

**Town of La Conner**  
Town Council Meeting  
May 10, 2022 – 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 Taylor, Dole, Chamberlain and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Davolio, WWTP Operator Wynn, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer 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.**

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to excuse Councilmember Carlson. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.**

**Public Comments:**

Resident Jim Matthews discussed the parking issues the Center Street project will cause. He feels the Town Codes should be reviewed for deficiencies.

Resident Ryan Anderson presented the Council with a handout on alternative options for the Tillinghast Trees. He spoke in favor of the TerreWalks product rather than cutting down the trees.

Katherine Paul from the Swinomish Tribe discussed the upcoming Pride Parade and events. The car parade will be on June 16 followed by the Pride Paddle on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Both are open for everyone to participate in.

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of April 26, 2022

Accounts Payable:	Checks 25006 – 25050	\$216,590.13
Auto Payments:	201796 – Parking Meter Fees	\$641.75
	<u>201797 – CC Utility Fees</u>	<u>\$140.60</u>
	<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>\$217,372.48</b>

Payroll of May 5, 2022	Checks	5563 - 5570	\$9,697.04
	AWC Benefit Trust	#201792	\$13,785.34
Auto Payments:	DCP	#201793	\$2,241.00
	PERS	#201794	\$9,175.76
	PR Taxes	#201795	\$6,942.18
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>		<u>\$21,003.72</u>
	<b>Total Payroll</b>		<b>\$62,845.04</b>

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

**Chamber Report:**

Chamber Director Carter stated it was a very successful flower season that included a very positive interview with KING 5 on La Conner's outcome of the pandemic. Coming up is the La Conner High School Graduation Class of 2022 car parade on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Classic Car and Boat Show on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Birds of Winter theme is changing to a new committee called Bird Wise, spearheaded by Skagitonians to Preserve Farm Land. The focus is to set rules and regulations for bird watchers to help manage and maintain our farmland. Also, the Chamber has moved to their new location at 210 Morris Street.

**Revenue and Expenditure Reports:**

Mayor Hayes stated the Sales Tax is coming in very strong and the rest are all stable. Finance Director DeGoede explained the March REET earning was not added to the REET graph sheet, but the totals are in the Treasurer's Report. She will update the spreadsheet for the next reporting.

**Planner's Report:**

Discussions included the Snapdragon Hill lots and home designs. Planner Davolio explained he has received building permits from the contractor, but not house designs. Planner Davolio attended the American Planning Association Conference in San Diego. He focused his sessions on housing issues. Also, there is a joint meeting with the Planning Commission, the Council, and the Port of Skagit on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Works Department:**

Discussions were on the operational problems with the payment station at the Boat Ramp. We are still waiting for the new modem for the car charging station.

**Fire Department/Code Enforcement:**

The Fire Department may have acquired a house for a live burn for training, and as Code Enforcement, he has been focusing on derelict vehicles in Town and parking issues.

**Sheriff's Department**

SGT. Sheahan announced her retirement as of the end of May and introduced her replacement SGT. Montgomery.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Communications:**

Councilmember Dole created a tutorial on how to use the Town Website. It has been posted on YouTube, the La Conner Community Facebook Page and the Chamber Facebook page. Future plans will target specific items, such as how to sign up for Notify Me. Councilmember Chamberlain stated face to face is the preferred method of communication for a lot of citizens, so it helps to have stakeholders at meetings to get information out. There are problems with social media in terms of maintaining Public Records requirements, but we can focus on making our website more accessible and user friendly. They still would like to have a part two forum. It is not defined yet, but will highlight housing and growth in La Conner.

**Parks Commission:**

Councilmember Wohleb noted Administrator Thomas worked hard at getting the grant for the Maple Park completed and submitted last week. She participated in reviewing it and thought it looked good, but it is a very competitive grant.

**Recommendation for Acceptance of the DE Agreement for the Maple Ave LLC:**

Public Works Director Lease explained this is strictly related to infrastructure and right-of-way, to include the sidewalks, water mains and sewer connections. The contractor has met all the requirements to Town standards. He recommended Council to accept the conveyance.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the conveyance of the Maple Ave. LLC Utility and Infrastructure. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 4/0.**

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):**

Administrator Thomas explained the Town became eligible for this grant a few years ago. The focus is accommodating moderate and low-income needs. For the Town, he is focusing on the \$30,000 Grant for planning.

**Public Hearing: - CDBG:**

7:05 p.m. Mayor Hayes opened the Public Hearing for comments.

Resident Ryan Anderson would like the Town to consider acquiring more green space for families to enjoy.

7:10 p.m. Mayor Hayes closed the Public Hearing.

**Mayor Round Table:**

Councilmember Chamberlain requested resubmitting the Town resolution on Fully Contained Communities to the County Commissioners docket.

Councilmember Dole discussed the parking issues in Town, primarily in the fire lanes. Code Enforcement Reinstra has been dealing with it by asking people to move their vehicles. So far, everyone has been agreeable. However, many times he drives by a few minutes later and new vehicles are parked there. He would have to sit in one spot all day to maintain no parking.

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.**



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor