

**Town of La Conner**  
Town Council Meeting  
March 28, 2023 – 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 Hayes.  
Present: Councilmembers Taylor, Carlson, Dole, Chamberlain and Wohleb.  
Also present: Administrator Thomas and Finance Director DeGoede.

**This meeting was held in-person only.**

**Public Comments:**

Resident Bill Stokes spoke against adding the sixth member to the Emergency Management Commission for voting purposes. All the Town's commissions have five members. With six, who would be the tie breaker?

Resident Linda Talman is against the possible upcoming approval of vacation rentals and/or short-term rentals. The Town is in need of more permanent housing.

Resident Sandy Stokes stated there were two burglaries in Town, one in their neighborhood and another in a resident's garage.

Resident Chip Hall discussed the DNR Leases and the ongoing battle between him and his neighbor for years.

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the March 14, 2023 Council Meeting

Accounts Payable:	Checks 25896 - 25931	\$112,282.13
	<u>Electronic Pmts. 2018093 Excises Tax</u>	<u>\$7,494.10</u>
	<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$119,776.23</b>
Payroll of March 20, 2023:	Checks 5695 - 5700	\$3,349.06
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #2018092	\$7,360.85
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$22,039.14</u>
	<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$32,749.05</b>

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

**Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Thomas discussed the ongoing selection of the facilitator for the Council Retreat. The survey for the retreat will soon be on the website for citizens to access. We now have access to our Zoom account and will hopefully be able to have the next Council Meeting hybrid. Administrator Thomas also noted there have been ongoing discussions on the fire boat.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Hayes discussed the library's need of funding for programs. We can contribute to specific programs, such as an afterschool program. He also explained the Shelter Bay Lease. There is a property reevaluation every ten years, and since 2013, the value has at least doubled. The current Lease charges the Shelter Bay residents 7% of the raw property value and expires in 2044.

**Ordinance and Resolution Amendments for the Emergency Management Commission:**

It was the consensus of the Council to table the ordinance and resolution, to change the sixth member to an alternate, with voting duties in the absence of an established member. This would resolve the tie breaking issue and establish the new commission with five members, which has worked out well for the other Town Commissions.

**Surplus – Invitation to Bid for the WWTP Screener:**

Finance Director DeGoede explained this is just a formality for a Council consensus to surplus the WWTP Screener at a minimum bid of \$24,000. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the surplus of the screener.

**Mayor Round Table:**

Finance Director DeGoede discussed the Council computers meeting what they need. The current ones were meant for basic emails, and to view the packets and budgets. If they need more efficient ones, that could be done in the next budget. Also, the divider wall for the Planning Assistant's desk was too high. The company did take it back for resale, but we have to pay for the delivery and setup of the new one, which will be just over \$300.00.

**Executive Session:**

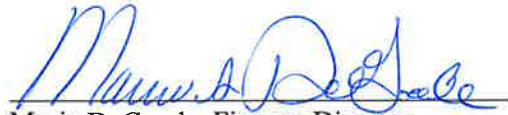
Mayor Hayes announced there will be an Executive Session for approximately 25 minutes to discuss real estate. No expected action to be made.

Executive Session began at 6:42 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 7:05 p.m.

No action taken.

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.**



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor