

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
March 14, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

This was meeting was held in-person only.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Presentations:

Cindy Verge, Director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, presented the 2023 Tulip Festival Poster. This year there will be four farms participating in the April festival, along with the annual street fair in Mount Vernon and parade in La Conner.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the February 28, 2023 Council Meeting.

Accounts Payable:

	Checks 25847 - 25895	\$137,230.80
Electronic Payments:	#2018090 – US Bank Fees	\$58.20
	#2018082 – Invoice Cloud Fees	\$153.40
	Total	\$137,442.40

Payroll of March 3, 2023	Checks	5688 - 5694	\$2,971.41
Electronic Payments:	#2018085	AWC Benefit Trust	\$14,004.22
	#2018086	Deferred Comp	\$2,241.00
	#2018087	PERS Retirement	\$10,285.87
	#2018088	Teamsters Benefit	\$6,972.80
	#2018089	Payroll Taxes	\$7,711.10
		<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$23,681.79</u>
		Total Payroll	\$67,868.19

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Chamber Report:

Chamber Director Hurst received a grant focusing on beautification of the Town. The \$15,000 grant will pay for new flags and 52 hanging baskets. The visitor's office hours will be open six days a week with walk-ins, calls and emails picking up. Upcoming events include the Daffodil Pet & Fashion Parade on March 18th and the first Annual Murder Mystery on March 25th.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the Sales Tax continues to go up from estimated projections and Hotel Motel is about the same.

Department Head Reports:

Administrator's Report:

- Discussions on the upcoming legislature bills/
- This Council Meeting was held in-person only as our Zoom account was hacked. We are in the process of opening a new account. Also, our internet issues should be resolved by the next meeting.
- Sandbags will remain in place until the end of March due to the high tide forecast.
- The School District, Port of Skagit and the Town have met to discuss a Welcome to La Conner sign. It is still preliminary, but will be used for advertising community events.
- Sales Taxes have increased, but services and project costs have dramatically increased as well. Projections show the costs will continue to rise.
- Councilmembers were reminded to review the facilitator list for the retreat. Once selected, the date and venue can be set.

Planning:

- Discussed the Climate Change and Sea Level Rise memo researched by Assistant Planner Eills.
- The Historical Design Review on the Lime Dock resulted in not being in the Historical District nor is it on the National Historical Registry.
- The upcoming Legislative Bill allowing 4000 square foot lots to be split to 2000 square feet. However, a lot that has already been split can't be split again.
- Planning Commissioner Theaker is resigning next month. We will be advertising to fill her position.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Lease stated none of the applicants qualified for the positions he advertised for. He will be starting over.

WWTP:

Mayor Hayes acknowledged WWTP Operator Wynn on the success of the composting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes spoke at the Rotary Farmers and Merchants Night and explained the future needs of La Conner for water, sewer and flooding upgrades.

Resolution 620 – Naming the Emergency Management Commissioners:

Mayor Hayes gave a brief description of each Commissioner's background and qualifications. The five selected Commissioners were James White, Bill Stokes, Doug Asbe, Duane Carpenter and Gerald George

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Resolution 620 appointing the Emergency Management Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 5/0.

Agreement – Simply Yards Landscape and Design:

Public Works Director Lease explained he requested bids from nine landscaping businesses and eight declined. He budgeted \$12,000 for six months of landscaping, but due to costs, he settled for four months at \$15,400.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Agreement with Simply Yards Landscape and Design. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 5/0.

Agreement – Urban Forestry Services, Bartlett Consulting:

Public Works Director Lease explained this Agreement is for a walk-through assessment of Pioneer Park looking for hazards, the health of the trees and invasive species.

Councilmember Chamberlin moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Agreement with Urban Forestry Services, Bartlett Consulting. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Agreement – PSNR Grant:

Administrator Thomas stated he had not received the agreement yet and asked Council to table it for another meeting. It was the consensus of the Council to table the PSNR Grant Agreement.

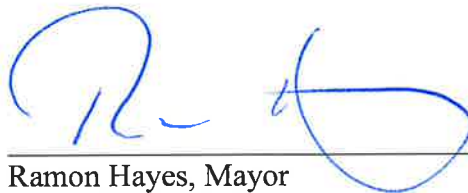
Mayor Roundtable:

- The solar grant application for the Fire Hall is about ready to be submitted.
- The current sandbags will not be reusable after they are picked up and emptied.
- Anacortes Climate Consortium was on Sea Level Rise. The attending scientist may be a good contact.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:53 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor