



TOWN OF BEAUX ARTS VILLAGE

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

March 14, 2023
McCarthy

PRESENT: Mayor Aletha Howes, Councilmembers Paula Dix, James McCarthy, Tom Stowe, and Brad Wheeler. New Councilmember Stacy Saal joined the meeting after her confirmation.

EXCUSED: None.

STAFF: Clerk/Treasurer Sue Ann Spens, Town Engineer Stacia Schroeder.

GUESTS: Eric Christofferson.

Mayor Howes called the meeting to order at 7pm.

CONFIRMATION OF STACY SAAL TO COUNCIL POSITION NO. 1: Mayor Howes asked the Council to confirm her appointment of Stacy Saal to Council Position No. 1 replacing John Gillem who recently resigned.

Motion: Councilmember Stowe moved to confirm Stacy Saal to Council Position No. 1 for an unexpired term ending on 12/31/2023. Councilmember McCarthy seconded.

Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Councilmember Wheeler moved to approve the February 14, 2023 minutes as amended. Councilmember Stowe seconded.

Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstain (Saal). Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Councilmember Dix moved to approve the final March 14, 2023 Claims Register for check numbers 16245 through 16262 in the amount of \$23,428.71. Councilmember Wheeler seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT:

MAYOR PRO TEM: Clerk/Treasurer Spens reminded the Council that it needs to choose a Mayor Pro Tem. It was the consensus of the Council for Councilmember McCarthy to continue in that role.

PUBLIC SPACES/TRAILS: Mayor Howes reiterated that establishing a few simple rules for the public trails will protect them from inappropriate use. It was the consensus of the Council that the public spaces devoted to trails within Beaux Arts, except the 108th Walking Path, should be open from 5am to midnight and that motorized vehicles, including electric bikes/scooter, golf carts, etc. should be prohibited from using them. The Council asked that signs at the entry points to each trail be as small and inobtrusive as possible, so as not to distract from the natural feel of the space, and that they include the name of the path. They also asked that Town Attorney Linehan prepare an ordinance to enact these rules for Council

action as soon as possible.

HANDYMAN: Clerk/Treasurer Spens asked if Councilmember Stowe had been able to secure the services of a handyman for simple street-department tasks, e.g., mounting name signs, installing street signs, etc. Councilmember Stowe answered that he has not yet found someone, and he will continue to perform the simple tasks until one can be found.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – STATUS REPORT: Clerk/Treasurer Spens noted that Town Planner Stacia Schroeder submitted a status report outlining progress made to date on the Comprehensive Plan Update.

APRIL COUNCIL MEETING: Clerk/Treasurer Spens reminded the Council that their regular meeting date for April falls during Spring Break for the Bellevue School District. After some discussion, it was determined that a quorum of Councilmembers is available to meet on April 11th, so the meeting date will not be changed.

MARSHAL’S REPORT: Nothing to report.

WATER REPORT: Nothing to report.

WABA REPORT: WABA’S Board of Trustees is as follows: President Jeff Avansino, Vice-President Carrie Oliver, Secretary Jordan Reynolds, Treasurer Russell Hadley, and Membership Cindy Knutson. They have also put together a tentative schedule of member events for the coming year.

APPEARANCES: None.

CONFIRMATION OF KIM MOLONEY TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION: Mayor Howes reported that Planning Commissioner Moloney’s term expired on 12/31/2022 and that she is willing to continue serving on that board. She asked the Council to confirm Ms. Moloney to Position No. 4 of the Planning Commission for a six-year term expiring on 12/31/2028.

MOTION: Councilmember Wheeler moved to confirm Kim Moloney to Position No. 4 of the Planning Commission for a six-year term ending on 12/31/2028. Councilmember Stowe seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

SEPA THRESHOLD DISCUSSION: 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.

When the topic was broached last month, 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?

In answer to those questions, Schroeder commented that only WABA's waterfront property is affected by the Town's SEPA regulations, and a change would have no impact on residential lots or the Town's Stormwater System.

Councilmembers wanted to know how this might affect the Comprehensive Plan update that is underway and if making this change might have ramifications in light of the legislation under consideration in Olympia. Ms. Schroeder answered that the Planning Commission is moving forward with their work on the Comprehensive Plan under the Town's current SEPA rules and the impact of this change in light of proposed state regulations won't be clear until the final regulations are passed.

It was the consensus of the Council to keep the SEPA threshold as is for now.

NOISE DISCUSSION: Mayor Howes recapped the Council's discussion to date and described the note that was included in the March Newsletter.

Eric Christofferson commented that he works at home and the noise from various projects around him, ranging from roof cleaning to construction work, makes it nearly impossible for him to hear phone calls and zoom-type meetings at times. He feels the Council needs to take action to establish rules about noise in Beaux Arts.

On discussion, Councilmembers noted that passing a rule is simple but enforcing it will be a challenge. Beaux Arts does not have the equipment to measure noise levels to determine if a violation exists nor does it have personnel to stop the violation if one exists.

Mayor Howes commented that she will speak with the King County Sheriff's Office to learn what King County's noise rules are and to see if KCSO can enforce those rules on the Town's behalf. She suggested that further discussion be continued to April.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Mayor Howes offered a brief update on the middle-housing and related legislation working its way through the House and Senate. She added that she will be speaking with State Senator Lisa Wellman on Thursday to offer the Town's concerns.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROAD REPAIRS: Councilmember Wheeler reported that he is investigating what grants may be available to the Town to help pay for repairs to the 104th Arterial. He noted that grants through the Transportation Improvement Board appear the most promising and can be applied for with 60% Design plans. Councilmember Stowe mentioned that he used a TIB grant for the 108th Walking Path and may be able to offer Councilmember Wheeler some assistance.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Mayor Howes reported that she has asked new Councilmember Saal to oversee the Town's Emergency Management Plan.

TOWN CLEAN UP: Councilmember Dix reported that she has scheduled the Town Clean Up for Saturday May 20th.

COMCAST FRANCHISE: Councilmember Stowe reported that he is still reviewing the proposed Comcast franchise prepared by the Town Attorney's office.

WATER RATE STUDY: Councilmember McCarthy reported that he will begin work to determine if the Water Department's rates should be increased to fund ongoing repairs. Councilmember Stowe will share the methodology he used for the last rate study.

BELLEVUE UTILITIES LAKE LINE STUDY: Mayor Howes reported that the City of Bellevue operates a sewer line along the shoreline of Lake Washington running from the boundary between Yarrow Point and Kirkland south to Newport Shores. Bellevue Utilities is working on a Lake Line Management Plan that will assess the condition of that sewer line, determine when and where line repairs are needed, estimate repair costs, if needed, and rank needed repairs and ongoing line maintenance. A representative from Bellevue Utilities will hold a listening session during the April Council meeting so that the Council and members of the public can get a sense of the high-level scope of the project.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL RATES: Mayor Howes commented that solid-waste disposal rates are up 10% over last year..

NEXT MEETING: The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 11, 2023 at Councilmember Stowe's house. This will be an in-person meeting though Bellevue Utilities will make their presentation remotely.

ADJOURN: Councilmember Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm.
Councilmember Wheeler seconded.
Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ann Spens
Clerk-Treasurer