

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
April 27, 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 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:

No Public Comments.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda
Approval of the Minutes of April 13, 2021

Accounts Payable:	Checks 24026 - 24070	\$178,000.89
	<u>Electronic Pmts. – 201699 Excise Tax</u>	<u>\$7,575.00</u>
	Total Accounts Payable	\$185,575.89
Payroll of April 20, 2021	Checks 5374 - 5379	\$2,123.14
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201698	\$6,411.14
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$18,535.80</u>
	Total Payroll	\$27,070.08

Councilmember Leaver felt the check to the La Conner Arts Foundation should be distributed annually for years 2021, 2022 and 2023, rather than the full \$18,000 all at once. Administrator Thomas explained this is intended to be for those years, with the revenues earned from the Art's Alive event to replenish the fund. This \$18,000 is to keep the Art's Alive fund going.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 3/0 with Councilmembers Brunisholz and Leaver voting nay.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Thomas noted according to the Chamber's report, the businesses in Town are doing pretty well, however, the Board of Health has warned of the danger of reverting to Phase 2 due to the COVID numbers going up.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes discussed the donation of the Art Fence owned by resident Jean Wharton. It has gone before the Art's Commission, the Parks Commission and the Garden Club for the possible installation in the Butterfly Garden. The donor will pay for the installation. At this time, we are waiting on the final recommendation from the Parks Commission, so it is not up for Council's vote tonight. Councilmember Wohleb stated she does not envision a problem with the Parks Commission's vote as concerns have been alleviated.

There were discussions regarding the 20-year-old piece and future problems with maintenance due to the rot and mold on the wood. However, that is also the appeal of an old piece.

Parks Commission:

Councilmember Wohleb reported the Parks Commission and the citizens group for the Maple Avenue Park is putting together a public survey on how the park should be used. It will be mailed out for community feedback sometime after July.

Mayor Hayes published an editorial in the La Conner Weekly News on the Hedlin Property transactions that are now complete.

Caledonia Pump Station:

Public Works Director Lease recommended Council to accept for the completion of the project.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Acceptance of Completion for the Caledonia Pump Station. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Channel Drive (Skagit Beach) Water Main Right of Way Survey:

Public Works Director Lease explained this needs to be done for information addressing lines on private property and encroachment of landscape built over the right-of-way. Because Evan Henke designed the original lines, Public Works Director Lease reached out to him to do the survey. He already has all the past information. These are 60-year-old asbestos water lines that were conveyed over to the Town in the 1970's and run roughly 1.8 miles. This was not something that was budgeted for in 2021, but the water main has met it's live span with three major leaks in the last year.

Councilmember Brunisholz would like to hold off on the survey until a decision has been made on how the project, as a whole, will be paid for. He feels the Channel Drive and Downey Road residents should be charged more to pay for it. Administrator Thomas explained we need to have this survey and estimate done first before we can initiate any funding. Then we can discuss how it will be paid for.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Channel Drive (Skagit Beach) survey with David Evans and Associates. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 4/1 with Councilmember Brunisholz voting nay.

Mayor Roundtable:

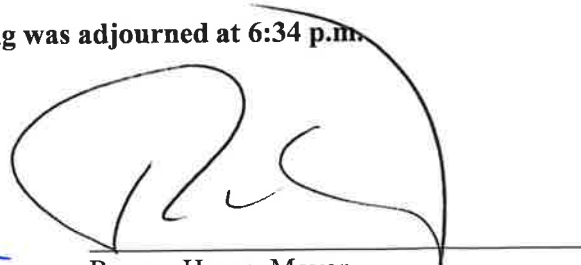
Mayor Hayes stated the next step for the Dike is engineering. Administrator Thomas has begun discussions on costs with Evan Henke.

Mayor Hayes would like to be in a "shovel ready" position for infrastructure grants for upgrades to water lines and the WWTP. Administrator Thomas explained the State is imposing new treatment requirements affecting the WWTP over the next several years. There will be both State and Federal funding available and we want to take advantage of that.

Administrator Thomas is currently putting together a competitive application for a Block Grant to be used for First Street and the Moore Clark Building. It would be for planning and hopefully some environmental work.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.


Maria DeGoede, Finance Director


Ramon Hayes, Mayor