

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
February 23, 2016 – 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 Bruch.
Also present: Administrator Doyle, Finance Director DeGoede and Public Works Director Lease.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Carried 5-0

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve checks 18238 through 18281 and 201284, 201285 and Voided Check #18226 in the amount of \$180,202.09. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve payroll checks 4359 through 4364, 201283, and direct deposits in the amount of \$29,169.17, as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0.

Community Comments:

No Community Comments.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Doyle discussed the meeting with FEMA for the BioOp (Biological Opinion, ESA) Door 2. It went well and there will be another meeting scheduled later this month.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes announced Sandy Stokes of the La Conner Weekly News is now Vice President of the Washington Publisher's Newspaper Association.

The Mayor discussed the resignation of the La Conner School administrator, Tim Bruce, effective June 1, 2016. He has held the position for 26 years. Also, after many years of service, President of the La Conner School Board, Rick Thompson, has resigned effective October 2016. The School will be seeking a new levy for operations in the amount of \$995,000. That is \$205,000 less than the prior levy. Also, the Tech Levy of \$295,000 will not appear. The Tribe has committed to \$450,000 for 2017. \$50,000 of that is to go towards Tech. The Mayor's recommendation was to not drop the Tech program as there is still \$100,000 left plus the \$50,000 from the Tribe.

The next Levy, rate, with both the operations and the capital combined, will be less than what it was prior to the impacts of the Great Wolf Lodge Decision's impact on the community. Mayor Hayes feels it is time to support the school in the new Levy. It certainly is not a complete picture defining resolution, but it is a first solid step. Councilmember Stokes feels this is a minimum compromise to keep things going, and the School board got the message from the community of trust and fairness.

Mayor Hayes discussed the meeting with Wave Broadband regarding a potential private contract for Fiber Optics service that would include the residents in La Conner. Wave Broadband is reviewing the costs and logistics.

Council Committee Reports:

Flood/Dike:

Administrator Doyle met with the school. They were receptive with the dike plans. We still need to decide on whether or not to include a walking feature on the dike.

Parks Commission:

Councilmember Bruch noted the Park's Commission still has two vacant positions. There are a few potentials but still looking.

Tulip Festival Presentation:

Cindy Verge and Paul Pickering of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival presented the 2016 Poster. Last year there were over 400,000 visitors to the website, 75% of them were accessing it from a mobile device. To facilitate that connection, they have developed an app for mobile devices. Last year, their office recorded 95 countries represented in the Festival as well as all 50 of the United States. .

SCBA Grant Agreement:

Administrator Doyle explained this is a joint grant application for FEMA between the City of Anacortes, the Town of La Conner and a few other fire districts for self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs). The Town's match would be \$13,000.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the SCBA Grant Agreement with Anacortes. Seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Carried 5-0

Community Comments:

No Community Comments.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

There were discussions on Fire District 13's purchase of a new aid van and the surplus of the old one as well as the Town's options with merging with Fire District 2. Administrator Doyle commented that it is premature. Under the current configuration, the Town could not join with FD 2.

Also, Councilmember Brunisholz noted in the last minutes the Mayor's update on approaching Pioneer Market to eliminate the use of plastic bags. Councilmember Brunisholz did not want the cost of the paper bags to be on Pioneer Market, but on the customer if they didn't bring their own bag. Administrator Doyle suggested approaching the Chamber to encourage other merchants for a Town wide ban on plastic bags.

There will be a memorial for former Councilmember Don Wright on Wednesday the 24th at 6pm. He served 30 years on the Council and 38 years with the La Conner Fire Department.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

Ramon Hayes, Mayor