

***Town of La Conner***  
Town Council Meeting  
March 22, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

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The meeting of the La Conner Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Hayes.  
Present: Councilmembers Brunisholz, Leaver, Stokes, Chamberlain and Bruch.  
Also present: Administrator Doyle, Finance Director DeGoede and Public Works Director Lease.

The meeting began with a moment of silence in recognition of the terrorist bombings in Brussels.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0**

Councilmember Bruch discussed the possibility of the Tribal Fair Share item in the minutes as inaccurate.

**Approval of Accounts Payable:**

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve checks 18331 through 18368 and 201288, 201290, 201291 in the amount of \$57,475.86. Seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Payroll:**

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve payroll checks 4375 through 4380, 201289, and direct deposits in the amount of \$28,870.59, as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0.**

**Community Comments:**

Citizen Dan O'Donnell of 328 N. Third Street was disagreed with the 2015 Tribal Fair Share to be paid to the Tribe. His figures were less than what Administration had calculated. Administrator Doyle explained the difference was due to a capacity surcharge that the Town owed to the Tribe and applied it as a credit to the Tribe's account. The Fair Share is correct based on the total billed and credited the Tribe for 2015. For clarity in the future, the Town will pay the tribe for the surcharge instead of crediting their account.

Also discussed, was the Anacortes water rate increase. The Resolution cited by Steve Hogle cited the CPI per, but the actual increases were higher and based on last spring's budget Ordinance which is 12.14 % for fixed operating costs and a 4% increase to the variable rate. Administrator Doyle explained these rates reflect their actual costs to avoid retro-active bills from the reconciliation at the end of the year (which we commented on last year), but the rates did not include the CPI increase. Public Works Director Lease and Administrator Doyle attended a meeting to discuss the agricultural water use as well. Anacortes recorded the Town as exceeding the committed volume use and Public Works Director Lease recorded usage under the committed use. Steve Hogle will be going back to the Anacortes Council over both issues. Administrator Doyle is working towards an agricultural rate for the Town to charge, that is comparable to what Anacortes charges.

Public Works Director Lease noted the water thefts were not resolved last year in regards to farm trucks coming into Town and filling up. However, one farm was caught and paid a \$12,000 bill. Even with this issue, the water loss for last year was still below 10% with ours maintaining at about six percent.

**Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Doyle has been working with FEMA and is optimistic in reducing rates for the Town. The only requirements we need to do to comply are a Habitat Assessment for the entire Town and a Buildable Lands Analysis. Administrator Doyle was already going to do the analysis's for the 2018 Comprehensive Plan update. FEMA is very supportive and using the Town as a template for other small jurisdictions with definable boundaries. Our preferred rate is a seven, which is looking to drop to a six for a rated reduction.

The ball field contract is with the Town Attorney for review. It should be before Council at the next meeting.

There were discussions on how well the Town faired through the last storms. The work done at the end of Washington Street made a difference in drainage and the Sherman/Conner Way project will make a significant difference on Sherman Street for flooding. Presently the dike is our critical project, but within the next 15 years, we need to plan for a solution for high tide flooding. There were discussions on the increase of intensity of storms and effects on the Town.

**Mayor's Report:**

Lee Carlson of the La Conner Rotary approached Mayor Hayes again regarding the Town becoming a corporate member. After discussions on the issue of attendance, the contribution of funds at the meetings, other organizations requesting the Town's membership and the Town's contribution to organizations by the use of Maple Hall, Council decided not to pursue a corporate membership with the La Conner Rotary.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Flood/Dike:**

Administrator Doyle is reviewing easements on all six properties involved in the dike. He is also working with GEO Tech and biologists for the permitting process.

**Arts Commission:**

Councilmember Leaver discussed the Sculpture Show opening on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. He has approached the La Conner Chamber on the possibility of funding \$200 for music, but has not had a response as yet.

**Parks Commission:**

Councilmember Bruch noted the Park's Commission still is looking for members. Also, they voted on a male King Salmon for the Waterfront Park slide.

Mayor Hayes announced he will be playing piano at McIntyre Hall for the Prayer Breakfast. It is an event for elected officials. He will provide the date and time to Council.

Also discussed was the Safe Routes to Schools project. The deadline for completion of the project is June 18, 2016, and nothing has started as yet. They already used the one time extension last year. Public Works Director Lease noted the Town can still install the speed bumps on Maple Avenue and possibly reader boards for traffic control if the project does not happen.

**TIB Street Light Agreement:**

Public Works Director explained 80% of the Town is complete with the installation of LED lights and this would finish it.

**Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the Mayor to sign the TIB Street Light Agreement between the PSE and the Town of La Conner. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0**

**Garden Club Bid Award:**

Public Works Director Lease presented the bid award for the replacement of the Garden Club furnace, with the recommendation of Handy Heating Inc.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to Sign the Bid Award for the replacement of the Garden Club furnace to Handy Heating Inc. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0.**

**2016 Budget Amendment:**

Finance Director DeGoede noted this was explained at the last meeting. The retainage for the Benton Street Project was carried through the 2015 Budget but not the 2016 Budget. Payment was ceased by the Department of Labor and Industries.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Budget Amendment to carry over the retainage of the Benton Street Project to 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0**

**Boys and Girls Club Agreement:**

Administrator Doyle explained this contract was required by the auditors. The Town will pay the \$5000 annual fee in quarterly increments of \$1,250. The contract requires quarterly reports from the Boys and Girls Club as well on programs and activities.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the contract between the Town of La Conner and the Boys and Girls Club. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0.**

**Compost Consultant Contract:**

Administrator Doyle explained WWTP is going for bid for the solid waste contract from the City of Mount Vernon. In order to do that we need to get a solid waste handler's permit and comply with provisions. Tamara Thomas from Terre-Source has the credentials and background for the permitting process. The plus side to this is the City of Mount Vernon would pay us to take the yard waste instead of us paying Sunland for it. There were discussions on the costs involved, such as the contracting of grinding of the yard waste, and the large volume of yard waste that would be received. Plant Operator Wynn was not present to answer the questions. Because we have until June for the permitting, it was decided to table it for the next meeting.

**Councilmember Brunisholz moved to table the Compost Consultant Agreement for the next Council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0**

**Community Comments:**

No Community Comments.

**Mayor/Council Roundtable:**

Councilmember Bruch discussed the lighting of the bridge and the support by merchants in Town. Mayor Hayes supports the project and he feels it would be an economic driver for the Town. There were discussions regarding bridge ownership by the County and the costs.

Councilmember Chamberlain shared Providence Rhode Island has a once a month event involving music and floating lights and gondolas down their water way. It may be something La Conner can do at a nominal cost as a tourist attraction.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

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Ramon Hayes, Mayor