

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
March 24, 2020 – 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 Wohleb.
Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede and Public Works Director Lease.

This meeting was held telephonically. Information to join was posted on the Town website and provided to the La Conner Weekly News.

Public Comments: No Public Comments

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of March 10, 2020

Accounts Payable:	Checks 23026 - 23064	\$113,579.06
	Electronic Pmt. - #201601 Excise Tax	\$5,133.50
	Total Accounts Payable	\$118,712.56
Payroll of March 20, 2020	Checks 5177 - 5182	\$1,716.98
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201602	\$6,025.09
	Payroll Auto Deposit	\$17,876.23
	Total Payroll	\$25,618.30

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 5/0.

Since Administrator Thomas wrote his report, Governor Inslee has ordered the “Stay Home & Safe Policy.” The constant changes due to the COVID-19 Virus has created challenges for staff, but we are working it out.

Mayor Hayes noted he is looking into information on an appraisal of the Hedlund property, as discussed at the last meeting.

Declaration of Public Health Emergency (Ratify):

Administrator Thomas explained this was done last week to be able to access additional powers and funding when needed. He is asking the Council to Ratify the Declaration.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve and ratify the Declaration of Public Health Emergency signed by the Mayor. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 5/0.

Ordinance 1186 – Amend LMC 3.60 Facilities:

Administrator Thomas updated events sponsored by the Town and added a waiver of penalties on cancelations due to natural disasters such as COVID-19. He also included a section allowing the Mayor to establish new policies such as requiring insurance.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Ordinance 1186 amending LMC 3.60, Facilities. Motion seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution 566 – Amend Policy 413 Employee Sick Leave

Administrator Thomas explained the amended policy addresses the use of sick leave for employees that have been placed on quarantine and/or altered work schedule due to situations like COVID-19. We are working on rotating shifts to follow Governor Inslee’s Stay at Home order.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Resolution 566 amending Policy 413, Employee Sick Leave. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Anacortes has shut their parks and have signs that address social distancing. After discussion, Council decided to close the children's park below Town Hall, close the Salmon Slide at the Waterfront Park, leave the Skateboard Park and Boardwalk open and hang signs on social distancing. Councilmember Wohleb will get a copy of the Anacortes signs as an example.

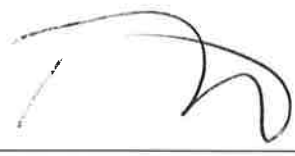
Concerns regarding the possibility of visitors coming to La Conner for the Tulip Festival over the weekend were discussed. Last weekend the Town was busy, and people were not observing social distancing guidelines. Mayor Hayes feels that after Governor Inslee's Stay Home order and closure of non-essential businesses takes effect this week, there shouldn't be a problem. If there is, we can address it as needed.

Another area of concern is the businesses and residents not able to pay their water bills due to the closure of the businesses or loss of jobs during the COVID-19 restrictions. Finance Director DeGoede stated we will not be penalizing for late payments and will address situations as they come up.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor