

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
July 12, 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 Brunisholz, 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.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the minutes of June 28, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve checks 18736 through 18799 in the amount of \$165,593.22, Voided Checks 18692, 18745, Electronic Payment 201308 in the amount of \$75.92 for a total of \$165,669.14. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve payroll checks 4445 through 4459, payroll tax deposit 201307 of \$7550.50, and payroll direct deposit of \$21,729.34 for a total amount of \$55,631.27 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0.

Community Comments:

No Comments.

Chamber Report:

La Conner Chamber Director, Heather Carter reported 297 walk-in, 148 phone calls and 11,300 visitors to the website for the month of June. They have moved their office to 413 Morris Street. Currently there is a shortage of volunteers, so she was forced to decrease the hours for the Visitor's Center. The new spring/summer hours are Monday through Friday 10am to 4pm, Saturday's noon to 3pm and closed on Sundays. The Fourth of July parade and park event went well. Now that she knows what to expect, she can include the marketing in her budget. Heather is currently working on sponsorship renewals, and the next upcoming event, the La Conner Classic Car and Boat Show.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the drop in the sales tax this year. The Hotel Motel is about the same.

Planning Department:

There was discussion on the new tribal meter. It has been ordered and scheduled to be installed the first of August. The cost of the meter is about \$4000 plus installation costs.

Public Works:

The parking meter fees are coming in very well and exceeding previous years. Councilmember Stokes suggested a shuttle service to and from the parking lot for visitors in the future.

WWTP:

There are plans to install bollards at the compost kiosk to stop the front loaders from taking all the compost. The Ford 750 dump truck is up for surplus. WWTP Operator Wynn explained it was purchased from Public Works years ago with the thought of compost deliveries, which they never did. The truck has been sitting in the back area where they are cleaning up for more composting.

They have done a water test on the tribal sewer line. It came up clear of any sea water. Administrator Doyle explained one of the theories of the tribal sewer loss was syphoning at high tides, but this test cleared that.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes reported on his presentation for the Economic Development Funds. The Town proposed a public private partnership with Wave Broadband for a fiber optic network. The committee's recommendation was for \$300,000 immediately and another \$200,000 next spring. The recommendation still has to go before the Commissioners for final approval. Within the next five to seven years everything has to go to fiber optic because of technical demand, so this would put us ahead. If this goes through, La Conner would be the first complete fiber optic network in Skagit County. Administrator Doyle explained the Town is absorbing the costs of the expansion of the network through the grant which, in turn, Wave will provide a lower cost connection fee to the citizens. The contract for fees and arrangements still needs to be negotiated, but for every dollar of grant funds, Wave would contribute \$1.60, totaling \$850,000 towards the partnership costs. This project is to upgrade the existing system to be sure it is viable for fiber optics and to lay approximately 34,000 additional linear feet of fiber optic cable throughout the Town.

Mayor Hayes thanked Councilmember Bruch for his efforts in helping to facilitate the John Wayne vessel to Town. A couple hundred people toured the boat, as well as Kim Darby, who was in True Grit with John Wayne.

Mayor Hayes and Councilmember Stokes did some preliminary measurements of the bridge. The original lights are still on the bridge, but will have to be removed. He brought a picture of the bridge lite several years ago by Don Scott and feels we could do the same thing for \$1500 to \$2000, as a short term answer. Primarily, we need a contract with the County and then find someone to hang the lights. Mayor Hayes has already been offered a \$500 donation for the lighting of the bridge and has reserved \$5000 in the planning funds for this kind of project.

Also discussed was the lighting of First Street for Christmas. So far \$1800 has been collected in donations. Mayor Hayes sent a letter to all the property owners for permission to have Public Works hang the lights on their buildings. There has been one negative response. All of the lights hung will be white as per the LCMC.

At the last Council meeting, representatives of the Quilt Museum requested the elevator be repaired for this year's annual Quilt Show. After discussion, Council agreed to wait until next year for the repairs. The Upper Center is only about ten percent of the exhibit space, and even if we did agree to fix it this year, Public Works Director Lease emphasized he could not get it done before the event in October.

Council Committee Reports

Art's Commission: Councilmember Leaver reported not enough members showed up for the Art's Commission meeting, but he did see the proto type for the 2016 Art's Alive poster, which looks great.

Flood/Dike:

Administrator Doyle just received the Litigation Guarantee from the title company. He will attend the next La Conner School Board meeting to address the Quit Claim Deed for the unassigned property the school has legal nexus to. Also, he will be collecting consent forms from property owners involved.

Water Use Efficiency Goals - Resolution:

Public Works Director Lease requested Council to approve the resolution adopting his recommendations for the Water Use Efficiency Goals.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Resolution 520 adopting the recommendations for the Water Use Efficiency Goals. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0

Equinox Archeological Analysis Contract:

Administrator Doyle presented Council with the costs for the dike portion of the contract. He explained the contract approved by Council at a previous meeting, included both the North Third Street project and the dike. Because it did not include the charges for the dike portion, Council requested to see the charges before approving that portion of the contract.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the dike costs for the Equinox Archeological Analysis Contract. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING – LCMC Code Amendments

Mayor Hayes opened the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

No Public Comments.

Meeting closed at 6:46 p.m.

Administrator Doyle explained there were two actions under 15.70, required by FEMA, to remain in the CRS Program. The first was under Provisions for Flood Hazard Reduction, in which all accessory structures, to include sheds, must meet the requirements of flood control. Second, all recreational vehicles, such as RVs, must be currently licensed and have inflated tires.

The second is 12.30, Storm and Surface Water Utility amending requirements to comply with all development standards; and

The Third is 15:50, Accessory Structures, which requires rain barrels, garbage containers and compost bins, in the historical district, to be enclosed, screened or concealed. There was discussion on the wording of the Code as misleading. By calling it garbage containers, it sounds like it includes residential garbage cans, and rain barrels gives the impression it includes small barrels as well. Administrator Doyle explained the garbage containers are meant mainly for dumpsters in the historical/commercial district, and the requirement of concealing the rain barrels is for the large ones. Small barrels can be structured to blend in. We don't want to discourage water conservation, but we don't want to compromise our historical district either.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Ordinance 1139 amending the LCMC 15.70 15:30 and 12.30. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING – Adopt State Building Codes

Mayor Hayes opened the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

No Public Comments

Meeting Closed 6:57 p.m.

Administrator Doyle explained the State adopts the international building codes and all jurisdictions have to adopt the State building codes. The County has and is enforcing them in the interlocal agreement.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Ordinance 1140 to adopt the State Building Codes. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0

Employment Contract – Finance Director DeGoede:

Mayor Hayes commented on the work and effort performed.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the employment contract for Finance Director DeGoede. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING – TIP 2017

Mayor Hayes opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.
No Public Comments
Meeting closed at 7:02 p.m.

Public Works Lease discussed the updated projects. He added the restructure for the entrance of Pioneer Park. Councilmember Brunisholz did not agree to have the Pioneer Park entrance on the list and moved to have it stricken from the TIP for 2017. Motion failed.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Resolution 521 for the 2017 TIP as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-1 with Councilmember Brunisholz voting nay.

North Third Street Project:

Public Works Director Lease discussed the improvements planned for Morris Street to the Port. It will include parking, sidewalks, retaining wall and stairs to access the school ball field. This is not the final design and is still in the planning phase. He requested support letters from groups, local residential walkers and bikers.

Surplus of the Ford 750:

WWTP Operator Wynn submitted a request to surplus the old dump truck. His estimated value is \$2500.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the surplus of the Ford 750 dump truck with an estimated value of \$2500. Seconded by Bruch. Carried 5-0

Planning Commission Appointment – Carol Hedlin:

Mayor Hayes requested approval of his appointment of Carol Hedlin to the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Resolution 522 to appoint Carol Hedlin to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0

Right of Way Permit – Annual Car and Boat Show:

La Conner Chamber Director Heather Carter requested the Right of Way permit for the closure of the North end of First Street.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Right of Way Permit to close the North end of First Street for the Annual Car and Boat Show on August 6th, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0

Contract Amendment – William Neilson:

Administrator Doyle explained the need for a judicial process to handle appealed tickets. In the past the Town hired an attorney from Mount Vernon, but because it has been so long since the last appeal, we have lost track of him. William Neilson is a retired judge and is already under contract with the Town as the hearing examiner. This would just expand his contracted services to include judicial obligations for appeals.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve amending William Neilson's contract to include Judicial Obligations. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0

Community Comments:

No Community Comments.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Discussed was the need for cleanup of the property located on South Fourth Street, it looks junky with old vehicles. Also, the construction mess was cleaned up behind Pioneer Market, but there is still garbage around the lot.

The Fourth of July fireworks was a success with a great turnout in spite of the weather. It was suggested to incorporate patriotic music next year. There was still concern of the candle lanterns coming over from the Swinomish Tribe. Administrator Doyle will talk with the Tribe's planning commission and fire department about it. The lanterns have been banned County wide.

Councilmember Stokes discussed the Town taking on ownership of the bridge. There should be some grants for maintenance. Sandy Stokes of the La Conner Weekly News suggested a bridge foundation to help in funding the maintenance.

Council agreed to meet Tuesday the 26th of July at 5:00 p.m. for a retreat to discuss the 2017 budget and review policies. The regular Council meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

Ramon Hayes, Mayor