**LWVSJ Observer Corps County Council August 23, 2022**

Council proclaimed **September Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.** Citizen thanked Council.

**Budget Amendments** for September approval were reviewed: allocating new grant funds and Lodging Tax for the **greenhouse gas survey; Agate Beach Restoration** (Stephens requested attention to cost/necessity of new stairs); **Early Education;** **Fair Grounds storm water system, Lopez state park security cameras,** and reallocating money from a Land Bank purchase that came in under budget. Final Approval Sept 13.

The Assessor reviewed current and designated use **special tax programs** and how they worked.

The **Environmental Stewardship Director** and other staff provided the following updates:

**Sustainable Tourism Management Plan:** Goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve bike trails and transport, increase year-round activity, and local control of tourist activity. There had several rounds of public and stakeholder comment and prioritization. They are reviewing information and building out a detailed implementation plan. All documents are available at [www.sjctourism.com](http://www.sjctourism.com)

**Marine Program:** They are doing a census of **mooring buoys** **in the county;** at the last count over ten years ago there were 1914, more than half of all mooring buoys in the state. They are installing public mooring buoys in **“anchor out” zones**, **to protect eel grass beds** and herring spawning habitat. They are **removing creosote pilings** and major project removing the derelict pilings at Jackson Beach is underway.

**Solid Waste: Hazardous Waste** drop days had fewer people dropping off. They are exploring better options for **recycling.** There is good community support for creating **large scale** **composting** at the SJI transfer station. They are looking at getting a **glass crusher** on SJI as using the one on Orcas is not cost effective; they have researched local uses for the crushed glass. Doing education on **plastic reduction**.

The council approved $23,500 in **historical preservation grants.**

The **Eastsound Sewer and Water** manager was designated as the certifying Officer for the Community Development Block grant for the Eastsound plant expansion.

The Council discussed the **Prune Alley Project** Ribbon Cutting ceremony and approved the Public Works Department spending $500 on the event set for August 24.

On October 11, the **Council Meeting** will be held **on Orcas.**

On October 31 there will be a joint **Friday Harbor, SJC County and Friday Harbor Port Commission meeting.**

**Appointments and reappointments** were made to boards and committees.