

**CITY OF BAYPORT  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
AUGUST 1, 2022  
4:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The workshop was called to order by Mayor St. Ores.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Mayor Susan St. Ores and Councilmembers Connie Carlson, Michele Hanson, John Dahl, and Ethan Gilmore

Staff present: City Administrator Adam Bell, Assistant City Administrator/Planner Sara Taylor, Public Works Director Matt Kline, Police Chief Laura Eastman, and City Attorney Tom Loonan

Others present: Washington County Commissioner Gary Kriesel, Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke, Senior County Planner June Mathiowetz, and River Marinas Owner Brian Shelton

**DISCUSS A POTENTIAL CONSERVATION PROJECT WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY THROUGH THE CLEAN WATER, LAND AND LEGACY PROGRAM (CWLLP)**

Administrator Bell noted that Brian Shelton recently contacted Washington County inquiring whether the county would have interest in an acquisition of the Beach House Marina through CWLLP. Subsequently, the county contacted the city to gauge support for a potential acquisition. Discussion followed on specific facilities currently offered by the marina, mainly the existing boat launch, which could fulfill the city's desire for a relocated and improved public launch and also allow the city's 11 acres of conservation area to the north to remain undisturbed. County staff reviewed upcoming grant cycles with the Department of Natural Resources, noting that additional funding is typically secured through grants or donations to match the county's CWLLP contribution. Further discussion ensued on the acquisition, including opportunities and challenges, tax impacts, and ongoing operation and maintenance costs. A majority of the City Council expressed support for the county pursuing a potential project and the consensus was to proceed with developing a concept plan for the potential use of the site and resume the discussion at a future workshop/meeting.

**DISCUSS THE BAYPORT FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION PENSION**

Administrator Bell noted the Fire Relief Association is a retirement program funded by the state. After 10 years, a member is partially vested and receives a monetary benefit upon retirement, depending upon years of service. A member is fully vested after 20 years. The Fire Relief Board of Trustees manages the investments and acts as a fiduciary with the obligation to return as much of a benefit as possible to vested members without compromising the ability to meet future obligations to active members. Administrator Bell noted that as of December 31, 2021, the annual audit shows the fund to be over 150% funded. As a result, the Fire Relief Association is asking for approval to increase the retirement benefit from \$7,800 to \$10,000 per year. Discussion followed on investment modeling and the city's risk in approving an increase and/or liability to sustain a perpetual benefit level to members. Given the current high rate of funding versus the potential liabilities including the present unknown economic factors, Administrator Bell stated that his opinion was that the benefit increase was warranted. He noted formal approval of the benefit increase will be considered at the regular City Council meeting following the workshop.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember Carlson and seconded by Councilmember Dahl to adjourn the workshop at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.