

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
June 28, 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 Code Enforcement Officer Linder.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-0

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve checks 18673 through 18735 in the amount of \$140,802.71, Voided Check 18680 and Electronic Payments 201303, 201304, 201305 and 201306 in the amount of \$5562.94 for a total amount of \$146,365.65. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Bruch moved to approve payroll checks 4439 through 4444 in the amount of \$6776.04, payroll tax direct deposit 201302 for \$6427.57, payroll direct deposit of \$17,972.99 for a total of \$31,176.60, as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Carried 5-0.

Community Comments:

Amy Green and Jackie Chase, representing the La Conner Quilt Museum, discussed the need for the repair of the Maple Hall elevator for the Quilt Show this October. They requested Council to reconsider the decision for the repairs to be done next year by possibly delaying the car charging station to accommodate the remainder funds needed to fix the elevator. Mayor Hayes assured them it will go for an internal review and then brought before Council.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Doyle introduced the new Code Enforcement Officer, Tara Linder. She has been working for about two months and handling it well.

Council Committee Reports

WAB:

Councilmember Brunisholz discussed the WAB meeting. The compost sales are doing very well and we will be running out this year. Cement blocks were installed at the free bin to prevent front loaders from taking all of the compost, but they moved the cement blocks and continued using the front loaders. WWTP Operator Wynn is working on something more permanent to prevent this in the future.

The Tribe's sewer meter will be replaced due to the failure of the annual calibration test this year. Administrator Doyle explained moisture was discovered in one of the electronic portions of the meter, so a new meter is needed. Once installed, we will know if this was the issue causing the sewer decline for the Tribe. The Town can back bill on a three year average, for the time frame the readings were incorrect. The calibration tests from the previous years did check out.

Councilmember Bruch shared he attended the AWC Annual Conference.

Recommendation for N. Third Street Sidewalk Project Acceptance:

Administrator Doyle confirmed the sidewalk project from North Third Street, Morris Street to State Street has been completed. Tuttle Engineers has issued the memo stating it meets their standards and recommends Council to accept the project.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Recommendation of the North Third Street, Morris Street to State Street Sidewalk Project, Acceptance of Completion. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0

Bridge Lighting:

Councilmember Bruch was told there should be no problem to use the power box on the street level of the bridge for the lights. He is still working on the costs, but if we don't get started now, it won't be done in time for the 60th Anniversary of the bridge next year. Commissioner Wesen is in favor of the lighting of the bridge and would like to be involved in next year's anniversary celebration. However, the Town will be responsible for maintaining whatever we put on the bridge. Instead of hanging lights on the arch of the bridge, scopes could be installed along the rail to reduce costs. Councilmember Stokes is building a proto type.

Don Scott, who hung and maintained the lights in the past, discussed the easy accessibility of the arch and felt it should be lit. He stated in 1995 he went to Council and they gave \$1800 in Hotel Motel funds for the lighting of the bridge. All that is needed for long distance visibility is 10 volt lights spaced 18 inches apart. The power box was changed so the lights hung at that time wouldn't blow the circuit breakers. During his eight years of maintaining the bridge lights, he paid for and replaced the bulbs as needed, with no cost to the Town. The lights are still up there, they just have to be spliced and plugged in to determine what needs to be replaced. He also said the architect who designed the bridge with flat iron, won the award of the best designed bridge that year.

Mayor Hayes noted Don Scott attended this meeting in support of lighting the bridge and to encourage Council in their efforts to make it happen. It is the least utilized asset of the Town. There was further discussion on simplifying the original lighting plans for an affordable project.

Tribal Sewer Flow:

Citizen Dan O'Donnell expressed his disappointment in the WAB meeting today. He provided a memo to Council showing 31 months of diminishing Tribal flow and believes the Tribe is discharging 35,000 gallons of sewer in the Channel a day. The Tribe has done the dye testing, but not an air test. There will be an EPA meeting tomorrow to inspect the metering vault. Administrator Doyle noted it is not a public meeting and was not aware of Mr. O'Donnell's plans to attend.

Mayor Pro-Tem Six Month Assignment:

Mayor Hayes noted Councilmember Leaver would be the next in line for the pro-tem assignment.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the six month assignment of Mayor Pro-Tem to Councilmember Leaver. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0

Community Comments:

No Comments.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Finance Director DeGoede requested Council set a date for the Council Retreat for budget of 2017 and review of policies. Council agreed to extend the second Council meeting in July for the retreat.

Mayor Hayes requested Administrator Doyle forward the Sheriff's contract with the City of Concrete to Council.

Administrator Doyle has met with the City of Anacortes to revisit the water contract. He will draft a memo of the meeting for Council.

Mayor Hayes stated on July 7th at 1:00 p.m. the Town will be making a presentation to the County Commissioners and the committee making the decisions for the Economic Development funds. The Town's request will be for fiber optics. There was over five million in requests with two and a half to give away. Six project requests were for fiber optics and the rest were for infrastructure projects. He feels we have a strong proposal.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

Ramon Hayes, Mayor