



## TOWN OF BEAUX ARTS VILLAGE

### TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

February 14, 2023

Howes

**PRESENT:** Mayor Aletha Howes, Councilmembers Paula Dix, Tom Stowe, and Brad Wheeler.

**EXCUSED:** Councilmembers John Gillem and James McCarthy.

**STAFF:** Clerk/Treasurer Sue Ann Spens.

**GUESTS:** Julia Morse.

Mayor Howes called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**MINUTES:** Councilmember Dix moved to approve the January 10, 2023 minutes as amended. Councilmember Wheeler seconded.

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

**CLAIMS:** Councilmember Stowe moved to approve the corrected January 10, 2023 Claims Register for check numbers 16214 through 16223 in the amount of \$24,223.55.

Councilmember Wheeler seconded.

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

Councilmember Wheeler moved to approve the final February 14, 2023 Claims Register for check numbers 16224 through 16244 in the amount of \$27,484.30. Councilmember Stowe seconded.

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

#### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

**2023 MEETING CALENDAR:** Clerk/Treasurer Spens circulated a draft meeting calendar for Council review and reminded Councilmembers to let her know if any conflicts arise.

**FALLEN TREE LIMB:** Clerk/Treasurer Spens reported that the property owner impacted by the fallen tree limb decided to work through his homeowner's insurance policy rather than through the Town's.

**LITTLE LIBRARY:** Clerk/Treasurer Spens reported that she has not received the notarized Encroachment Agreement for the Little Library on SE 28<sup>th</sup> at 105<sup>th</sup>. She noted that she did receive payment of the recording fee, but the check was not written to the Town and could not be deposited.

**MAINTENANCE SHED EXPANSION:** Clerk/Treasurer Spens reported that Crystal has completed the final inspection of the addition, so the only action pending is for the Council to

accept the project as complete. Councilmember Wheeler commented that the Town cannot accept the project as complete until we receive Notices of Completion from the various state agencies involved in public-works projects. Clerk/Treasurer Spens will coordinate this with Town Engineer Stacia Schroeder.

**SEPA THRESHOLD:** Clerk/Treasurer Spens reported that Town Engineer Schroeder wants to know if the Council is interested in changing the threshold that triggers the need for a SEPA review. She says that the Town's threshold is 100cy, while the State's threshold is 1000cy. On discussion, Councilmembers had several questions, including:

- How many projects have triggered the need for a SEPA review under the current rules?
- What would the impact of making this change be on our Stormwater System?
- What other impacts might result from making this change?

Councilmembers stated that they would like to discuss this in depth with Town Engineer Schroeder at an upcoming meeting. Clerk/Treasurer Spens will work with Ms. Schroeder to get this discussion on the March meeting agenda.

**MARSHAL'S REPORT:** Nothing to report. Mayor Howes reported that she will meet with a consultant for the Sherriff's Office to discuss the current billing process.

**WATER REPORT:** Councilmember Stowe reported that the Town received a note from City of Bellevue about meter upgrades. He will follow up with them to determine if this involves the meter at the intertie.

**WABA REPORT:** WABA elected two new trustees: Russell Hadley will serve as Treasurer and Cindy Knutson will serve as Membership.

**APPEARANCES:** None.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STATUS:** Councilmembers agreed that the status report prepared by Town Planner Stacia Schroeder was helpful to their understanding of the progress made to date and the remaining work to be done. They will review progress again in April or May.

**NOISE DISCUSSION:** Councilmembers discussed several aspects of this issue, including how to measure noise levels, who would conduct measurements, what levels are appropriate, and who would enforce violations. They plan to continue this discussion in March but asked that a note be inserted in the upcoming newsletter reminding residents to be mindful of the noise impact on their neighbors when engaging in noisy activities, e.g., yard work, and to notify neighbors when such noise may continue for more than two hours.

Since a part of the noise complaint relates to construction noise and dust, Clerk/Treasurer Spens will ask Building Official Crystal Kolke what rules exist regarding construction activities.

**PUBLIC SPACES:** Mayor Howes explained that she is concerned about protecting the

open public spaces the Town has been creating for paths and asked the Council to consider passing legislation to ban motorized vehicles from using them, to set open/closed hours for their use, e.g. closed from 12 am to 6am, and any other ideas the Council may have. The Council agreed that such steps make sense and will consider ideas for further discussion at a future meeting.

#### **MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

**GLEN PATH DESIGN:** Councilmember Dix reported on the following for the Glen Path project:

- A survey of the path will be completed by April 15<sup>th</sup> and will include placing corner stakes at the ends of the path and at the corners of lots adjacent to the path to clearly mark the boundary between Town and private property.
- Lumo Landscape Design is ready to begin design work for the path. One related question is whether the Town wants to create parking at the south end of the path.

Councilmember Stowe commented that if the Council wants to create parking, the area will need to be improved significantly. He suggested that path design begin north of the drain, that pedestrian access between the street and the path be created with gravel, that additional gravel be placed next to the paved roadway to create a couple of parking spaces, and that bollards be placed between the gravel area and the drain to keep vehicles from getting too close to it.

#### **WEEDING AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE:**

Britescape: Councilmember Dix asked about the approval status of the Britescape contract for weeding. Clerk/Treasurer Spens answered that she emailed the contract to Ms. Dix earlier.

GardenCycles: Councilmember Dix reported that Garden Cycles is closing and that one of the principles is working to form a new business. She asked if she could continue to use them for work while this formation is underway. Clerk/Treasurer Spens answered that the new business cannot begin working for us until the business is ready to enter a new contract with the Town.

**STATE LEGISLATURE ACTIVITY:** Councilmember Stowe asked what progress was made in registering the Town's concerns about pending legislation that usurps the Town's zoning powers, particularly HB 1110. Mayor Howes answered that she is drafting a letter similar to one Mercer Island Mayor Salim Nice wrote opposing this action. When the draft is ready, she will circulate it to the Council and Planning Commission for comments. She plans to emphasize the problems this legislation will create for Beaux Arts due to our limited infrastructure and the anticipated damage to our urban forest.

**LIGHT RAIL:** Mayor Howes reported that light rail service between South Bellevue and Redmond is expected to begin by the end of 2024.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 14, 2023 at Councilmember McCarthy's house. This will be an in-person meeting with a remote option

for Councilmembers who are only able to attend remotely.

**ADJOURN:** Councilmember Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.  
Councilmember Wheeler seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ann Spens  
Clerk-Treasurer