

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
June 8, 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: Councilmember, Brunisholz, Leaver, Stokes, Chamberlain and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas and Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, WWTP Operator Wynn, Planner Davolio, Asst. Fire Chief Avery and Sgt. Willard of the Sheriff's Department.

This meeting was held electronically on Zoom. Information to join by Zoom was posted at Town Hall, the published Agenda in the La Conner Weekly News and on the Town Website.

Public Comments:

Resident Rick Dole questioned Sgt. Willard of a man walking in Town with a revolver. There is a "Gun Free Zone" sign near the school, but was not sure of the open carry laws. Sgt. Willard stated the sign was not posted by the Sheriff's office; it is probably a school sign. But call 911 if there is anything suspicious, alarming or out of the ordinary.

For the record, Councilmember Wohleb noted two letters from residents Nancy Crowell and Pam Rushing, who were not in support of a citizen's patrol. She forwarded them on to the Mayor and Councilmembers. Mayor Hayes stated he also received a letter from resident LeAnn Bushey who is in favor of a citizen's patrol, which was forwarded to Council as well.

Alana Quintasket of the Swinomish Tribal Senate discussed the upcoming Pride Day Parade on June 30th at 5:30 p.m. The route will start at the Reservation ballpark, across the bridge, down Caledonia and onto First Street. There will be a Zoom Meeting on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. on the parade plans.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of May 25, 2021

Accounts Payable:	24149 – 24180	\$94,162.42
	Voided Checks 21828 & 22531	
Auto Payments:	201710 Parking Meter Processing Fees	\$230.10
	201711 CC Payment Processing Fees	\$144.80
	Total June 8, 2021 Claims	\$94,537.32
Payroll of June 4, 2021	Checks 5396 - 5404	\$20,877.27
Auto Payments:	DCP #201707	\$2,291.00
	PERS #201708	\$11,335.00
	PR Taxes #201709	\$6,725.26
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$20,306.10</u>
	Total Payroll	\$61,534.63

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 5/0.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted Sales Taxes are very strong, but the Hotel Motel Taxes are a bit behind. Finance Director DeGoede noted surprisingly the Hotel Motel Tax is only \$1,700 short to date.

Planning:

Planner Davolio stated there will be two separate public hearings regarding the North First Street Project before the Planning Commission and the Hearing Examiner. The Planning Commission was unanimous in recommending

approval and he is expecting to hear from the Hearing Examiner any day now. Planner Davolio is hoping to have a public hearing on the Shoreline Management Plan update at the next meeting.

Sheriff's Department:

Councilmember Wohleb discussed the possibility of more specific information on the incident report. Sgt. Willard explained he has to protect privacy rights, but would be able to pull certain information if needed for a citizen's patrol evaluation. Sgt. Willard and Department of Emergency Management held a training at the school and on Zoom for a dam failure and demonstrated the Tsunami siren.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Lease gave Council a heads up on the escalating costs of materials and has had to reprioritize what needs to be done. Many quotes are only good for 24 hours.

Council Committee Reports:

Parks Committee:

Councilmember Wohleb stated the original cost of the Pavilion was for \$25,000, but because of the increase of costs for materials, they are getting new numbers. The original plan was to have Public Works lay the concrete slab and the volunteers to build the Pavilion, but they are now waiting on a quote from the builder that would include the concrete work and building the Pavilion. As for the Maple Avenue Ball Park, the Citizens Advisory Committee is targeting the survey for mid to late Fall, so there will be plenty of time for approvals from the Parks Commission and Council prior to administrating the survey.

Resolution 582 – CDBG Compliance:

Administrator Thomas explained the CDBG Application was submitted last week. In order to be awarded any funding, necessary to have certain policies and procedures in place to be in compliance with the State and Federal laws. We have applied for a planning grant with the intent to develop a subarea plan. Through the planning process, the Town residents, Town Council and Planning Commission will determine what is appropriate use for the subarea plan. There is no pre-determined outcome.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Resolution 582 adopting policies and procedures for compliance of the CDBG. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion Carried 5/0.

Mayor Roundtable:

Mayor Hayes reported Amazon is bringing in a fulfillment center in Burlington with 1,000 parking spaces.

Councilmembers Stokes reviewed the options for traffic control discussed in the last Council meeting.

- 1) It was the consensus of the Council to put off the roundabout option until the water line upgrades.
- 2) Removal of the hedges and bushes on the right-of-way at the end of Whatcom and Washington Streets to redirect trucks down Washington Street. It was suggested to talk with the property owner. No Council decision or direction for staff to follow up at this time.
- 3) Speed bumps were not recommended.
- 4) Reader boards for Maple and Third Streets can be permanent or on a trailer to be moved around Town as needed.

Sgt. Willard shared the County has found the radar trailers are more affective and flexible, as they can be moved to different locations as needed. Also, they cost less than the permanent signs, have unlimited change in graphics and are easier to deter from vandalism.

Public Works Director Lease explained the Street Committee's direction was for permanent signs with the capability of multiple messages as well as the speed. The problem is messages have to be large enough for a driver to read, and this makes the sign very large, exceeding the Manual Traffic Control Devices for 25 miles per hour. They are also very expensive, pushing up to \$15,000 each. The basic signs that flash just the speed are much more reasonable in cost.

After discussions, it was the consensus of the Council to have the permanent feedback signs displaying the speed. Public Works Director will have quotes for the next meeting,

Mayor Hayes shared the school has a temporary location for the Little League to play ball for at least one year. In the meantime, he suggested coming up with funds to find a permanent location and help qualify for a grant. \$80,000 would set them up. He would like to be a part of making that happen.

Councilmember Leaver requested between \$500 and \$600 for a band to perform on the 4th of July. Mayor Hayes and Administrator Thomas will approach the Port to cover half of the costs.

In Person Meetings:

Administrator Thomas explained the State estimates 70% will be vaccinated by July 1st and at that time, if we are at 70%, the Governor's orders will expire. Until then, we need to have a remote option for the Council meetings if we do it in person. We should have a final quote next week on what technology will be needed, but the installation won't be until sometime in July, so we are in a holding pattern. Another consideration is do we want to offer a remote option after it is no longer required. Public Works Director Lease stated the quote will be itemized to give more options. After discussion, it was decided to wait for the quote, but the first thing for purchase should be the camera.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor