

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting

June 9, 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, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Manville and WWTP Operator Wynn.

This meeting was held by a Zoom meeting. Information to join was provided on the published Agenda and the Town Website.

Public Comments:

Resident & Planning Commission member, Marna Hanneman, expressed her concerns of no social distancing in Town over the weekend. Other cities, such as Leavenworth, have closed their main street for walking only and allowing businesses to extend outside to accommodate more shoppers.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of May 26, 2020

Accounts Payable:	Checks:	23228 - 232591	\$83,793.69
	Electronic Pmts:	201621 - Util. Pmt. Fees	\$119.40
		201622 - Parking Mtr. Fees	\$2.66
	Total Accounts Payable		\$83,915.75
Payroll of May 20, 2020	Checks 5213 - 5221		\$20,060.85
	Electronic Pmts. – 201619 - DCP		\$2,291.00
	201620 - PERS		\$10,737.04
	201618 – Payroll Taxes		\$6,488.18
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>		<u>\$19,571.83</u>
	Total Payroll		\$59,148.90

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

Chamber Report:

Chamber Director Carter reported 90% of the restaurants in Town are now open for indoor and outdoor seating. She is auctioning a basket June 16-25 as a fundraiser. Information is on the Chamber website and Facebook. The Chamber completed the move to the Fireside room. A deli board is put out on Commercial Street during opening hours. She has been receiving many calls on La Conner's opening. The Skagit County Commissioners passed the TPA, which will follow with public comments. The La Conner High School Seniors graduation drive-up celebration will be on Thursday around 5:00 p.m.

Council discussed a resolution for the enforcement of mandating everyone to wear a mask when they are not able to social distance. The Town is limited in space inside businesses and outside. Mayor Hayes stated some business would not comply, and the Town has no way to enforce it. He felt a resolution to encourage people to wear a mask would be better and would still give businesses leverage and support in this matter. Another suggestion was to purchase masks for businesses to help accommodate customers who don't have one. Mayor Hayes will follow up with information for the ordering of masks. We could probably be compensated through the CARES Grant funding or suggested sponsorship.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the sales tax is steady, but as expected, the Hotel Motel Taxes were significantly lower.

Planning:

Planner Manville has resumed working at Town Hall all day on Thursdays. She is concentrating on the priorities to include permits and statutory requirements. If we are not in compliance, we are not eligible for grant funding. The planning of the dike has moved forward with an appraisal in process for land acquisition.

Public Works Report:

The concrete slab for the new sculpture is ready, but the artist has not completed the base for the installation.

Mayor Pro Tem:

Councilmember Stokes is next for Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Councilmember Stokes as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Purchase of Kirsch Property:

Mayor asked to have this tabled for a future meeting.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to table the Purchase of the Kirsch Property. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution 569 – Comprehensive Plan Docket:

Planner Manville explained this is to change property zoning to facilitate the residential portion of the Hedlin property development, as well as changing some wording in the Transportation element.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Resolution 569, the Comprehensive Plan Docket. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Skagit Community Solar Project Agreement:

Public Works Director Lease explained this agreement was executed in 2014 to convey the solar panels to the Town in 2020. The inspection scheduled for today was canceled due to the weather. He has rescheduled the inspection for next week. Once that is done, the Town will own and be responsible for the panels. There is no action required by Council. There were discussions on how much the Town would receive back from PSE. Finance Director DeGoede was not sure, the electric bill for Maple Hall dropped from a few hundred to a little over \$10.00 a month when the panels were installed, but the Skagit Community Solar Project received any payouts from PSE. We are currently receiving funds annually from PSE, for the solar panels at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, averaging a few thousand a year.

CHS Engineers/David Evans and Associates Consent to Assignment:

Evan Henke of CHS Engineers explained he is moving the whole company to David Evans and Associates, and will be heading the Water/Wastewater Division. The Town will be working with the same team and level of service as in the past.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the CHS Engineers/David Evans and Associates Consent to Assignment Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Administrator Thomas received the appraisal for the Hedlin Property but obtained it too late for the Agenda. He will provide it at the next meeting.

As discussed earlier in the meeting, Council agreed to move forward with a resolution encouraging people to wear masks or face coverings to support Town businesses.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve moving forward with the resolution to encourage people to wear masks or face coverings. Motion seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Motion carried 5/0.

The City of Langley has mandated the wearing of face masks in the business district and has provided cute signs for all the businesses windows. After discussions, Council agreed to have signs for all the businesses, but they will be to encourage the wearing of face masks and social distancing. Town staff will follow up to make it happen.

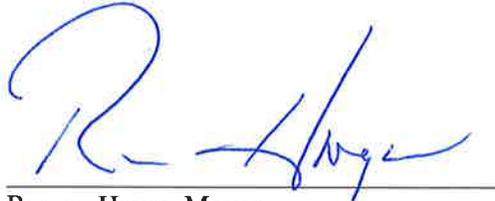
Closing of First Street:

The City of Leavenworth closed their main street and provided the means for merchants to have an open market setup. Mayor Hayes stated the challenge in closing First Street in La Conner is the impact on Second Street. Public Works Director Lease also had other challenges, such as the cost of signage, ADA access, delivery access for businesses and people moving the signs and going through anyway. Also, La Conner's parking lots are not located for walking distances to the shops. One suggestion was to try it on the 4th of July weekend and see if the Retirement Inn would let us utilize their bus to transport people from the parking areas. Another suggestion was having service groups set up tables at the ends of the street to deter people moving the signs. There was concern this would encourage larger crowds. We had canceled the 4th of July events for that reason.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor