

**Town of La Conner**

Town Council Meeting

April 11, 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 Pro Tem Dole

Present: Councilmembers Taylor, 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 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:**

Resident Dan O'Donnell felt there should be changes to the Swinomish Tribal Sewer billing and the septage hauling should be separate.

Resident Chip Hall asked if there will be another meeting regarding the DNR leases on Jordan Street End and Lot Four. He is in favor of the Town leasing Lot Four.

Resident Debbie Aldrich questioned why an Environmental Impact Statement was not done before the start of the 306 Center Street Project. Planner Davolio explained when the application was submitted, it required a SEPA Checklist. When it was discovered, there was a gas station on the property years ago, they were required to provide a very thorough engineering study. However, because the mobile home was still on the property, they were required to come back to finish study after the building was removed. They have done that and he is waiting on the report.

Resident Amy Rice stated they did not do a soil sample in the area needed. Planner Davolio noted he would find out once he received the report.

Resident Linda Talman suggested the Charrette Report should be distributed to the Emergency Management Commission. Mrs. Talman also felt the Center Street Project should remain on the Agenda.

Emergency Management Commissioner Gerald George noted they do have the Charrette Report because he requested it. Councilmember Chamberlain shared it was on the Town website as well.

Resident William Smith also feels the Center Street Project should remain on the Agenda.

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda

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

Accounts Payable:

	Checks 25932 - 25978	\$143,604.60
Electronic Payments:	#2018099 – Invoice Cloud Fees	\$169.60
	#2018100 – US Bank Fees	\$176.03
	#2018101 – Leasehold Taxes	\$1,976.96
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$145,927.19</b>

Payroll of April 5, 2023	Checks	5701 - 5707	\$3,676.07
Electronic Payments:	#2018094	AWC Benefit Trust	\$14,004.22
	#2018095	Deferred Comp	\$2,241.00
	#2018096	PERS Retirement	\$10,226.71
	#2018097	Teamsters Benefit	\$6,972.80
	#2018098	Payroll Taxes	\$8,600.43
		<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$27,967.24</u>
		<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$73,688.47</b>

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

**Chamber Report:**

Chamber Director Hurst reported the traffic and visitors have increased. The Pet Parade, Murder Mystery and the Tulip Parade were all successful. This is a late season for the flowers. He is still directing the visitors to the daffodil fields, as the tulips are just starting to bloom. The Tulip Festival will probably be extended into May.

**Revenue and Expenditure Reports:**

Finance Director DeGoede noted we are about the same as last year ending the first quarter with the Sales and Hotel Motel taxes with property taxes starting coming in.

**Department Head Reports:**

**Fire Department/Code Enforcement:**

Fire Chief Reinstra has been working on the surplus of the Fire Boat. Also, they have been busy participating in the Tulip Parade and the Annual Fire Department Easter Egg Hunt. Also, Councilmember Dole asked for the status of addressing the illegal business signs in Town. Chief Reinstra stated he has contacted at least one so far.

**Planning:**

Planner Davolio noted he is still collecting information on the Lime Dock Building Application and anticipates another site visit later this week. The main concern is the fire requirements that were not met several years ago.

**Sheriff's Department:**

Sgt. Montgomery addressed the increase of traffic and encouraged calling dispatch if needed. Also, residents are keeping their lights on and making it more difficult to be a target for crime.

**Public Works:**

Public Works Director Lease discussed the Fish Slide repairs. The contractor is concerned on the outcome of the repairs as they are not artists. There are no guarantees on how it will turn out. Council requested more information on how long the repairs will last and other options, such as filling the slide in completely.

**Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Thomas encouraged everyone to complete the survey on the Town website. They can also obtain a paper copy at Town Hall to complete. This survey will be used in the Council Retreat to address future strategic plans for the budgeting process.

The PSNR Grant Agreement for the WWTP was finally received, which will be on the next Agenda. The first process is the engineering study on required upgrades, how big the treatment plant will have to be and the costs involved.

**Council Committee Reports:**

Arts Commission's next meeting is this week

WAB Meeting is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Communication Committee: After analyzing all the public input, the facilitators recommended three meetings for this year. The first one was in January and the second one is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Library in coordination with the Planning Department. The information gathered from the public will be used at the Council Retreat as well.

Parks Commission meeting is tomorrow.

**Ordinance 1225 – Amending Ordinance 1221 Establishing the Emergency Management Commission:**

Administrator Thomas explained this is to include the sixth alternate member as requested by Council at the last meeting. This member will have the power to vote in the absence of another member.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Ordinance 1225 to include a sixth alternate member for the Emergency Management Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 4/0.**

**Resolution 621 Appointing the Emergency Management Commission’s Sixth Alternate Member:**

Administrator Thomas stated this is the Mayor’s appointment of Jamie Joy Throgmorton as the sixth alternate member to the Emergency Management Commission.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor appointment of Jamie Joy Throgmorton as the sixth alternate member to the Emergency Management Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.**

**Ordinance 1226 Amending Chapter 1.15 of the La Conner Municipal Code on Hearing Examiner:**

Administrator explained this is more of a cleanup and update.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Ordinance 1226 amending chapter 1.15. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 4/0.**

**Fire Boat Surplus:**

It was the consensus of the Council to table the Fire Boat Surplus to a future meeting.

**Ordinance 1227 Moratorium on Adult Businesses:**

Administrator Thomas stated we have nothing in our codes to address adult businesses as defined in this Ordinance. This imposes an immediate six-month moratorium on the acceptance of development applications or activities of adult use as defined in this Ordinance. This allows the Town time to go through the process of adopting regulations for adult businesses. The Moratorium can be extended if needed.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Ordinance 1227, imposing an immediate moratorium on adult businesses. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 4/0.**

**Mayor Roundtable:**

Councilmember Wohleb announced the Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative will have their kickoff Solar Jam at Maple Hall on May 13, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. It will begin with a solar presentation, followed by attendees having the opportunity to meet installers and bankers and ending with music and refreshments.

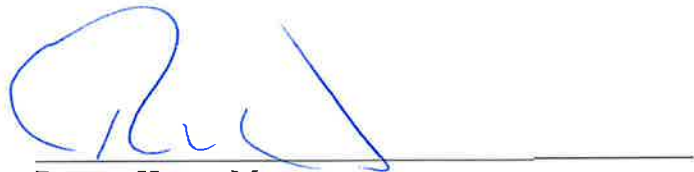
Councilmember Chamberlain would like to explore the option for the Town to have recycle bins in a few locations. Public Works Director Lease will provide a price comparison on managing the recycling in-house and out sourcing.

Councilmember Dole asked where Public Works was on hiring another employee. Public Works Director Lease is still interviewing applicants.

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:47 p.m.**



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor