

MEETING MINUTES
SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON
COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, July 7, 2014

Legislative Hearing Room, 55 Second Street, Friday Harbor, WA

09:06 AM CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

Council Chair Hughes called the meeting to order at 09:06 AM. Present: Council Members Bob Jarman, Rick Hughes and Jamie Stephens; County Manager Mike Thomas, Council Staff Assistant Susan Kollet and interested members of the public.

Approval of Correspondence:

Moved by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Jarman to approve the letter in support of Opportunity Council's Application for a Housing Preservation Grant. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION & UPDATES: Council, County Manager & Departments

Mr. Hughes: Thanked candidates and other state representatives who attended the Orcas July 4th festivities and reported a DHPRC meeting this week.

Mr. Stephens: Shared that July 4th went smoothly on Lopez and thanked Fire Department, EMS and Sheriff's Department for their assistance. Regarding oil exports and the Comment Letter, he will coordinate with Clare Frater of Islands Trust. Salmon Recovery will be meeting this week. Mr. Stephens will share documents he received relative to that.

Mr. Jarman: Observed that the parade and July 4th was very well attended on San Juan Island.

Mr. Thomas: The first Lunch with Leaders will take place on July 21st, sponsored by Windermere. On Thursday, we have a hearing before the Growth Hearings Board in Anacortes.

9:17 AM DISCUSSION: CenturyLink Outage – Tom Novotney, CenturyLink Vice President and General Manager and Mike Cini, CenturyLink Manager Area Ops

Mr. Novotney explained the recent outage, which resulted from a contractor doing work for OPALCO. He explained CenturyLink's actions toward restoring 911 and telephonic services. Mr. Cini apologized for the inconvenience and explained steps being taken to install redundancy, via Mt. Constitution for 911 service and interisland connectivity and answered Council's questions. They are seeking to partner with OPALCO for additional redundancy and connection to the mainland.

9:40 AM Citizens Access: The following citizens submitted comments concerning the recent loss of phone services due to a fiber optic cut: Foster Hildreth of OPALCO, Fire Chief Steve Marler, Brent Snow of Roche Harbor Resort, Deborah Nolan.

10:24 AM ACTION: Granting of Historic Preservation Grant Awards – Council

Chair Hughes presented his recommendations for Historic Preservation Grant Awards to Council. He noted the shortfall in funds as compared with the requests from applicants.

Moved by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Jarman to approve the suggested allocations outlined by Chairman Hughes. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

10:28 AM DISCUSSION: Levy Renewal Resolution – Mike Thomas, County Manager

Mr. Thomas utilized a PowerPoint presentation to outline the mechanics of a property tax levy, reviewed the current levy based on the 2009 levy lid lift, discussed a 2015 levy renewal and answered Council's questions.

Council formulated a consensus to pursue a levy renewal, and discussed possible rates of .19 per 1,000 in assessed valuation that would reflect the amount equivalent to the current levy or .21 per 1,000 which would include the statutory 1% allowable increase. Following discussion, the Council took the following action:

MOVED by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Jarman to move forward in placing a proposition on the November ballot and replacing the current levy with a new levy lid lift. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Jarman to set a Public Hearing for Thursday, July 31st at 9:15am, to consider the adoption of a Resolution to place a property tax levy lid lift on the November ballot. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

11:23 AM DISCUSSION: Initiative 502 – Council

Council permitted public access. The following individuals addressed the Council: Brent Snow, Deborah Nolan, Tom Nolan, Sean Scott, and Mary Lou Sternitzke.

Chair Hughes addressed some talking points the Council may wish to address and discuss with the Planning Department. Mr. Stephens considered a distinction between agricultural use and use for marijuana grow and has looked at policies adopted by other counties. For greenhouses, similar concerns need to be considered, such as light and noise. Mr. Jarman shared that in his view marijuana is different than agricultural use. He supports placing a moratorium on high capacity grow operations. After discussion, the Council took the following action:

MOVED by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Jarman, to separate marijuana and define it as its own category and not have it part of our agricultural activities and uses and develop our standards accordingly for use tables and development regulations. VOTE: 2:1:0 (Mr. Hughes opposed); MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Jarman to have staff consider, as we go forward, that all facilities supported by artificial illumination shall be covered to prevent light escape, upwards, between sunset and sunrise. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Jarman to look into adequate access for marijuana grow and processing facilities. ALL AYES: MOTION CARRIED.

12:04 PM DISCUSSION: County 911 Response – Council

The Council discussed last week’s fiber optic cut and Council’s plan to write to the UTC and to Senator Ranker. In the letter to the UTC, Mr. Jarman suggests they inquire of the UTC Chair as to why the County has not had resolution to the November outage. Mr. Hughes will draft a letter to CenturyLink formalizing Council’s request to have a status report from CenturyLink on their work to provide redundancy. After discussion, the Council took the following action:

MOVED by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Jarman to approve the letter to Senator Kevin Ranker as it will be amended, with the amendments approved by the Chair. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.

12:12 PM ADJOURN

Mr. Hughes adjourned the meeting.

**COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

These Minutes were approved and signed on July 15, 2014. The original document is retained in the Council’s permanent proceedings file. Attest: Ingrid Gabriel, Council Clerk.