

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
July 28, 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 and Finance Director DeGoede.

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 July 14, 2020

Accounts Payable:	Checks 23339 - 23368	\$203,954.56
	<u>Electronic Pmts. - 201632 Excise Tax</u>	<u>\$6,127.74</u>
	Total Accounts Payable	\$210,082.30
Payroll of July 20, 2020	Checks 5237 - 5242	\$1,740.40
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201631	\$6,192.66
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$17,988.94</u>
	Total Payroll	\$25,922.00

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

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Thomas received an amended proposal from the Skagit County Sheriff's Department to extend policing services for another year. The La Conner School is not included as we don't know what the plans for re-opening are at this time. It will be in the next Council packet for review.

Administrator Thomas noted the flood appraisal is in process.

Chamber Report:

Chamber Director Carter stated the Skagit County Public Health Officer, Dr. Leibrand, issued further direction to cancel all events for the remainder of the year, and actually through January 31, 2021, which would cancel the Birding Festival. She is working on creating a virtual Christmas Tree Lighting and maybe a ladies night out to promote the shopping in La Conner. Normally she sells the Coupon Books as a fundraiser, but is handing them out for free. They are good through March 31, 2021. Administrator Thomas explained Skagit County is over four times the max criteria at this time. He needs to review the additional restrictions for Phase 3 Governor Inslee announced today.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes is very concerned about the businesses in Town and is advocating for a Shop La Conner Campaign. The surrounding cities have not been affected much with a decrease in sales taxes as they have large box stores that La Conner does not have. He has reached out to restaurants to increase seating capacity by expanding tables outside. He has also observed 99% of the visitors are wearing masks through Town.

After discussions, it was decided to utilize the Economic Committee and to include the Mayor, Chamber, key business owners, residents and social organizations such as the Rotary to brainstorm on ideas for shopping local.

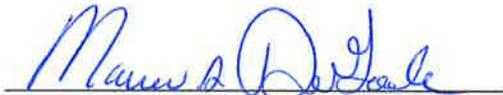
Parks Commission:

Councilmember Wohleb shared they did have a meeting and reviewed Curt Miller’s plans for the Maple Park. Mayor Hayes explained the appraisal for the 80,000 square feet area is 60,000 square feet dedicated to 18 single family dwellings focused on affordable housing. Each site is appraised at \$45,000, but that is just the baseline, values could increase for lots with views. The last 20,000 square feet would be the park on Maple Avenue. Also discussed was the 25 foot setback from Ag land to the east. Mayer Hayes stated the appraisal is just informational at this point.

Maple Hall/Council Meetings:

Councilmembers discussed resuming Council Meetings in Maple Hall. Everyone could be six feet apart, wear masks, have fans circulating the air and utilize the overhead projector for the public to attend by Zoom. Also suggested was to do it in Pioneer Park. Although Councilmembers did want to resume meetings at Maple Hall, they also expressed concern and felt they needed to respect the restrictions of the Governor and be a model of utmost safety to the community and themselves. Mayor Hayes noted we would look into it.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor