the politics out of the mess.

Councilmember Beaudry stated that he’s had enough of the assumptions and attacks; he would like to get on with business. He agreed that the council needs to take a deeper look into the facets of the ordinances and the terms of the Planning Commissioners. He suggested that issues need to be addressed by the Planning Commission – he wants to do it right and have an opportunity to study it.

Councilmember Sirack commented on Jerry Miller’s article in the paper. She’s against changing the terms and disbanding the Planning Commission. She also feels that postponing it until the new year is in hopes that the council will change, and that the council will listen to the citizens and vote accordingly.

Councilmember Heddlesten commented that he thinks it’s a power-play. He believes that tabling it is a way to put it on the back burner. He’s against the whole concept.

Mayor Asay stated that she got a motion, and a second, which passed by council to bring an ordinance before the council – every time that has happened, she has brought it to them the next month. She commented that she has her own Planning Commission. There are issues with time limitations: she has talked to several people who will not commit to a 6-year term. The Mayor stated that this was not her idea, she did what the council asked her to do. To make this issue political and about her is wrong. She reminded council that they all voted to table it to next year.

AB07-110A Development Standards:

Interim City Administrator Carter stated that this item came before council a week ago at the study session. The purpose of this item is to amend the Planning Commission’s Work Plan to have them study more flexible development standards for properties desiring to develop.

Councilmember Sirack asked if there are safeguards. Interim City Administrator Carter commented that the same thought arose to several people. He said that he doesn’t want,

and neither should the council want, to predispose what the planning commission might come up with, but there does need to be adequate safeguards put into it.

Councilmember Borek moved that the Planning Commission Work Plan be amended to include an analysis of development regulations concerning frontage and landscape improvements required at the time of development. Councilmember Drotz seconded.

Councilmember Whalen stated that, at last week's study session, he asked to see the amended Planning Commission Work Plan.

Mayor Asay asked Kevin Clegg, Pierce County Economic Development, to address the council. Mr. Clegg shared that he and Interim City Administrator Carter routinely meet with Milton's businesses, helping them with their growth plan and making themselves aware of issues and concerns of unique property circumstances that arise. He asked council to support the development standards.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Asay called for the vote. Motion carried 7-0.

Provisional Police Officer Position:

Councilmember Whalen stated that the general public hasn't had a chance to speak on this issue. Councilmember Whalen shared his support.

Councilmember Whalen moved that an additional FTE be authorized for the Police Department to allow the continued use of a provisional police officer until Officer Dahm is through the Academy and FTO training. Councilmember Beaudry seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Jovita Realignment Agreement:

Councilmember Whalen moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Edgewood regarding the Jovita Boulevard Realignment project. Councilmember Beaudry seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

AB07-111 CLOSED SESSION – Union Negotiations: was moved to the end of the agenda, after the council reports.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Drotz: commented on an interesting Tri-City meeting, which included a discussion to help solve stormwater problems. She was disappointed that only 3 councilmember showed up

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Asay adjourned the meeting at 8:08 P.M. for approximately 15 minutes to discuss union negotiations; possible action to follow.

Mayor Asay called the meeting to order at 8:25 P.M.

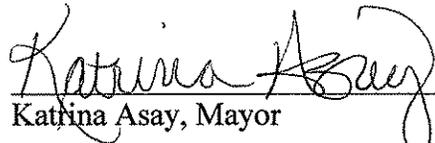
Councilmember Beaudry moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Milton and the Milton Police Guild. Councilmember Whalen seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Asay expressed appreciation for Interim City Administrator Ken Carter's service and wished him well.

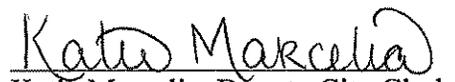
ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Beaudry moved to adjourn. Councilmember Sirack seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.


Katrina Asay, Mayor

ATTEST:


Katie Marcelia, Deputy City Clerk