

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
May 24, 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 and Public Works Director Lease.

Councilmember Stokes moved to Excuse Councilmember Brunisholz. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-0

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Leaver moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 4-0

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 4-0

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve checks 18563 through 18606, Electronic Payments 201298 for \$20.82 and 201300 for \$4,132.24 with a total amount of \$160,892.62. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve payroll checks 4420 through 4426, payroll tax direct deposit 201299 for \$6,431.83, payroll direct deposit of \$17,986.02 and Voided Check 4011 for a total of \$31,228.89, as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-0.

Community Comments:

No Comments.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Doyle is working on the CRS Rating Audit for FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program. Currently the Town has a rating of 7, which is good. It is a rating from one to ten, with 10% off for each increment of the rate structure. The Town is audited every four to five years. Recently we were audited by FEMA for our general compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

GEO Engineers are still working on the Town wide Habitat Assessment. They have been working with FEMA and Administrator Doyle, outlining the scope of work needed for the Town to be in compliance. This analysis will eliminate the process for future construction, which has been done by Administrator Doyle in the past, as well as the fees.

The new Code Enforcement Officer, Tara Linder, started last weekend. She will be issuing mostly warning notices to start off with. Her hours will vary throughout the year, emphasizing on the weekends through the tourist season.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes commented on how well the Community Prayer Breakfast went and the opening of the Sculpture Show.

Art's Commission:

Councilmember Leaver reported on the success of the Opening of the Sculptor Show. It was well attended to include two artists from Canada who are interested in discussing the opportunity of becoming a sister city.

Councilmember Stokes shared his discussions with the Mayor of Westport on what they are doing for economic development.

Flood:

Administrator Doyle discussed his meeting with the title company and the need to resolve the ownership of a 50 foot piece of stranded property. It runs parallel along the drainage ditch and the school property, and is not assigned to anyone. The school may have a claim for "Adverse Position" of the strip of property because they have been using it for quite some time as a part of their ball field. Today, the Legal Guarantee was initiated with the Title Company. They will establish the chain of custody and the abandonment of the property. Once that is done, Attorney Furlong will draft a court action to obtain a Quiet Title Assignment. Submission of the permits will be after the all the agreements from the property owners involved have been obtained and the 50 foot strip ownership has been established. There were discussions on the structure and design of the dike.

Tom Jay Contract Amendment:

The original contract did not include the sales tax of \$2031.50, which will increase the amount due for the Salmon Bridge to \$25,931.50. Administrator Doyle noted the increase is still within the budget, but it does not include the shot-crete/shot-crete contract that will be with the same contractor that did the Skate Park. Public Works Director Lease will provide the contract to Council for approval at the next meeting.

Councilmember Leaver moved to approve the Tom Jay Contract Amendment increase. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-0

Charge Point Car Charging Station:

Public Works Director Lease presented the options for the new car charging station. The first option is to be on or off a network. The advantage of being on a network is people have the app on their cell phones, which would include our station as a place to stop for charging. For auditing purposes, Charge Point keeps track of everything and can provide reports. There is an annual fee of \$300 to be on the network and a minimum required fee to the customer for the service. It is all programmed by computer and the fee can be changed seasonally. Charge Point receives the money and pays the Town 10% of what is collected. Councilmember Leaver shared some communities have such a high demand for it that they charge up to \$2.00 an hour. Council was in favor of the network as it would be another draw for people to Town.

The second option is which station to purchase. Public Works Director Lease recommends the D Series. The cost for a single port charging station would be about \$6,000 which does not require any conduit runs. His estimate for a dual port charging station would be \$15,000 for the machine and conduit runs. There is another option of advertising screens on the station, but Administrator Doyle noted that is against the Town code. Mayor Hayes recommended having "Welcome to the Town of La Conner" on the screen.

The placement of the station would be at the Washington Street end with the advantage of enough power to accommodate it. The expected electric charge to the Town per car would be \$0.50 to \$0.95 with a charging time of three to four hours. There were discussions on moving the handicap parking to the street to avoid the restrictions of only handicap having the advantage of charging service. Public Works Director Lease will provide Council with estimates for the dual charging station to include the network.

Community Comments:

No Comments.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Mayor Hayes discussed the high costs of the weather camera in previous estimates. Public Works Director Lease stated the high costs were with Black Rock Cable at \$300 to \$400 a month per connection. Now with WAVE, we should be able to do it at a much more reasonable cost in the \$100 range per month. If it is integrated with another facility with internet, we would not have to pay for the extra connection. The Boardwalk does not work as it would require a whole new feed. There were discussions on the possibility of the Upper Skagit Tribe, the Port or Pioneer Point Marina hosting the camera.

Administrator Doyle stated Town Hall will be getting the upgraded bundle with fiber optics.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

Ramon Hayes, Mayor