

## ***Town of La Conner***

Town Council Meeting  
July 26, 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 Leaver moved to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0**

### **Approval of Accounts Payable:**

**Councilmember Bruch moved to approve checks 18800 through 18851 in the amount of \$91,321.69 and Electronic Payments 201310, 201311 in the amount of \$5,962.90 for a total amount of \$97,284.59. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0.**

### **Approval of Payroll:**

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve payroll checks 4460 through 4465 in the amount of \$6,692.04, payroll tax direct deposit 201309 for \$6,608.38, payroll direct deposit of \$18,429.63 for a total of \$31,730.05, as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 5-0.**

### **Community Comments:**

Carol Clayton of the Skagit County Coalition Against Trafficking spoke on awareness of human trafficking in our area. There will be a presentation by King County Prosecutor Val Richey on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

### **Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Doyle provided a memo on the meeting with the City of Anacortes for negotiations of the water rates. Discussions included their rate structure resulting in the large reconciliation charges and comparable agricultural rates. The City of Anacortes charges the Town more than they charge the farmers for the agricultural irrigation. Their rates do not include capital expenses, which is a major part of the Town's charges. Administrator Doyle noted an article in the paper, regarding the City of Anacortes providing limited conveyances, depending on conditions, for farmers to pump directly from the Skagit River avoiding the system all together.

### **Dike:**

Administrator Doyle updated Council on the orphan property issue located on the north end of the school property. The drainage district established its right of way before the Port purchased the property. The Port's purchase transaction did not include this 40 foot piece of property. The school has an adverse possession claim on the property because they have been using the property for over ten years with no other claim to it. The school has two options. They can legally file for an adverse possession claim and quit claim deed the property to the Town. However, because the property is not defined in the County ledgers, a subdivision will have to be done to create a lot. Or they can advocate the adverse possession right to the Town by an easement, but this would leave the school open for liability, as they would still have ownership of the property. Our attorney, Brad Furlong, and the school district's legal council will meet to discuss the options. The Town will act on behalf of the school for either option.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Hayes reported there are two technical issues hindering the fiber optic plans for the Town. One, the Town is classified as a four and does not qualify for ownership of telecommunication infrastructure. The second is a gifting of public funds by a partnership with a private enterprise, such as Wave Broadband. Administrator Doyle explained we have to show maximum benefits to the public through rates and costs, not to the private enterprise. He is looking at a possible legal path with the Port of Skagit, as a segregate not prohibited in engaging in telecommunication infrastructure.

**Ordinance - Car Charging Fees & Penalties:**

Council agreed to set a charging fee of \$1.00 per hour, a 30 minute parked grace period from the time the charging is complete, and a \$25.00 penalty for any vehicle exceeding the charging grace period or parked not charging.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Ordinance 1141 establishing the fees and penalties for the Car Charging Station. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 5-0**

**Resolution – Flood Response Plan:**

Administrator Doyle presented the Flood Response Plan that includes updated provisions from the new Army Corps of Engineers Analysis. There were discussions on the evacuation/route plans.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Resolution 523 for the Flood Response Plan Update. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 5-0**

**Resolution – Appointment to the Art's Commission:**

Mayor Hayes has appointed Chelsea Dacres-Andrews as Position 2 and Chole Dye-Sherpe as Position 1 for a three year term expiring September 30, 2019 on the Art's Commission.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Resolution 524 appointing Chelsea Dacres-Andrews as Position 2 and Chole Dye-Sherpe as Position 1 on the Art's Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0**

**Community Comments:**

No Comments.

**Mayor/Council Roundtable:**

There were discussions regarding the process of the upcoming project at the old Palmers building. The plans request two variances, one for height increase over the 30 foot limit and the other for parking. The building will provide office and retail space, a possible coffee shop and residential space. Administrator Doyle has two concerns. The first, visually the scale and proportion of the building dramatically changes the view of the waterfront. And the second on the economic side as retail in Town is struggling.

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

---

Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

---

Ramon Hayes, Mayor