

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
February 9, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

The meeting of the La Conner Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Hayes.

Present: Councilmembers Leaver, Stokes, Chamberlain and Bruch.

Also present: Administrator Doyle, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, WWTP Operator Wynn, Fire Chief Fohn and Sergeant Howell.

Councilmember Stokes moved to excuse Councilmember Brunisholz. Seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Carried 4-0

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 4-0

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the minutes of January 26, 2015, and Audit minutes of December 7, 2015 and January 26, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-0

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Leaver moved to approve checks 18187 through 18237 in the amount of \$129,440.30. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve payroll checks 4348 through 4358, 201282, and direct deposits in the amount of \$49,250.99 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-0.

Community Comments:

No Community Comments.

Chamber Report:

Mayor Hayes will provide a Chamber report to Council if he receives one.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the sales tax is holding up to last year as well as the Hotel Motel and the Fire Truck taxes.

Planner's Report:

There were discussions on Triton's plans for the property on the south end of Town. They are currently regrouping and will probably present significantly different plans. The previous plans were to house engineering staff for material testing for both marine and aerospace, but now they are looking to focusing on aerospace. Administrator Doyle is concerned on the delay of the redevelopment of the west side of the property due to the dilapidated condition of the warehouse.

Councilmember Chamberlain noted there was an increase in permitting activity. Administrator Doyle gave a brief review of the plans for the old Light House building which is supported by the Planning Commission.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Lease confirmed the Argosy has been moved from the Town dock to the Port. They were waiting for insurance for the Port to accept them in. Mayor Hayes stated all moorage fees owed to the Town will

be paid in full. They were in violation of the LMC mooring over 24 hours. Also discussed was the increase of cost to replace the Maple Hall elevator. The quote was \$60,000, but now they are saying it will cost over \$90,000.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes recognized Joe Fohn as our new Fire Chief. The official transfer will be in March. Chief Dan Taylor was with the La Conner Fire Department for over 30 years and held the position of Chief since 1998.

Mayor Hayes also announced the loss of Don Wright, who was a Councilmember and Assistant Fire Chief for about 30 years. We appreciate all the years of service to our community.

The Mayor did follow up on Councilmember Brunisholz request to eliminate plastic bags at Pioneer Market. They are going to run the numbers on the cost of paper bags, but also they currently do have a recycle program.

There were further discussions on the Fiber Optic project. There will be a meeting with Wave Broadband on what they can offer. Mayor Hayes is optimistic in obtaining a grant for the project as the Town is small and it would be a completed project. Burlington and Anacortes applied and were both turned down. Councilmember Chamberlain noted Burlington and Anacortes trump La Conner in population to be able to disburse the maintenance costs and provide lower fees to the customers. Mayor Hayes confirmed the numbers do have to work for La Conner to proceed forward. Presently he is still gathering information.

Council Committee Reports:

Art Commission:

Councilmember Leaver did not attend the last meeting, but they have a new student from the high school involved. Administrator Doyle did attend the meeting. There will be a meeting on March 7th for the Art's Alive event to assign committees and discuss the website. Another meeting will be on March 8th for the Sculpture Exhibit. The existing exhibit's sculptures will need to be removed to make way for the new exhibit. A jury panel will select the new show from the 20 applications received so far.

The Commission discussed the proposal for the Town to purchase the casting rights of a Clayton James sculpture. Maggie Wilder and Kelly Wynn approached the Art's Commission with the idea to add a Clayton James sculpture to the Town collection, as he is a well-known La Conner sculpture. The cost of over \$90,000 would include the casting rights and a bronze casting. Kelly Wynn noted the Town could sell the rights after that. Administrator Doyle stated they are looking at fund raising options and further negotiations with the family.

Finance Committee:

Councilmember Stokes noted there was a Finance Meeting regarding a budget amendment. It will be discussed later in the meeting.

Parks Committee:

Councilmember Bruch noted there will be a Parks Committee meeting tomorrow. They need to fill two positions.

Councilmember Bruch attended the AWC Training last week as well and met with the Legislatures on the McClarey issue. Everyone wants to move forward, but they have to find the funding. They are committed to having it in place by 2017.

Flood/Dike:

Administrator Doyle confirmed the final plans have been submitted and he will be attending the next school board meeting to discuss the dike routed behind the school.

2016 Budget Amendment:

Finance Director DeGoede explained the audit was not completed until January 2016, so the billing charges budgeted in 2015 were not used. The Budget Amendment is to reallocate the audit charges. Also, to include the excise taxes in the water fund 401.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Ordinance 1137 for the 2016 Budget Amendment. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 4-0

Surplus of the Aid Car:

Public Works Director Lease recommended a sealed bid, with a minimum set at \$1950, for the surplus of the 1983 Ford Econoline XL Ambulance/Fire Rescue Vehicle. The vehicle was purchased November 2004 from the McLean Fire Department for \$2030.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the recommendation of the minimum bid of \$1950 for the surplus of the Aid Car. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-0.

Community Comments:

No Community Comments.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

No discussions.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

Ramon Hayes, Mayor