

**Town of La Conner**  
Town Council Meeting  
March 10, 2020 – 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, Leaver, Stokes and Chamberlain.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, and Sgt. Willard of the Sheriff's Department.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to excuse Councilmember Brunisholz and Wohleb. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 3/0.**

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of February 25, 2020

**Accounts Payable – March 10, 2020:**

Checks	22978 - 23025	\$90,150.35
Voided Check	22846	
Electronic Pmts:		
	201599 - Parking Meter Fees	\$50.29
	201600 - Utility CC Fees	\$132.40
	<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$90,333.04</b>

**Payroll of March 5, 2020:**

Checks	5168 - 5176	\$20,114.46
Auto Payment	201596 - DRS	\$2,291.00
Auto Payment	201597 - PERS	\$10,642.79
Auto Payment	201598- Payroll Taxes	\$6,347.03
Auto Payroll Deposit		\$19,403.87
	<b>Total Payroll March 5, 2020</b>	<b>\$58,799.15</b>

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 3/0.**

**Chamber Report:**

Chamber Director Heather Carter reported the Daffodil Festival attendance shouldn't be affected by the Coronavirus, as it is mostly self-driving to view the fields. There have been a number of La Conner events canceled or rescheduled. The Annual Ice Cream Social and Auction has been rescheduled to June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Jazz Valley Concert last weekend was canceled as well as the Annual Firemen's St. Patrick's Day Dance for next weekend. She is taking it day by day and will base the closure of the Visitors Center with the closure of the School, if it occurs. She is moving forward with the March 19<sup>th</sup> Evening Magazine interview.

La Conner was in the Alaska Airlines Magazine in February and is also in the SeaTac Airport for the third quarter of 2020. Also, the La Conner Maps have come in and are ready for distribution.

**Revenue and Expenditure Reports:**

Mayor Hayes expects the revenues to take a hit this year due to the Coronavirus.

**Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Thomas noted the County had its first reported case of the Coronavirus today and adopted a Declaration of Emergency. By doing so, it will make it easier to get the supplies needed as well as eligibility for disaster funds if that occurs.

Due to the Coronavirus, there have been cancelations of events in the facilities. Normally a full refund is not granted if the cancellation is 60 days or less prior to the date of the event. Due to the circumstances, he is asking the Council for permission to waive cancelation fees if caused by the Coronavirus. He will be drafting an ordinance to address this type of situation, but until then, he is asking the Council's approval to begin waiving the fees immediately.

**Council unanimously agreed to immediately refund and waive the fees for canceled events due to the Coronavirus.**

**Planning Department:**

Planner Manville reported she got the permits from the Corps of Engineers for the Waterfront Park shoreline restoration. Also, she has received several calls regarding ADUs, bed and breakfasts and short time rentals. If she is getting the questions, the Council will probably get them as well. A question and answer page has been posted on the Town Website to refer to.

It is time to schedule the Town Council/Planning Commission joint meeting. It will be the second meeting in April. She will begin an hour earlier for an open house to discuss the Shoreline Master Plan. A flyer will be mailed out in the utility bills the first week of April to reach out for public participation.

**Public Works:**

Public Works Director Lease discussed the time restraint meter reading has placed on Public Works. He is still waiting on the three companies to figure out how to merge together with the new system. Also, the Bid opening for the Caledonia Pump Station is on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Sheriff's Department:**

Sgt. Willard shared the Sheriff's Office Administration has decided to hold their monthly meetings in different locations throughout the County for more visibility. February was in La Conner at Maple Hall. He also assured everyone that the police force is supplied and ready in case of an emergency outbreak of the Coronavirus. It is getting very difficult to get the masks and supplies. Councilmember Stokes noted the Town Cert Trailer at the Fire Department should be stocked as well.

Sgt. Willard also met with Tulip Festival Director Cindy Verge. She is not seeing or anticipating any change of participation, but both she and Sgt. Willard felt there could be a change of more driving through and viewing, rather than stopping at the farms. Both tulip farms will be opening a weekend early. The Sheriff's Department is ready for the traffic as needed.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Hayes shared the Senior Center is closed due to the recommendation of the County and State.

The Mayor attended the Parks Commission Meeting to discuss potential plans for the ballpark. If the Town purchases the Hedlund property, 25% would be a park to include a half basketball and pickle ball court, along with a children's play area. The remainder of the property would be for residential development.

**Arts Committee:**

Councilmember Leaver reported the Arts Commission is working on artists for Art's Alive. He also accompanied Administrator Thomas to Oak Harbor to view the art donated sculpture that will be installed at the top of the Benton Street Stairs.

**Economic Development Committee:**

Councilmember Leaver and Stokes had a brief meeting and discussed the upgrades of First Street and other ideas to improve the Town and revenue.

**Finance Committee:**

Councilmember Stokes reported the meeting addressed the rollover of the Savi Bank CD. It was decided to stay with Savi Bank as they offered a rate of 1.85, where TVI only offered .5.

**Agreement - Mount Hood Appraisal Group:**

Administrator Thomas noted this is an agreement for the appraisal of the property the Town needs for an easement to build the dike. It is for \$5,000 to be done in sixty days.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Mount Hood Group Agreement for the appraisal of the property needed to purchase for the Dike. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 3/0.**

**Agreement - Western Display Fireworks:**

Administrator Thomas explained this is the annual agreement for the Fireworks Display. The prices went up from last year, so he had them shorten the display to meet the budget of \$10,000. Next budget we will need to consider increasing funds for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Show as they will probably go up again. The Port does participate in this event as well.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Western Display Fireworks Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion Carried 3/0.**

**Agreement - Attune Piano:**

Finance Director noted the wording in the agreement in the packet was modified slightly but the terms are the same.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Attune Piano Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 3/0.**

**Agreement - Simply Yards Landscape & Design:**

Public Works Director Lease had an onsite walk through bid; he is getting more groundwork covered at less cost than last year.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Simply Yards Landscape & Design agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 3/0.**

**UPCA Agreements – SRV Construction & C. Johnson Construction:**

Public Works Director Lease recommended Council to approve both agreements for on-call emergency services. If one is out, the other can respond as a backup. These agreements cover water, sewer and drainage emergencies. There is no money involved until they are called out on a job.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve both UPCA Agreements with SRV Construction and C. Johnson Construction for on-call emergency services. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 3/0.**

**Mayor/Council Roundtable:**

Mayor Hayes discussed the possibility of a market analysis of the Hedlund property. We already know their terms and they did have one done, but we should have one done as well. The Mayor has not had any negative responses from the article in the La Conner Weekly News, but there still needs to be a public meeting. Mayor Hayes will look into costs involved for an appraisal and/or market analysis.

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor