

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
June 23, 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 electronically on Zoom. Information to join was posted at Town Hall, the published Agenda and the Town website.

Public Comments: No Public Comments

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of June 9, 2020

Accounts Payable:	Checks 23264 - 23293	\$75,223.31
	Voided Checks 23260, 23261, 23262, 23263	
	<u>Electronic Pmts. - 201623 Excise Tax</u>	<u>\$5,761.90</u>
	Total Accounts Payable	\$80,985.21
Payroll of June 19, 2020	Checks 5222 - 5227	\$1,908.51
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201624	\$6,178.21
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$18,071.49</u>
	Total Payroll	\$26,158.21

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

Resolution – Wearing of Face Mask or Face Covering:

Administrator Thomas explained when this was written, Council voted to encourage the wearing of face masks. The Governor has since then mandated it a State requirement effective June 26, 2020, which supersedes this resolution. No Council action was taken. However, because of the mandated State requirement to wear face masks or coverings, the signs throughout the Town need to be updated. Council also requested the signs be made brighter for visibility.

Agreement – Robert Suttles, MAI Associates – Ratify for the Appraisal of the Hedlin Property:

Administrator Thomas explained the appraisal will cost the Town \$3,500, but will be useful in obtaining grants.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve ratifying the Agreement for the appraisal of the Hedlin Property. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Agreement – Purchase and Sale (Kirsch Property):

Administrator Thomas stated the sale of the Kirsch Property will net approximately \$200,000, with closing costs built in. The buyers, Mit & Maureen Harlan, are purchasing it to preserve their view and have no plans to build on the property. There is a DNR Lease that encroaches, but they do not want to lease it. Also, there is a four inch encroachment of the Town's park next to it, but we would grant a license.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the sale of the Kirsch Property to Mit and Maureen Harlan. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

4th of July Street First Street Closure:

Mayor Hayes received several comments from the businesses, voicing concern. They just recently opened for business, we are only in Phase 2 and parking would be an issue. The Mayor opened the meeting for public comments.

Laura Moody, owner of Sempre Italiano strongly opposed the Fourth of July street closure but did like the concept. With just opening businesses and only being in Phase 2, it is just bad timing. She would be open to a future event.

Pauline Server, owner of Ramblin' Rose was in favor of the Fourth of July street closure. People enjoy street fairs and more are coming from all over.

Richard Murphy, owner of Pac Nor Westy was in favor of the Fourth of July street closure. The State mandated face mask requirement will help, but the extended retail in the street will give small businesses an opportunity to a larger customer base.

Councilmember Leaver noted most everything has been canceled for the holiday, so the street fair would be a morale boost.

Mayor Hayes stated it is a fragile and risky time, at least twelve businesses are against the street closure. With the Fourth of July only ten days away, it does not leave much time to work out the logistics, such as parking. Also, this is not a Chamber event so the Chamber will not be able to advertise for it. Chamber Director Carter suggested planning it for the October Fest, which she could advertise for.

After further discussions, Council decided it was a public health risk without proper planning. The better time would be when we are in Phase Three or Four. Administration will work with Chamber to develop a plan for the street closure in October in conjunction with the October Fest.

Town Signage:

Council discussed concerns of the enforcement of wearing face masks. Store owners and their employees are confronted by angry and hostile customers. The State requirement and the updated signs will help, but Council felt there needed to be something at the entrance of Town. One suggestion was to bring back the digital flashing sign, but the rental is \$1,200 a month. Another option was to have banners made. Chamber Director Carter offered to order them with a cost of \$300 each. It was decided to temporarily put a banner over the White Rock Sign at the entrance of Town. Public Works Director Lease will help with getting the dimensions and hanging of the banner. Council will discuss this again at the next meeting, and if the banner is not effective, the digital flashing sign can be brought in.

Councilmember Wohleb asked about the masks that were going to be provided to the merchants for customers that don't have one. Mayor Hayes stated where he orders them they are \$23 for 50 masks. He will provide the information to staff.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor