

***Town of La Conner***  
Town Council Meeting  
October 25, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

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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 Bruch.  
Also present: Administrator Doyle and Finance Director DeGoede.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the minutes of October 11, 2016 and the Special Meeting minutes of October 11, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Accounts Payable:**

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve checks 19112 through 19169 in the amount of \$96,567.96, Voided Check #19065 and Electronic Payments 201325 and 201327 in the amount \$6,699.90 for a total amount of \$103,267.86. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Payroll:**

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve payroll checks 4530 through 4535 in the amount of \$6,541.11, payroll tax direct deposit 201326 for \$6,197.78 and payroll direct deposit of \$17,174.20 for a total of \$29,913.09, as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Motion carried 5-0.**

There was discussion on the duties of the Fire Marshal. He has stepped down as the Fire Chief and is now focusing on inspections of local commercial buildings for code compliance and fire response plans.

**Community Comments:**

Janna Gage, The Director of the La Conner Senior Center, announced her retirement in April 2017. She has been looking for a replacement for the last three years, but the past position as a volunteer is difficult to fill. She has been the director for fourteen years with a core group of volunteers who are now in their 80's and 90's. The Senior Center was established in 2002 by ordinance, as a Town of La Conner Department. It has been very successful with an attendance of over 50 people every Tuesday, and a record attendance last year of over 2000. They provide vital services to the citizens in La Conner and she is asking the Council to consider a part-time paid Senior Center Director position with appropriate skills. She feels the pay would be comparable to what the Code Enforcement position receives. Administrator Doyle discussed the possibility of combining the position with facility marketing as well. There was some discussion on facility rates to accommodate meetings and classes on week day rentals as well as targeting family reunions.

Councilmember Stokes asked if the Staff Assistant position was going to be filled in 2017. Finance Director DeGoede stated the wages are in the budget in case of an emergency, but she is not going to fill the position to keep costs down. Also, it is a hard position to fill with the wages offered and no benefits.

Also discussed was the marketing of the Town, where La Conner is represented and the Town focusing on its own marketing. For the printing and distribution of brochures, it will be approximately \$20,000. The Mayor stated White Rock has its own tourism committee for marketing of the City.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Hayes noted the bridge was lite for \$150, but not by any Town involvement. Also, he has decided to allocate his set aside funds of \$5,000 to be put towards Chamber for the lighting of First Street. The local businesses held a fundraiser that brought in over \$1,700. The total cost will be approximately \$4,300. There were eleven businesses that declined lighting their building. Hopefully next year the remaining businesses will agree to join. Public Works will be hanging the lights, which will be left up year around.

**Council Committee Reports:**

Art's Committee: Councilmember Leaver reported there is a check from Shell coming. He discussed maybe having Friends of the Library taking on Art's Alive.

Park's Commission – Councilmember Bruch attended the AWC Conference. Also, Ollie is planning another possible fundraiser for the park the last week of January 2017.

**Flood/Dike:**

Administrator Doyle will begin the permitting process as soon as the Courts have assigned the ownership of the stranded property to the Town.

**Ordinance 1144 Amending the LCMC/Loading Zones:**

Administrator Doyle explained he wrote the ordinance based on the pictures provided, but noted the handicap parking spots are actually on the opposite side of the road. He asked Council for a motion with an adjustment to the description of the handicap parking spot locations.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Ordinance 1144 amending the LCMC 9.40., Loading Zones with the adjustment noted by Administrator Doyle. Motion seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Ordinance 1145 Amending the 2016 Budget:**

Finance Director reviewed the listed amendments.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Ordinance 1145 amending the 2016 Budget. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Community Comments:**

Sandy Stokes of the La Conner Weekly News announced Fire District 13 moved their meeting from Thursday to Wednesday. One of the items they are discussing is the petition of the Channel Drive residents to withdraw from Fire District 13 and rezone to Fire District 2. Fire District 13 is proposing a resolution regarding this but she has not seen the documentation.

**Mayor/Council Roundtable:**

Councilmember Stokes expressed his concerns to Council of the past years budgets that have been stretched thin. We have been taking from our reserves to cover the costs of infrastructure failures and we are faced with the reality of having to increase our utility rates. There are huge infrastructure costs that need to be done and the elevator in Maple Hall needs to be replaced. He stressed we can't do everything, and we need to review this budget for future needs.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

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Ramon Hayes, Mayor