



TOWN OF BEAUX ARTS VILLAGE

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

March 12, 2024

Howes

PRESENT: Mayor Aletha Howes, Councilmembers Paula Dix, James McCarthy, and Stacy Saal.

EXCUSED: Councilmembers Tom Stowe and Brad Wheeler.

STAFF: Clerk/Treasurer Sue Ann Spens.

GUESTS: County Councilwoman Claudia Balducci; Ruth Lipscomb, Bellevue resident; Ryan Packer, Seattle resident; Eugenia Yen, Julia Morse, Susan Bogert, David Chang.

Mayor Howes called the meeting to order at 7pm.

MINUTES: Councilmember Dix moved to approve the February 13, 2024 minutes as amended. Councilmember McCarthy seconded.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Councilmember McCarthy moved to approve the March 12, 2024 Claims Register for check numbers 16482 through 16502 in the amount of \$36,164.38.

Councilmember Saal seconded.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT:

REVENUE IMPACT OF WATER RATE INCREASE: Clerk/Treasurer Spens reported that Mayor Howes wanted a quick evaluation of the recent increase in water rates.

- In March 2023, total water usage by customers in Jan/Feb was 130,662 cf and billings totaled \$10,442.50.
- In March 2024, total water usage by customers during the same time frame was 137,971 cf and billings totaled \$13,039.00.
- A 5.6% increase in usage compared to a 25.4% increase in revenues.

MARSHAL'S REPORT: Mayor Howes reported that the number of cancelled patrols continues to decline.

WATER REPORT: Mayor Howes reported on behalf of Councilmember Wheeler and Water Supervisor Durr that the leak was located and repaired. The street has a temporary patch that will be replaced when the weather permits.

WABA REPORT: Mayor Howes reported on behalf of WABA President Jeff Avansino that:

- WABA elected the following new officers: President Jonty Neal, Vice President Carrie Oliver, Treasurer Russel Hadley, Membership Stephanie Charaf, and Secretary Jordan Reynolds.
- The Spring Egg Hunt is planned for March 30th.
- The Summer Picnic is planned for July 20th.
- WABA plans to create an annual calendar that will be distributed to members.

APPEARANCES: Eugenia Yen reported on the findings of their recent survey regarding trees in Beaux Arts. Ms. Yen highlighted that of 68 respondents, the majority value living in Beaux Arts, value the trees as contributing to the quality of life and sense of community in Beaux Arts and want more information about managing the trees on their property. She will provide a copy of the full survey for distribution to Council members. She added that the group continues their work reviewing the Town’s current tree code with an eye toward updating it.

Ruth Lipscomb commented that she is a member of Bellevue’s Trees for Livability group. Bellevue is drafting a land-use code amendment enacting a minimum tree density and banning the removal of significant trees except under very limited circumstances.

INFORMAL VISIT WITH KING COUNTY COUNCILWOMAN CLAUDIA

BALDUCCI: Mayor Howes introduced Councilwoman Claudia Balducci and thanked her for attending the meeting.

Ms. Balducci opened with a brief description of District 6, which she represents, and her various committee involvements. She then commented that King County has a General Fund shortfall in 2024 and is looking at a property-tax increase to fund upgrades to the Harborview medical facility.

She also discussed:

- Current transportation issues and accomplishments, including the opening of Sound Transit light-rail service between Bellevue and Redmond in April.
- A notable and significant increase in the number and severity of traffic accidents in the area, exacerbated by speeding, larger vehicles, and distracted driving.
- The recent opening of the Eastgate Housing Complex.
- The availability of King County staff to provide cities and towns with technical assistance on their Comprehensive Plan updates related to housing.
- Issues related to safety and stability, including gun-violence prevention, the addition of crisis-clinic centers, and alternatives to juvenile detention.

PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE AS MANDATED BY STATE LEGISLATION: Clerk/Treasurer Spens remarked that Town Planner Stacia Schroeder has asked the Council to hold off on taking action until she and Town Attorney Linehan can review the Department of Commerce’s comments about the Town’s draft regulation changes. It was the consensus of the Council to continue this hearing to the April 2024 Council meeting.

SEPA RULE CHANGES: It was the consensus of the Council to postpone this discussion to the April meeting so that Councilmember Stowe can participate.

GLEN PATH IMPROVEMENT PLANS: Mayor Howes opened the discussion by noting that she invited all the residents immediately adjacent to the Glen Path to hear more about the project tonight and comment on the plans.

Councilmember Dix gave a brief overview of the project, noting that the biggest change is the removal of the laurel and ivy throughout the area as well as the bamboo at the SE 28th St. entrance. The bamboo will be replaced with mahonia, and plantings will include trees and some colorful additions.

Mayor Howes added that the Council’s guiding concepts have been to develop paths throughout Town in a consistent manner by planting natives to promote minimal maintenance after the plants are established. Residents along the path like the level of screening and privacy afforded by the current plants and hope that the new plantings will provide something similar. She noted that the south end of the path at SE 29th St will include a small parking area and the installation of new bollards to protect the screened storm drain at that end of the path.

Councilmember Dix remarked that, if the project is approved, “demolition” along the existing path is expected to begin in the fall so that plants can be installed during the rainy season. She plans to add irrigation for three years to ensure that the new plants survive and thrive.

MOTION: Councilmember Saal moved to accept the design and authorize Councilmember Dix to obtain bids for the work. Councilmember McCarthy seconded.
Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CONSTRUCTION CODE TO CLARIFY PERMIT EXEMPTIONS: Mayor Howes explained that this amendment to the Construction Code is needed to clarify that all construction projects must comply with the Town’s Zoning Code even when no permit is required for the work.

MOTION: Councilmember Saal moved to pass Ordinance No. 470 amending BAVMC 15.05, the Construction Code, to clarify permit exemptions. Councilmember McCarthy seconded.
Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

MAINTENANCE SHED LOCK: Councilmember McCarthy reported that the new electronic lock is installed; he will program it when he gets the shed’s Wi-Fi credentials. Clerk/Treasurer Spens will establish an administrative alias for the system and provide Wi-Fi credentials.

4Q2023 TREASURER’S REPORTS: Councilmember McCarthy reported that he has

reviewed the 4Q2023 Treasurer's Report and signed it to indicate his approval.

ANGLE PATH: Councilmember Dix reported that she has planted an Oak along the Angle Path. She has noticed that the roses planted in this area are invading the path and need to be removed.

GREENSPACE MAINTENANCE: Councilmember Dix is still struggling to find someone to perform landscape maintenance. She had thought that Elvis Landscape was a good fit, but he is having problems dealing with the L&I requirements.

KING COUNTY ROAD MAINTENANCE: Mayor Howes reported on behalf of Councilmember Wheeler that he will transmit the need for a permanent repair on the South Beach Road to our contact at King County Road Maintenance.

AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF BELLEVUE FOR SHARED UTILITY DESIGN / CONSTRUCTION COSTS: Mayor Howes reported on behalf of Councilmember Wheeler that work on the cost-share agreement continues. We may need Temporary Access Easements for Bellevue staff as they complete fieldwork related to the project design. Bellevue has agreed to our condition to negotiate with Bellevue for a franchise agreement related to this water line before construction can begin.

LEGISLATION FROM THE 2024 SESSION ACTIVITIES: Mayor Howes reported that legislation related to transit-oriented development did not pass during this session, nor did legislation regarding coffee shops. The 2024 legislative session has now ended, which gives Beaux Arts time to complete a review of the legislation that did pass and its impact on the Town. Specifically, once the Comprehensive Plan Update is complete and submitted for Commerce review in June 2024, the Town will need to tackle recent legislation related to Middle Housing and Affordable Housing by crafting our own ordinance rather than accepting Commerce's model ordinance for same.

NEXT MEETING: The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday "April 2, 2024 at Councilmember McCarthy's house. This is one week earlier than the regular meeting date. Clerk/Treasurer Spens will note that this is a Special Meeting on posted agendas.

ADJOURN: Councilmember McCarthy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. Councilmember Saal seconded.
Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ann Spens
Clerk/Treasurer