

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
September 13, 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, WWTP Operator Wynn, Fire Chief Fohn and Sergeant Howell.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the agenda with the change of the YMCA Presentation moved to the Mayor's Report. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion Carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Minutes of August 23, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion Carried 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve checks 18960 through 19028 in the amount of \$250,394.92 and Electronic Payment 201318 in the amount of \$185.84 for a total of \$250,580.76. Motion seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Motion Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve payroll checks 4502 through 4512 for \$25,530.25, payroll tax deposit 201317 of \$6762.88 and payroll auto deposit of \$19,449.43 for a total amount of \$51,742.56 as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Motion Carried 5-0.

Community Comments:

No Public Comments.

Chamber Report:

La Conner Chamber Director, Heather Carter did not attend the meeting but did e-mail her report to Council.

WWTP:

Plant Operator Wynn discussed the new Tribal meter results. So far the readings are not fluctuating like the old meter, but there needs to be more time for monitoring the readings to be sure it was the reason for the flow issues.

WWTP won the contract for the Mount Vernon yard waste, which will bring in \$35,000 in revenues. There will be additional grinding costs, but the revenues will exceed those costs.

New Skagit County YMCA Presentation:

Bob Shrumm and Renata Maybruck of the Skagit County YMCA presented the plans for the new facility. It will be located on Hoag Road in Mount Vernon and is scheduled to open April 2019.

Art's Commission:

Councilmember Leaver shared the Art's Commission will be a meeting with N.W. Sculpture for proposals for new sculptures to add to our current collection next spring.

Streets Committee:

Councilmember Stokes reported on the meeting involving the possibility of two new loading zones, one in front of the Lime Dock and the other located by Nell Thorn. Both will be two parking spaces long and will be 15 minute restricted loading zones from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and free all day Sunday. Also, there was concern of not enough Handicap parking in Town. Currently there are only six Handicap spaces, including the one at Town Hall.

Hotel Motel Committee:

Councilmember Chamberlain noted there was a meeting today but the decisions are still in process.

Flood/Dike:

Administrator Doyle reported he, Town Attorney Brad Furlong and the Town Engineer Evan Henke had a meeting regarding the finalizing of ownership of the property of issue at the school.

Resolution 527 – Local Support of Initiative 735:

Mayor Hayes presented the resolution in support of Initiative 735 to stop corporations and money from influencing our political system in the State of Washington.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Resolution 527 in support of Initiative 735. Motion seconded by Councilmember Bruch. Motion carried 5-0.

Community Comments:

No public Comments.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Councilmember Brunisholz announced he will be gone for the next two meetings. He is leaving for Europe to visit family. He will be back for the October 25th Council Meeting.

Councilmember Stokes requested the 2017 budget include a code enforcement vehicle. Councilmember Leaver does not agree. It will be discussed at the upcoming budget meetings.

Mayor Hayes addressed the Council on submitting a formal records request to the Department of Revenue for information on the procedures/actions they followed in the tax issue from the Great Wolf Lodge Decision. Although the La Conner Weekly News has acquired information, by submitting our own records requests, it would give us first-hand information. According to Councilmember Stokes, DOR didn't follow the federal guidelines. Councilmember Brunisholz expressed his opinion that this is not a Town issue; it is a school jurisdictional issue.

Administrator Doyle agreed with Councilmember Brunisholz, that we don't have jurisdictional standing, but we do have a political roll to play in conjunction with the school system. The resolution will occur by applying pressure in the political system, by motivating agencies and politicians to take action. Councilmember Brunisholz asked for clarification of the Town's roll in this to the public and that it is done with discretion.

Attorney Brad Furlong also advised to pursue compensation for La Conner by the State. Council decided the records request would be submitted to the Department of Revenue. With the information, as elected officials, they could politically encourage the legislatures on this issue. Norma Smith has the most pull in agencies.

Leaver noted the Chamber has not been at the meetings for the last two months. Also, he suggested a meeting with the Chamber and the Mayor on ideas for the winter months when the Town's activities drop. With up to 14 business spaces empty this winter, it is not looking good.

There was discussion on the importance of a set percentage of Hotel Motel money to be dedicated to advertising/marketing of the Town.

Finance Director DeGoede reminded Council the two meetings in October will include special meetings for the department budget presentations.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

Ramon Hayes, Mayor