

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
May 10, 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, Brunisholz, Chamberlain and Bruch.

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

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 April 26, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve checks 18506 through 18562 and Voided Checks 16785, 16786, 16797, 16800, 16803, 16826, 16975, 17830, 17972, & 17991 in the amount of \$240,193.00. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve payroll checks 4410 through 4419, 201297, and direct deposits in the amount of \$49,441.87 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0.

Community Comments:

Laura Mooney, owner of Sempre Italiano, 104 First Street, La Conner, discussed last year's concerts in Gilkey Square. She is in support of events that bring people to Town, but the volume was so loud, it shook her merchandise. Her business from the previous year's Sundays in July and August dropped up to 25%, and customers were complaining of how loud the music was. She did notice the type of music did make a difference on how it affected the volume. Code Enforcement did try to regulate it, but after he left, the volume was turned back up. There was discussion on amending to code to ban amplified music in Town. Administrator Doyle will review the scheduled music groups in advance and will monitor the concerts this season to ensure their compliance with Town Ordinances. Also he will discuss with the coordinator of the concerts, the proposed action if the volume is not maintained at a moderate level.

Chamber Report:

La Conner Chamber Director, Heather Carter, was not able to attend the meeting. Mayor Hayes will see if she has a report to distribute.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the sales tax is about 20% lower than last year, but we are hoping May and June will make up for it. The Hotel Motel is maintaining and the taxes for Fire Truck bond are lower this year as well.

Planner's Report:

Administrator Doyle confirmed we are about to break ground on the dike. Also, we have hired a new Code Enforcement Officer, Tara Linder from Anacortes. She is scheduled to start next week.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Lease reported he is on schedule with his projects and confirmed the new parking meter has almost paid for its self. The Maple Hall elevator has been red tagged by the County. The County has re-issued a building occupancy permit approval for use with the nonoperational elevator.

Sheriff's Department:

Sheriff Howell discussed the upcoming protests this weekend at the refineries.

WWTP:

WWTP Operator Wynn discussed the success of the compost and the probability of running out this year. He and Administrator Doyle are discussing strategies for when they do run out. The bid for the Mount Vernon solid waste will be sometime in June or July and we will know in September if the Town got it. Administrator Doyle noted they are trying to fast track the solid waste permit process, which is required for the submission of the bid.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes reminded everyone he will be playing piano this Thursday morning at McIntyre Hall for the Skagit Community Prayer Breakfast. Also, we received a \$5,000 check from the La Conner Rotary for the Waterfront Park Challenge Grant. Administrator Doyle noted we received another \$5,000 from an anonymous contributor as well.

Council Committee Reports:

Art's Committee: and the poster. The sculpture Show opening will be on May 22nd at Gilkey Square.

Councilmember Leaver shared that there are 17 to 18 invitational artists and the featured artist has been selected for the Art's Alive Event. The commission is working on the website, sponsorships

Streets Committee:

Councilmember Stokes and Chamberlain attended a Streets Committee meeting regarding the Safe Routes to Schools Agreement with the Tribe and the North 3rd Street Interlocal Agreement with the Port.

North Third Street Port of Skagit Interlocal Agreement- Design:

Public Works Director Lease explained the goal for the planning and permitting for the North Third Street Project complete and to have it shovel ready for the application of the TIB Grant. This helps in scoring higher points. The Interlocal Agreement with the Port will accomplish this with the Town's portion for phase one of the planning and design, in the amount of \$37,468, which is already in the 2016 budget. For 2017, the Town share for the agreement would be about \$23,000. However, the Town is also responsible for utility improvements for water in the amount of \$104,430 and Sewer in the amount of \$67,572. The utility upgrades need to be done anyway, so by combining it in this project and splitting the cost with the Port for planning and design, the Town will save money. The TIB Grant in the amount of \$1,040.00 looks to be successful. Total project costs \$1,333,000. Public Works Director Lease will present phase two to Council for approval for the 2017 budget.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement with the Port of Skagit for Phase 1 of the North Third Street Project and expenditures of \$37,468. Seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Carried 5-0

Safe Routes to Schools Swinomish Tribe Agreement:

Public Works Director Lease discussed the costs in the original Interlocal Agreement which is due to expire in June 2016. They have exceeded the grant that the Tribe was awarded. This would leave the Town liable for the excess costs of the planning and design. He recommends dissolving the existing agreement and entering into a Developer's Extension Agreement with the Tribe to protect the Town from financial and legal liabilities. The Tribe's legal team is reviewing the new agreement now. There are fees for this type of agreement, but because the planning and design is done, Public Works Director Lease is requesting for the fees to be waived. The Tribe has still not had confirmation for the second extension.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to dissolve the current agreement with the Tribe and enter into a new Developer's Extension Agreement for the Safe Routes to School Project. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0

Maple Hall Elevator:

Public Works Director Lease reiterated Maple Hall is not in violation of ADA compliance, and we can continue to rent the facility without the elevator (as mentioned in the Public Works Monthly Report). The lowest proposal to have it replaced would be approximately \$71,311.48. He has \$60,000 in the budget for this year, so we would have to find an extra \$20,000 in the budget to cover the balance. There was discussion on the need of the elevator for the Senior Center and events and the possibility of requesting the extra funds from Hotel Motel next year.

It was decided to continue for 2016 without the elevator and to rollover the \$60,000 to the 2017 budget with the increase needed to complete the project. The contractor will honor the quote if the contract is signed before the end of the year.

Resolution-Six Year TIP 2016 Amendment:

Public Works Director explained this is to include the N. 3rd Street Project Amendment.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Resolution 519 for the 2016 TIP Amendment to include the N. Third Street Project. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0

Councilmember Stokes requested the entrance to Pioneer Park to be added to the TIP to make the entrance more accessible. It was agreed the entrance is a dangerous situation and there has been accidents, but previous suggestions to do it met opposition by citizens as well as very costly. Now with the new Waterfront Park, there is a safe access to the park along the waterfront. Public Works Director Lease will add something in the TIP to address improvements to the entrance of Pioneer Park.

Tom Jay Professional Services Agreement:

Administrator Doyle explained this is for the building and installation of the Salmon Slide for the Waterfront Park, which is in the 2016 budget. Tom Jay is the artist and sculptor of the salmon slide.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Tom Jay Agreement for the building of the Salmon Slide at the Waterfront Park. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0

Community Comments:

No Community Comments.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Councilmember Brunisholz is leaving on vacation and will not be at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Hayes updated Council on the Fiber Optic project. The Town did submit a proposal to the County for a grant. The award was to be in April, but the County is behind. We should hear something this month.

Councilmember Bruch had a meeting with Commissioner Wesen who is in favor of lighting the bridge. The year 2017 is the 60th anniversary of the Rainbow Bridge, and the County will be promoting it. The problem is it needs to be painted and the County has no immediate plans to paint it. The lights would have to be removed if the County does decide to paint the bridge, which would be the financial responsibility of the Town. Councilmember Bruch has been looking into costs. The lights and materials would be about \$80,000, but it is the installation costs that are so high. The goal is to keep it under \$600,000. The bid is going to be just for the Town side, the other side Shelter Bay and/or the Tribe can pay for if they want it. There were discussions on possibly lighting just the handrails or just attaching cam lights on the rail that shines up on the bridge.

Mayor Hayes discussed the drop in taxes and the empty store front spaces in Town. He feels the lighted bridge would be a draw for tourism. He will discuss with the Tribe the possibility of contributing to the lighting of the bridge.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

Ramon Hayes, Mayor