

Battle Ground Town Council

Meeting Minutes, August 20, 2024

Attending in person: Council President James Miller, Council Members Steve Hahn, Mary Jo Totten, Matt Coppock and Greg Jones. Also attending, Town Marshal BJ Moyars and Clerk Treasurer Georgia Jones.

James Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were no guests.

Salaries and wages for 2025 budget were discussed first. A draft salary ordinance guided discussion for changes to benefits and anticipated salary adjustments. The county is using 3% as a guide for wage increases. Council thought this a reasonable approach.

The police department request for funding wages, supplies and other appropriations was discussed in detail. The council initially agreed to fund department wages at approximately \$160,000, to be determined after the county auditor has certified Net Assessed Values and revenue calculations can be completed. The Marshal also requested approval of a clothing allowance for part time police officers. This would be paid by the department and treated as a non-cash benefit. The draft ordinance will be reviewed and adopted at a later date. Matt Coppock moved to approve a clothing benefit of \$200.00 per person for part time police officers. Second of Greg Jones, motion carried with 4 Aye, Mary Jo Totten was opposed. There was a discussion of the need for withholding on clothing as a non-cash benefit.

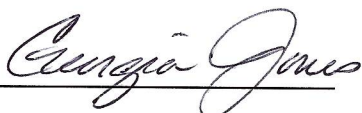
The 2024 budget had a significant additional appropriation to fund the police department. Public Safety revenue intended for wages was used to purchase equipment, and the General Fund received \$40,000.00 additional appropriation to ensure police department wages for the balance of the year.

Using General Fund for the increase in 2025 police wages reduces the amount available for sidewalks, curbs and capital equipment. Greg Jones commented that because the roads are in generally good repair, this year might be possible to divert some MVH allocation cover General Fund needs. James Miller asked if TIF revenue could be used for increased patrols in the commercial area. This will be investigated. The group discussed use of operating reserve. Georgia Jones stated her advice to create a budget that is substantially the same as anticipated revenue and use operating reserve for emergency expenses or revenue shortfall.

Town Hall location - James Miller would like approval to obtain a land survey for the potential town hall building site. Greg Jones will request an estimate of cost.

107 Railroad Street - There is a plan to obtain a commercial appraisal for 107 Railroad Street to verify a value range in the event the property would be offered for sale. Other estimates of value were discussed.

Motion to adjourn 8:15 p.m. by Mary Jo Totten with second of Steve Hahn. Motion carried.



Georgia Jones, Clerk Treasurer



James Miller, Council President

Memorandum of Open-Door Law Compliance

Battle Ground Town Council

Date: August 20, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present

in Person: James Miller, Steve Hahn, Greg Jones, Mary Jo Totten, Matt Coppock

Also Present in Person: Benjamin Moyars, Georgia Jones

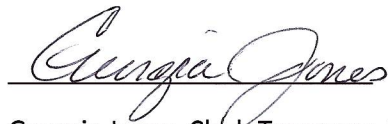
Also Present virtually:

Guest Present in Person:

Guest Present virtually:

Electronic Means of Communication Used For Members and Public: Zoom.us

Attest:



Georgia Jones, Clerk-Treasurer, Financial Clerk