

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting

January 27, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Councilmembers Taylor, Dole, Chamberlain and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Directors DeGoede and Buchanan and Public Works Director Lease.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to excuse Councilmember Carlson. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 4/0.

Public Comments:

Resident Gary Nelson provided council with a handout regarding the Center Street Project issues involving safety, use of Right of Way and storm water management. Mayor Hanneman and Council will review the information provided.

Owner of La Conner Fitness and MMA, Tracy Barnett, is offering free self-defense classes on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Resident Heike Nelson complained about the lack of the Town oversite of the Center Street Project. In her opinion as a civil engineer, inspections have not been met, resulting in safety issues resulting in debris on the roadway, large truck deliveries blocking the street and the use of the right of way.

Presentation:

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the January 27, 2026 Council Meeting

Accounts Payable:	Checks	28920 - 28958	\$136,422.61
	Electronic Pmts.	2018416 – Leasehold Tax	\$2,516.74
		2018417 – WA Fed	\$109.23
		2018418 – Excise Tax	\$9,436.72
		Total Accounts Payable	\$148,485.30
Payroll of January 20, 2026:	Checks 6224-6230		\$ 2,194.47
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #2018415		\$11,250.79
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>		<u>\$33,092.02</u>
	Total Payroll		\$46,537.28

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hanneman reported the following:

- Attended EDASC annual meeting. They are sponsoring a Forecast Night on February 25, 2026.
- Met with Jill Boudreau, the new executive director of the Skagit Council of Governments.
- Met with Ken Huste, Deputy Director for EDASC. Put in touch with the Port of Skagit
- Spoke with Zach Heffron, Senator Maria Cantwell's Northwest Washington Outreach Director seeking help with the Channel Drive Project and funding.
- Attended the School board meeting. Shared information about the afterschool program for kids. It is a great program.

Council Committee Reports:

Art's Commission:

Councilmember Taylor reported the next meeting will be February 10th

Parks Commission:

Councilmember Wohleb recommended adding a flower box in honor of our 250th birthday. The Daughters of the American Revolution have volunteered to build the flower box. They will also install, maintain and remove it at the end of summer.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Thomas shared that there is an error in the 2026 budget for personnel cost of \$2,880. A budget amendment will be presented at next meeting.

Administrator Thomas is drafting a RFQ for the design of the water line on Channel Drive. The estimated cost is \$3.46M. Engineering expenses are about 10% of the cost. Seeking money for construction is easier to do if the project is ready to go.

Public Works Report

Public Works Director Lease is requesting to hire a construction management and inspection company to support the Center Street Project. Estimated cost is \$30K.

2026 Tribal Sewer Rates:

Administrator Thomas explained that the rate was established by FCS. The rate is a slight decrease from 2025.

Councilmember Dole moved to approve the 2026 Tribal Sewer Rates. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.

Ordinance 1268 – Re-Establishing Town Council Committees:

Administrator Thomas explained this ordinance is to update the Town Council Committees as per the Council discussions at the last meeting.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Ordinance 1268, Re-Establishing the Town Council Committees. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 4/0.

Resolution 683 – Council Committee Appointments:

Mayor Hanneman appointed Councilmember Carlson and Chamberlain to facilities Committee; Councilmembers Dole and Wohleb to Finance Committee, Councilmember Carlson and Chamberlain to Streets and Safety Committee and Councilmember Wohleb and Taylor to Utilities Committee.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Resolution 683, appointment to Council Committees as noted above. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.

250th Town Anniversary Flower Box:

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Ann Washington Chapter, have volunteered to build, install, maintain and remove the flower box for the 250th Anniversary.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the 250th Anniversary Flower Box. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 4/0.

Resolution 684 – Reappointments to the Park’s Commission (Iversen, Howard, Pease):

Mayor Hanneman reappointed Oliver Iverson, Martin Howard and Oliver Pease to the Park’s Commission.

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve Resolution 687 reappointing Oliver Iverson, Martin Howard and Oliver Pease to the Park’s Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor Roundtable:

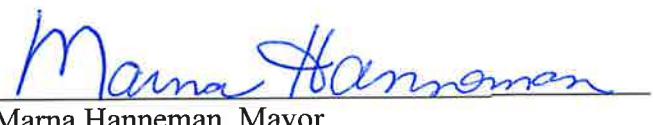
Mayor Hanneman asked for an update on the fireworks show. Administrator Thomas contacted Western Fireworks and they have an opening. We are waiting for a contract. Cost will be \$16,500-\$17,000.

Mayor Hanneman opened up discussion to provide support to Brian and Public Works department for the Center Street Project. One solution is to contract with a construction management company. This would require a budget amendment. If needed a special meeting will be called to approve the contract.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:55 p.m.



Kim Buchanan, Finance Director



Marna Hanneman, Mayor