



TOWN OF BEAUX ARTS VILLAGE

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

March 11, 2025

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

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tom Stowe.

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

GUESTS: WABA President Russell Hadley, Marc Schaadt, and Julia Morse.

Mayor Howes called the meeting to order at 7pm.

MINUTES: Councilmember Wheeler moved to approve the February 11, 2025 minutes as amended. Councilmember McCarthy seconded.

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

CLAIMS: Councilmember Dix moved to approve the Final March 11, 2025 Claims Register for check numbers 16771 through 16788 in the amount of \$47,119.93. Councilmember Wheeler seconded.

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

ISSUES WITH MAILED PAYMENTS: Clerk/Treasurer Spens reported that, despite putting checks in the mail promptly after the Council approves them for payment, she is encountering instances where mailing / processing takes more than a week, sometimes two. For most of our vendors this is not a problem, but with the credit card, we incur a late fee and interest charges if the payment does not arrive on time. This happened with our recent payment to Elan, which was approved on 2/11, mailed on 2/13, but not received processed until 2/26, two days after it was due. She contacted Elan, and the charges have been reversed. To avoid this in the future, she would like to start paying this bill online. The charges will continue to show on your Claims Register and require approval, but the payment will always arrive on time. It was the consensus of the Council that this change is appropriate.

REMINDER - CANDIDATE FILING: Clerk/Treasurer Spens reminded the Council that candidate filing for positions on the Town Council (Mayor, Council positions 1, 3, and 5) will be open from Monday May 5 through Friday May 9. She will publish a notice in the April newsletter so that interested residents can file. She will also send a reminder to current Councilmembers in advance of those dates.

MARSHAL'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

WATER REPORT: Nothing to report.

WABA REPORT: WABA President Russell Hadley reported that WABA's Spring Beach Clean Up will be on Saturday April 5, 2025. He also noted that WABA is working on the Summer schedule and is working with the Town to have more hose bibs installed on the beach property.

APPEARANCES: Marc Schaadt announced that the Town's Spring Clean Up will be held on Saturday May 17th. He also asked the Council to remind residents about the Town's rules for parking along the rights-of-way, noting that in some places there are so many cars parked along the sides of the road that passing is difficult.

MIDDLE HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING

COMMISSION: Mayor Howes reminded the Council of the Planning Commission's work to establish middle-housing regulations for the Town consistent with requirements in HB 1110 and 2023. She explained that one outstanding challenge is that guidance from the Department of Commerce (DOC) differs from the legislation passed, and in fact, not all legislators agree on the intent of this legislation. She added the issue seems to be a moving target that will likely be subject to challenges.

Town Planner/Engineer Schroeder described the Planning Commission's work as essentially redlining the most current version of the model ordinance from DOC to pare it down to the reduced requirements for towns like Beaux Arts with populations of less than 10,000.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Howes stated that she would like the Council to hold a public hearing at the April Council meeting and possibly adopt the ordinance in May, depending on the number of comments received from DOC on the draft. She then asked the Council to weigh in on "big picture" issues and whether they agree that the regulations as drafted seem to be on the right path for Beaux Arts.

Councilmembers offered a couple of minor updates. It was the consensus of the Council that the Planning Commission's work fits with their understanding of the legislative requirements for a town of our size.

Town Planner/Engineer Schroeder will make the suggested updates and bring Town Attorney Linehan into the discussion.

DRAFT CAMPING REGULATIONS: Mayor Howes noted that SB 1380, a Homeless Bill of Rights", which is intended to override local restrictions on things like public camping, is still working its way through the legislature. She commented that Town Attorney Linehan says the stated standard of "objectively reasonable" is not clearly defined, so whether the law can actually go into effect as written is in question. She suggested that the Council postpone taking further action until the status of this bill is known.

Mayor Howes mentioned that she will continue to review options with the King County Sheriff's Office but suggested that the topic be tabled for further discussion until May. The Council agreed to table the topic.

COB FRANCHISE FOR WATER SUPPLY LINE THROUGH BEAUX ARTS: Mayor Howes gave a brief update on this discussion, noting that Bellevue wants to use the franchise agreement from another small city as the template for ours, but the other city is served by Bellevue Water, whereas Beaux Arts is not. She noted that there seem to be two sticking points:

1. Bellevue wants this agreement to allow them to make future upgrades and expansions. Mayor Howes wonders if Bellevue should negotiate a new agreement if they want to upgrade or expand. Councilmember Wheeler suggested that this request might be okay if they are required to obtain a ROW Permit to do any expansions.
2. Bellevue does not have a survey of the current water supply line that they plan to abandon in place, just an estimated location shown on the as-builts for the new supply lines. Mayor Howes wants to be sure we know where the abandoned lines are so we can avoid them when doing work in that corridor.

Negotiations on this agreement continue, and Mayor Howes hopes to have more to report in April.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT on 104th: Councilmember Wheeler reported that Bellevue's water-main replacement work is expected to start in about nine months, which means the work on our water line in that vicinity needs to start at the same time. He mentioned that our work is estimated to cost about \$350,000 and he has not found any outside sources of grant funding. He added that the Public Works Boards may have low-interest loans (20 years at 1.71%) available, but their site is not yet accepting funding requests. Another option may be to self-fund with another Interfund Loan from the General Fund.

GREENSPACE MAINTENANCE: Councilmember Dix reported that she is waiting for the report from Tree Solutions about their study of the oaks near the one that fell along SE 29th St, and when she knows more, she will bundle any recommended work from the study with the removal of a tree along the Angle Path.

CANOPY STUDY: Councilmember Dix reported that the KCD Canopy Study has not yet started.

GLEN PATH / ANGLE PATH: Councilmember Dix reported that she is working to finish irrigation lines along the Glen Path. She has asked Water Superintendent Lillejord to locate the Water Department's supply lines along the Angle Path.

STATE LEGISLATURE: Mayor Howes reviewed her list of pending legislation that may affect Beaux Arts and the status of each.

BELLEVUE LAKE LINE STUDY: Mayor Howes reported that she is working to get an update from Bellevue project to replace the in-lake sewer line that runs along the Town's shore, because there were two sewer leaks discovered at our beach this past Winter.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 15, 2025 at Councilmember Saal's house. Councilmembers were reminded that this meeting has been continued for a week to accommodate Spring Break in the Bellevue schools.

ADJOURN: Councilmember Saal moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.
Councilmember Wheeler seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ann Spens
Clerk/Treasurer