

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
March 8, 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 Leaver, Stokes, Chamberlain and Bruch.

Also present: Administrator Doyle, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, WWTP Operator Wynn, Fire Chief Fohn and Sergeant Howell.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Councilmember Bruch noted a typo on page two of the February 23rd minutes.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the minutes of February 23rd, 2016, with correction request. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve checks 18282 through 18330 in the amount of \$173,447.44. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve payroll checks 4365 through 4374, 201286, and direct deposits in the amount of \$49,069.61 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0.

Community Comments:

No Community Comments.

Chamber Report:

La Conner Chamber Director, Heather Carter, was not able to attend the meeting. Administrator Doyle will distribute her report by e-mail to Council.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes expressed his concern the Sales Tax is lower than last year so far. Otherwise, the Hotel Motel is up.

Planner's Report:

Administrator Doyle is working on both the Hedlin ball field contract and the Boys & Girls Club contract.

Public Works:

Councilmember Stokes commented on the use of the new parking meter. There were 171 transactions for the month of February, bringing in \$684. The bank fees were \$30.85.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes stated the 18th of March is the deadline date for the submission of our grant proposal to the County for the Fiber Optic grant. Also, the phone conference with Wave Broadband went well regarding a public partnership.

Council Committee Reports:

Art Commission:

Councilmember Leaver presented photos of the eight sculpture exhibits chosen by the jurors for the sculpture show in Town. Each juror will receive a \$50 stipend and each artist will receive \$200.

Lucy Mae Martin has offered her sculpture as a donation to the Town. The piece includes brail so the placement will need to be accessible for touching. The Art Commission has recommended the donation of this piece and the placement in front of Maple Hall. The Sculpture Show opening is scheduled for May 22nd from 1pm to 3pm. They are still deciding on the location, the possibility of having music and involving the Chamber. Rebecca Strong is going to get an estimate for music.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Art Commission’s recommendation of the donation of Lucy Mae Martin’s sculpture (Braille Stone) to the Town and it’s placement in front of Maple Hall. Seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Carried 5-0.

The Art’s Commission is in the process of selecting the invitational artists for the 2016 Art’s Alive.

Finance Committee:

Councilmember Stokes reported on the Finance Committee Meeting of March 7, 2016, involving the retainage of all the HB Hansen projects. Finance Director DeGoede explained Boardwalk A has been paid out, Boardwalk B retainage in the amount of \$21,588.91 is in an escrow account at Peoples Bank and the Benton Street Stairs retainage of \$6232.55 was carried forward in the 2015 Budget but not the 2016 Budget.

Our office received a Certificate of Lien from the Department of Labor and Industries for all retainage funds held for HB Hansen, for not complying with prevailing wages for the projects. Due to miscommunication between the Department of Labor and Industries and the Town, Schedule A retainage should not have been paid and the Benton Street Stairs should have been. In the end it all works out to the same dollar amount. Peoples Bank is closing the account and sending a check in the amount of \$21,603.35 (includes interest) to our office and there needs to be a budget amendment for the Benton Street retainage, which is actually the balance for Schedule A. Total amount to be sent to the Department of Labor and Industries will be \$27,835.90, which will be in the next Council claims, but has to be mailed out immediately. Council was in agreement to expedite the payment as soon as we receive the check from Peoples Bank.

Flood/Dike:

Administrator Doyle updated Council on the meetings involving the dike with Drainage District 15, which also included the Port and Skagit County. They are still working on property line and easement issues regarding Third Street. The Tide Gates installed in 1935 need to be replaced, which will trigger mitigation issues with the Army Corp of Engineers, Fish and Wild Life and others. This is primarily the Port and the Dike Districts issue, but it does involve the Town because the Port’s egress/ingress is in our jurisdiction, as well as our utility easements. The final drawings for the dike are expected this week from CHS Engineering.

Bid Results – Bid Results for the 1983 Fire Aid Van:

A bid of \$3500 was accepted for the 1983 Fire Aid Van. Public Works Director Lease noted the Fire Department would like the funds of this sale to go to their budget, for expenditures of needed items for the new ambulance purchased by their Association.

Tribal Fair Share:

Administrator Doyle presented the 2015 Tribal Fair Share as a reimbursement to the Tribe in the amount of \$15,230.66. Included in the figures is the \$200,000 set asides from the 2016 budget. Citizen Dan O’Donnell noted his figures came to a reimbursement of \$12,621.41. Administrator Doyle will review the figures.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the 2015 Tribal Fair Share with the review of figures. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0.

There were discussions on the status of the sewer flow issue. The EPA is now involved on the Tribes side after notification from former Councilmember Dan O'Donnell. There is ongoing testing on the Town's side with no real results to report at this time.

N. 3rd Street Supplemental Construction Management Agreement:

Public Works Director Lease explained this is a supplemental agreement with Tuttle Engineering to include construction management.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Supplemental Agreement with Tuttle Engineering for the N. 3rd Street TIB. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0

North 3rd Street Sidewalk Improvement TIB Project Award Recommendation:

Public Works Director Lease presented the North 3rd Street TIB Project award to C. Johnson in the amount of \$219,775.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the North 3rd Street TIB Project contract with C. Johnson. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0

Sherman/Conner Way Project Award Recommendation:

Public Works Director Lease presented the Sherman/Conner Way Project Recommendation awarded to C. Johnson in the amount of \$181,487.70.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Sherman/Conner Way Project contract with C. Johnson. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0

Pioneer Park Shelter Repair Award Recommendation:

Public Works Director Lease presented the Pioneer Park Shelter Repair contract with Fidalgo Restoration in the amount of \$12,500. The shelter was built by the CCC (Citizens Conservation Corp) in 1930. The bottom logs are rotting and need to be replaced. Public Works Director Lease recommends Fidalgo Restoration for the specialized repairs to maintain the historical nature of the structure.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the contract with Fidalgo Restoration. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0.

4th of July Fire Works Contract:

Administrator Doyle presented the contract between the Town of La Conner and Western Display Fireworks in the amount of \$10,000. He needs to talk with the Sheriff's Department, Search and Rescue and the Fire Department to keep a section of the Channel clear of boats. Linda Lipke will be coordinating the event again this year.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the contract between the Town of La Conner and Western Display Fireworks. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0

Community Comments:

No Community Comments.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Donation of 2000 Ford E-series Ambulance:

Fire Chief Fohn presented a letter of donation to the Town for the 2000 Ford E-series Braun Northwest North Star Ambulance, the Fire Association purchase for \$1000.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the gift of the 2000 Ford E-series Ambulance. Seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Carried 5-0.

Surplus of 1985 Econoline 350 XL Ambulance:

Fire Chief Fohn requested to surplus the 1985 Econoline Ambulance recommending a minimum bid of \$1500.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the surplus of the 1985 Econoline 350 XL Ambulance with the minimum bid of \$1500. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0

Councilmember Brunisholz discussed the mess behind Pioneer Market from the construction project. There are stacks of cement, stinky old refrigeration units and overflowing garbage. He feels it should be removed immediately as it is attracting rats and we already have problems as it is. He saw the Health Department drive by the other day. If it is not cleaned up before the next Council meeting, he wants it as an agenda item. Administrator Doyle stated they are still in a construction project, but will talk with the owners regarding the complaint. There were discussions on rat control and the Town Code not allowing the poisoning as a control option.

Administrator Doyle noted the Code Enforcement position has been sent for publication in the La Conner Weekly News and the Skagit Valley Herald this week.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

Ramon Hayes, Mayor