

Town of La Conner

Town Council Special Meeting
October 11, 2016, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Lower Maple Center

Mayor Hayes called the special meeting of the La Conner Town Council to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Leaver, Stokes, Chamberlain, and Bruch.

Also Present: Administrator Doyle, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease and WWTP Operator Wynn.

Councilmember Stokes moved to excuse Councilmember Brunisholz. Motion seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Hayes opened the meeting for the presentations of the department budgets for 2017. This year is going to be challenging with limited funds and many things that need to get done.

Finance Director DeGoede stated there are critical projects that need to be done. Decisions this year will include what projects will be done with limited debt options. The General fund is very slim and the Compost Fund cash flow is as well.

Public Works Director Lease presented the following fund budgets:

002 – Park & Port: Basic O&M with a capital project of \$50K for the shoreline restoration of the Waterfront Park.

Not listed on the budget for capital projects, is the rollover of \$62K for the Morris/First Street Stairs with an additional \$23K for an \$85K project. Originally, to keep the project costs down, Public Works was going to do all the demolition and prep work, but with the staffing issues this year, they could not get it done. This will bring the total capital costs for Park and Port to \$135K. There is a purchase of a new truck at \$37K with the costs split out through all the funds. This will be replacing a 1993 Chevy.

Mayor Hayes introduced Josh Morrison from the Fire Department.

003 – Facilities: Basic O&M and the replacement of the Maple Hall elevator with a rollover of \$60K with an additional \$25K for a total of \$85K. Also, there is an additional \$20K for contracted cleaning of the public restrooms under Public Restroom Repair and Maintenance. There was discussion on the possibility of a grant to replace the elevator, but it would not qualify as an existing elevator.

005 – Streets: Basic O&M, a possible TIB Grant for the Third Street Project at \$595K/\$37K local/\$37K Port contribution. The grant selection will be on November 18th. Also, the First Street Main Project with a projected cost of \$300K.

401 – Water: Basic O&M with the Capital Project of the First Street Main for \$165K, Phase One Planning of the La Conner Whitney Line Replacement \$70K, North Third Street upgrade project \$210K and the WSP Update of \$75K.

Phase one of the replacement of the La Conner Whitney Main is the most critical project with a cost of \$800K for design and construction. There is an average of two repairs per year costing \$15K to \$20K each. Public Works Director Lease gave one suggestion of funding the project with a bond at approximately \$68,600 payment per year. But, this is only phase 1 of the project. To complete the full project of 3.7 miles of water line, it would cost the Town about four million.

The First Street Main is the second critical project at approximately \$600K, divided between the water and street funds. This project has a huge impact on the businesses, so he would want this done before spring. That being said, the tides will dictate the time of completion. With the right contractor willing to work around the clock, his optimistic estimate of completion would be six weeks. It was decided to target the First Street Main Project for 2018 with the goal of having it done by mid-March. Also discussed were rate increases to support the bonds and Shelter Bay's contribution. Administrator Doyle noted there will be a rate structure review for both water and sewer. The last rate study did work as planned, but the unexpected breaks have depleted the reserves.

Public Works Director Lease stated as a whole, our CPI lists nine million in infrastructure upgrades that need to be done. His worst fear is cross contamination in the water, and the more line breaks the more probability of it happening. There were discussions on including the improvements of the infrastructure, well maintained streets and even the available fiber optic as an appeal to encourage new businesses in town.

403 – Drainage: Basic O&M with a rollover of the 2016 Caledonia Pump Station project at \$450K, a rollover for the street sweeper of \$62K with an additional \$38K for a total of \$100K, and \$8K for the required map update. The Caledonia Pump Station is \$70K over budget due to issues on timing and engineering. Public Works Director Lease has tried to find a street sweeper at the 2016 budgeted amount, but can't get a decent one for under \$100K.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Wynn presented the following fund budgets:

409 – Sewer: Basic O&M with Capital Projects of 100K for the continued repair of the Collection Rehab and \$100K for the rebuild of Clarifier 1. There could be an additional \$80K for the sewer utility upgrades for N. Third Street if the TIB Grant goes through. WWTP Operator Wynn emphasized the need to review rates every year and maintaining smaller increases.

412 – Compost: Basic O&M and Capital Projects in the amount of \$285K for the new compost pad and the reconfiguring of the old Public Works area. These need to be done now with the increase of yard waste from the City of Mount Vernon.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk

Ramon Hayes, Mayor