

**Town of La Conner**  
Town Council Meeting  
April 12, 2022 – 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, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Davolio, Fire Chief Reinstra and Sgt. Sheahan 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 Matt May spoke in support of affordable housing and the advantage of tiny homes.

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of March 22, 2022

Accounts Payable:	Checks 24912 – 24977	\$313,616.04
Auto Payments	201787 – Leasehold Tax	\$1377.42
	201788 – CC Process Fees	\$140.60
	<u>201789 – Parking Mtr. Fees</u>	<u>\$139.85</u>
	<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>\$315,273.91</b>

Payroll of April 5, 2022	Checks	5547 - 5554	\$9,090.70
	AWC Benefit Trust	#201783	\$11,157.42
Auto Payments:	DCP	#201784	\$2,241.00
	PERS	#201785	\$8,575.16
	PR Taxes	#201786	\$7,452.23
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>		<u>\$23,869.84</u>
	<b>Total Payroll</b>		<b>\$62,386.35</b>

**Voided Check #5537 from Payroll 3/4/22**      **\$6,688.00**

**Reissued Check #5555**      **\$6,688.00**

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

**Revenue and Expenditure Reports:**

Mayor Hayes noted Sales Tax is coming in strong and the rest is stable with REET at 76% of estimated budget.

**Mayor's Report:**

- Chamber Director Carter was interviewed by King 5 News for an update on how the Town businesses fared through the pandemic.
- Recognized the Fire Department on their quick response time to an event.
- Recognized the Sheriff Department for their participation in the Tulip Parade.

**Planner's Report:**

Discussions included the sales and permitting of the Snapdragon Hill lots.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Parks Commission:**

Councilmember Wohleb reported on the special meeting for the Maple Park. Curt Miller presented his design based on the public survey results. The design is needed for the RCO Grant due May 3, 2022.

**Communications:**

Councilmembers Chamberlain and Dole reported on the community forum. It covered the basic foundation of planning. This is the beginning of a list of topics for future forums focusing on local solutions on what we can do in our Town, cottage designs and affordable tiny homes.

**Resolution 600 – Appointment to the Planning Commission:**

**Councilmember Carlson moved to approve the appointment of John Leaver to the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 5/0.**

**New Position/Job Description – Fire Chief/Code Enforcement:**

Administrator Thomas explained the Code Enforcement position was budgeted for this year at approximately \$52,000, however we had an unsuccessful response to our ad. The new combined full-time position of Fire Chief and Code Enforcement will accommodate the need for code enforcement in Town, as well as the growing need to staff the Fire Department with a paid Fire Chief. The wages for this position are set at \$56,160. A budget amendment will be presented to Council at a future meeting to accommodate the wage and benefit increases, as well as additional costs. The existing volunteer Fire Chief, Aaron Reinstra is willing to consider this position.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the new job description and shared position of Fire Chief and Code Enforcement and the increase of wages to \$56,160. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 4/0. Councilmember Carlson recused himself as he is a volunteer firefighter working under Fire Chief Reinstra.**

**Junk Vehicle Ordinance:**

Administrator Thomas explained this is a draft ordinance. He is looking for Council input on enforcement of removing junk vehicles on private property and on the right-of-way. Discussions included limiting the number of nonworking vehicles on a property, fenced from public view, offering assistance to remove junk vehicles, environmental issues and affecting neighboring property values.

**Mayor Round Table:**

**Posting Meeting Recordings:**

Finance Director DeGoede explained it would cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000 to store meetings on the website for the data increase. We are going to increase our Zoom storage capacity and come up with ideas on posting the links.

**Water Charges:**

Mayor Hayes opened discussion on the possibility of subsidizing utility bills for low-income families renting homes. Currently we offer reduced rates for homeowners exempt on their property tax with the County. Staff will provide more information for further discussions.

**Bridge Mural:**

Councilmember Wohleb shared a request from Maggie Wilder regarding the mural under the bridge. It is in need of refreshing, but she is requesting a gutter or something to direct the runoff from the bridge, away from the mural. Public Works Director Lease explained it is the County bridge, so before we do anything, we have to coordinate with them. He will follow up with Maggie Wilder and the County.

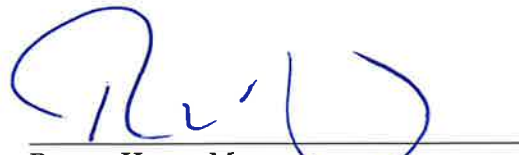
The abandoned boat at the docks has been claimed and removed.

Chamber will be moving this week from the Fireside Room at Maple Hall. Signage needs to be removed.

With the Canadian Border now open, we need to start connecting with our sister city White Rock.

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

  
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Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

  
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Ramon Hayes, Mayor