

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
August 9, 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 and Bruch.

Also present: Administrator Doyle, Public Works Director Lease, WWTP Operator Wynn, and Sergeant Howell.

Councilmember Stokes moved to excuse Councilmember Chamberlain. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-0

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Minutes of the 5pm Council Special Meeting and the 6pm Council Meeting Minutes, of July 26, 2016. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve checks 18852 through 18911 in the amount of \$113,860.22, and Electronic Payment 201313 in the amount of \$167.45 for a total of \$114,027.67. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Bruch moved to approve payroll checks 4466 through 4495 for \$44,795.84 and payroll tax deposit 201312 of \$6711.05, for a total amount of \$51,506.89 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Carried 4-0.

Community Comments:

Councilmember Stokes introduced Maria Matson, a new reporter for the La Conner Weekly News.

Chamber Report:

La Conner Chamber Director, Heather Carter could not make it to the meeting but will follow up at the next meeting.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the drop in the sales tax, which could be attributed to the current Canadian exchange rate and/or possibly an election year. Administrator Doyle noted in small towns, some businesses are consistent draws, but the majority is susceptible to economic changes. Councilmember Stokes noted the Port sales affect the taxes coming in as well. The Hotel Motel is doing well, property taxes are coming in and the Fire Truck funds are steady.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Lease explained the electric car charging station has the capability of automatically charging a penalty fee if the car has not been moved within the 30 minute grace period, as specified in the last ordinance. The ordinance set a \$25.00 penalty for the overtime parking, but if the customer is automatically charged by the system, they would not have the opportunity of half price if paid within 24 hours, as our other penalties. All agreed the auto charge will be half the \$25 penalty at \$12.50. Administrator Doyle will provide an ordinance at the next meeting.

Safe Routes to School Project was extended to December 31, 2016. The DE Agreement goes before the Tribal Senate this week. If approved, it will go before Council for review and approval. Because of the delay of the project, the costs have gone up. There will probably be some items cut but we don't know what just yet. The Town has no obligation now nor will we if the agreement is approved.

WWTP:

There were discussions on the money the Town saves in hauling waste by composting.

Planner's Report:

Administrator Doyle discussed the Planning Commission meeting regarding the Galleria proposal. There were 39 written comments and several oral comments at the hearing. The applicants will be reviewing and modifying their proposal.

Also discussed was the possible distribution of Hotel Motel funds based on the previous year. The benefit to this is all recipients will know what they are getting, rather than waiting for the end of the year results and possibly not receiving what was allotted to them by the Hotel Motel Committee. Finance Director DeGoede will provide more information.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes reported on the progress and issues of the salmon slide. Administrator Doyle explained there was a communication breakdown between the artist and the Shot Crete contractor. The artist did not make it clear what consistency of Shot Crete to use on the slide, resulting in a material that was too heavy causing shifting of the frame.

Tom Jay, the artist, has had to put in at least an extra week of work on the salmon slide and estimates another week to finish. He is asking for another \$3000. Mayor Hayes feels this was a contracted job and it is the responsibility of the artist to complete the job per the contract. Administrator Doyle stated the remaining work on the fish is filling in the voids and sculpture/contouring of the fish for a correct rendering of a King Salmon. The project has run into an additional seven days the artist had not accounted for and wants compensation for.

There were discussions on possibly referring the issue to the Parks Commission, but Administrator Doyle explained this is a contractual issue.

Councilmember Leaver moved to pay an extra \$1000 with the provision the project is completed with no extra funds requested. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Motion failed with Councilmember Stokes, Bruch and Mayor Hayes voting nay.

Councilmember Stokes moved to not approve additional funds to the salmon slide project. Motion failed with no second.

Councilmember Bruch moved to pay an additional \$750 to Tom Jay for the extra week of work on the Salmon Slide. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 3-1 with Councilmember Stokes voting nay.

It was noted by the Mayor, if Tom Jay does not accept the extra \$750 as adequate to complete the project, the Shot Crete contractor can complete it.

Council Committee Reports

Art's Commission: Councilmember Leaver reported the two new commissioners attended the Art's Commission meeting. Plans for Art's Alive are coming along.

Flood/Dike:

Administrator Doyle reported the attorneys representing the Town and the school, are working together on the property issue for the dike.

Resolution – Employee Recognition:

The resolution sets a \$200 budget line, allocated every year, for employee recognition. It will be capped at \$50 per employee.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Resolution 525 for employee recognition. Seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Carried 4-0

Sherman/Conner Way Project Acceptance:

Public Works Director Lease noted it was a successful and much needed project that included the utility servicing Shelter Bay and an elevated road. The project was delayed a year because the original low bid was \$310,000. The completed project cost under \$200,000.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Sherman/Conner Way Project Acceptance. Seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Carried 4-0.

Community Comments:

No Community Comments.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Mayor Hayes shared the meeting he, Administrator Doyle and Public Works Director Lease attended at the Port, regarding the North Third Street Project continuing on to the Port. The project would include modifying State Street to First Street. The Executive Director for the TIB Grants and their engineers were there and provided helpful information for the grant application.

Councilmember Brunisholz discussed the Maple Hall elevator repair costs coming from the Hotel Motel fund. We are currently paying the Maple Hall Bond from Hotel Motel. That would free up the money from the general fund to help cover the dike costs.

There was more discussion on the Hotel Motel funds distributed on the previous year's collection and earlier payouts to recipients.

Mayor Hayes addressed the Hotel Motel funds allocated to the Chamber. He would like to specify a percentage of the funds to be directed to the marketing of La Conner. Also, Councilmember Leaver would like a report from the Chamber on the costs and earnings of events they sponsor. Mayor Hayes stressed our support and appreciation of the Chamber.

Public Works Director Lease has been looking for a code enforcement vehicle. He found a 2008 truck for approximately \$3000. There was discussion on the duties of the Code Enforcement Officer position that requires a vehicle, such as the transport of animals and overseeing the Town facilities and Parks. It was decided to discuss it during the budget meetings.

Mayor Hayes recognized the Sheriff's Department for all their efforts in keeping La Conner safe.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.