

**Town of La Conner**  
Town Council Meeting  
January 9, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

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The meeting of the La Conner Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Hanneman.

Present: Councilmembers Taylor, Carlson, Dole, Chamberlain and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Davolio, WWTP Operator Wynn, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Reinstra and Sgt. Holmes of the Sheriff's Department.

**This was a hybrid meeting held in-person and electronically on Zoom. Information to join was posted at Town Hall, the published Agenda in the La Conner Weekly News, and on the Town Website.**

**Public Comments:**

Dan O'Donnell has been fighting how the City of Anacortes on how they calculate the annual reconciliation. In his estimates, he does not agree with the 2021 and 2022 reconciliation totals.

Resident Linda Talman does not know why people are upset with the downtown parking and feels we should just let it go.

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the January 9, 2024 Council Meeting.

Accounts Payable (December 2023 Closeout):

Checks	26705 - 26731	\$160,545.88
Voided Check	26659	
Electronic Pmts.	2018183 - US Bank Fees	\$56.80
	2018184 – Invoice Cloud Fees	\$176.40
	<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$160,779.08</b>

Accounts Payable (January 9, 2024):

Checks	26732 - 26742	\$254,914.18
	<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$254,914.18</b>

Payroll of January 5, 2024:

Checks 5831- 5838		\$3,117.05
AWC Benefit Trust	#2018178	\$11,710.94
Deferred Comp	#2018179	\$2,430.14
PERS Retirement	#2018180	\$10,288.49
Teamsters Benefit	#2018181	\$8,926.00
Auto Payroll Taxes	#2018182	\$9,122.18
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$29,567.27</u>
	<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$75,162.07</b>

**Councilmember Dole moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carlson. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Chamber Report:**

Chamber Director Hulst thanked Public Works for putting up the Christmas tree and lights. The ladies shopping night attendance was over 100 more than last year and the Boat Parade was a bit edgy due to the weather. The Birding Festival and the Murder Mystery are coming up in February and March.

**Revenue & Expenditure Reports:**

Finance Director DeGoede noted even though our sales tax revenues have exceeded the estimated budget, revenues were over \$40,000 less than 2022. The remainder tax revenue sources were steady.

**Public Works Report:**

Discussions included the unpredictable hightides, the vandalism at the Pioneer Park restrooms and the graffiti under the bridge.

**Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Thomas stated Public Works were all present for the December 26<sup>th</sup> hightide, but thankfully there was no flooding. He is also planning a trip to Olympia to meet with legislatures on behalf of the Town, primarily for funding of the fire boat. Councilmembers and the Mayor are encouraged to attend.

**Planning Report:**

Planner Davolio noted the 60-day State review for Chapter 10 of the Comprehensive Plan will be completed soon. Also, they are planning another Community Mingle for next month, focusing on First Street parking.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Hanneman announced she will have a “Meet with the Mayor” at the library the first Saturday of every other month. The first one is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., focusing on Civic Ambassadors. The next one will be in March.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Facility Committee:**

Councilmembers Carlson and Chamberlain reported on the meeting. We only received one bid for the Maple Hall and Fire Hall HVAC systems. The increase of cost has forced the decision to do just Maple Hall as the building's current heating system is failing.

**Emergency Management Commission:**

Councilmember Dole noted there will be a meeting with the Department of Ecology as well as a presentation by Skagit County and the Swinomish Tribe on their emergency plans. We will be included in Skagit County's plan, which follows state requirements. Also, Commissioner Stokes has resigned. The Commission will fall back on the original five-member format as all the commissions are.

**Ordinance 1239 Amending Section 2.100.010 of the La Conner Municipal Code:**

Administrator Thomas explained this ordinance amends Section 2.100.010 of the La Conner Municipal Code regarding Town Holidays.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Ordinance 1239 amending Section 2.100.010 of the La Conner Municipal Code. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Resolution 636 – Council Intent to Assume the Duties of the Transportation Benefit District.**

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Resolution 636 Council Intent to Assume the Duties of the Transportation Benefit District. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Agreement – Civic Plus:**

Finance Director DeGoede explained this agreement is for the hosting and maintenance of the Town Website, with the cost of \$6,346.51.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Agreement with Civic Plus for the Town Website. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Agreement – Frontline Cleaning:**

Public Works Director Lease noted this is our annual agreement for the cleaning of the public restrooms.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the agreement with Frontline Cleaning. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Bid Recommendation – Maple Hall HVAC System:**

Public Works Director presented his recommendation for the Maple Hall HVAC System. He received one bid from D.K. Systems for both the Fire Hall and Maple Hall. Due to cost increases it was decided to move forward with Maple Hall, with the bid of \$458,400, as the heating system is failing.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Bid Recommendation of D.K. Systems for the Maple Hall HVAC System. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Agreement – State of WA Fire Reimbursement:**

Administrator Thomas explained this agreement is for reimbursement for any costs if they are mobilized for firefighting aid in the State of Washington.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Agreement with the State of Washington for reimbursement of costs for firefighting aid. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Ordinance 1240 Amending Section 2.65.030 of the La Conner Municipal Code Elected Officials Pay:**

Administrator Thomas stated changes included updating items and compensation for the new Mayor. Previously the Mayor was receiving full medical benefits, which the new Mayor does not need. The new Mayor has agreed to a monthly stipend of \$900 per month with an annual total of \$10,800.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Ordinance 1240, amending Section 2.65.030 of the Municipal Code. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Mayor Roundtable:**

Mayor Hanneman led discussions on the development of principles in conducting the public's business for Council and commissions. It was the consensus of the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct similar to the Enumclaw's. Administrator Thomas will work on a draft to present to Council.

Councilmember Dole called the County regarding painting Rainbow Bridge. He was told the paint is faded but still ok. They are looking for funding to cover the over \$4,000,000 cost.

**Executive Session:**

Mayor Hanneman stated there will be an Executive Session to discuss litigation. It shouldn't exceed twenty minutes. No decisions are expected to be made.

6:57 p.m. Mayor Hanneman Opened the Executive Session

7:24 p.m. Mayor Hanneman Closed the Executive Session

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 7:24 p.m.**

  
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Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

  
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Marna Hanneman, Mayor