

**Town of La Conner**  
Town Council Meeting  
March 23, 2021 – 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 Wohleb.  
Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, and Public Works Director Lease.

**This meeting was held at Maple Hall and electronically on Zoom. Information to join was posted at Town Hall, the published Agenda in the Skagit Valley Herald and on the Town Website.**

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments.

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda  
Approval of the Minutes of March 9, 2021

Accounts Payable:	Checks 23939 - 23965	\$87,948.01
	Electronic Pmts. – 201684 Excise Tax	\$5,018.06
	<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$92,966.07</b>
Payroll of March 19, 2021	Checks 5359 - 5364	\$2,130.59
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201690	\$6,375.64
	Payroll Auto Deposit	\$18,454.87
	<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$26,961.10</b>

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

**Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Thomas shared information from the Skagit Health Department. Close to a 1/3 of the County population has at least received the first COVID vaccine.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Hayes and Administrator Thomas discussed the addendum to the real estate transaction for the purchase of the Hedlin property. Proposed changes include an alternate way out, change of the layout to four lots across the front and six lots across the back and there will not be a restrictive covenant of age of 55 and older, it will be available to all potential buyers. The developer, Brian Gentry also noted the fence between the park and the residential area was not in the agreement, so that will be added as well. Another was a code issue that has been addressed.

Administrator Thomas stated the closing date will be pushed up from April 14<sup>th</sup> to a later date. There will have to be a Special Council meeting to approve the addendum. The Hedlins are currently reviewing the Purchase and Sale Agreement and should respond back tomorrow. Mayor Hayes would like the final addendum sent to the Council tomorrow for review and a Special Meeting scheduled for either Thursday or Friday.

**First-on-First Event:**

Councilmember Leaver requested the First-on-First event be moved from Fridays to Saturday afternoons during the month of April. Also, he asked for a waiver of vender fees through the month of April. It was the consensus of the Council to waive the fees as requested and have First-on-First moved temporarily to Saturdays during the month of April.

**Parks Commission:**

Councilmember Wohleb reported the Parks Commission will have a Special Meeting regarding the newly acquired park on Maple Avenue and is encouraging community involvement. They are expecting the meeting to be well attended. Also, the art piece “Puddles,” in front of the Blackfish Gallery, was to be moved to the Log Park. However, that was conditional to another art piece, a fence, to be moved there as well. The owner of the fence does not want it there so no final decision for moving either piece has been made. However, the owner would like it apart of the Butterfly Garden at the Garden Club. Councilmember Leaver made arrangements for the Garden Club members to view the fence on Thursday.

**La Conner Arts Alive Agreement:**

Administrator Thomas explained a 501c3 has been formed by some existing Arts Commission members for the purpose of putting on Art’s Alive. This will allow them to take on roles that have been difficult for the Town, such as serving alcohol.

After Council discussions, it was decided to table the Agreement for modifications needed.

**Councilmember Brunisholz moved to table the La Conner Arts Alive Agreement to the next meeting. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Skagit County Generator Agreement:**

Public Works Director Lease explained this amendment will extend the agreement for another ten years. The generator services Town Hall and the Sheriff’s Department during power outages.

**Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the amendment to the agreement with Skagit County for the generator. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Frontline Cleaning Agreement – (Public Restrooms):**

Public Works Director Lease stated this is a six-month agreement for cleaning once a day beginning April. Costs were included in this year’s budget.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Frontline Cleaning Agreement for the Public Restrooms. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Mayor Roundtable:**

Councilmember Brunisholz is concerned someone could get hurt tripping on the sheet metal edging, along the sidewalk, in front of the old light shop on Morris St. Public Works Director Lease will follow up.

Public Works Director Lease received a quote for the implementation of a security system for the Public Works building, with an installation charge of \$800.00 and a monthly fee of \$60.00. Also, for the upgrade to the Town Hall security system, it would be \$1,300.00 with a monthly fee of \$90.00. The Town Hall upgrades would allow Public Works Director Lease to monitor and shut off the alarm from his phone instead of having to come in person. Also, for both systems, there is a camera in the keypad that will take a snapshot of the person punching in the code. After discussions, it was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the new security system and upgrades.

Councilmember Leaver is almost out of the brochures for the Art Walk. He requested \$90.00 for printing more. Finance Director DeGoede requested these items be included in the annual budgets. Mayor Hayes decided to have him discuss it with staff.

Resident Xochi Flores reported a dangerous fence at 507 S. Second Street.

Councilmember Chamberlain suggested having the Hedlin’s name on the park or a road honoring the family. Mayor Hayes acknowledged this has been brought up at the Parks Commission meetings and with the Hedlin Family. Ultimately, whatever name is assigned to the park will include the Hedlin name.

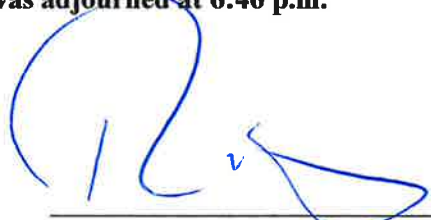
Mayor Hayes received and forwarded to Council a request regarding Ajo, Arizona. It is a community of about 2,500 that is reinventing themselves with art. Mayor Hayes is presenting this to Councilmembers to see if there is any interest in pursuing Ajo as a sister city. Council was all agreeable to reach out.

Councilmember Leaver requested we reach out to our sister city White Rock, BC. Mayor Hayes stated he and his family did visit White Rock and he met the new Mayor. Mayor Hayes agreed we needed to reengage with them and plans on sending a letter.

Councilmembers, the Mayor, and staff agreed to a Special Meeting on Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. for the approval of the addendum to the Hedlin purchase and sale agreement.

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ramon Hayes, Mayor