

# ***Town of La Conner***

Town Council Meeting  
July 26, 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 and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, and Public Works Director Lease.

**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 Wohleb moved to excuse Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion Seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 4/0.**

### **Public Comments:**

Resident Gary Nelson challenged the Mayor and Council to visit the center home in the Maple Field Development. With the required fencing and constraints of the property, it is not usable.

Resident Maggie Wilder requested the Council to honor the rezone agreement of 306 Center Street by filing it, which would require the contractor to resubmit the conditional use permit for reconsideration.

Resident Dan O'Donnell discussed the Tribal Spreadsheet and asked to talk with Evan Henke, the Town Engineer.

Resident Jim Matthews stated the rezoning agreement of 1986 between Gerald Blades and the Town should be signed as was intended.

Resident Linda Talman discussed the deficit of ten parking spots with the planned project on Center Street. The second issue is oversight on who will monitor the development and additional soil testing of the site. She also wanted to know what procedures will be implemented following the Town's ultimate decision.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the July 12, 2022 Meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 30, 2022 Special Meeting (Communication Committee Forum).

Accounts Payable:	Checks 25207 - 25243	\$109,353.13
	<u>Electronic Pmts. – 201809 Excise Tax</u>	<u>\$7,905.52</u>
	<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$117,258.65</b>
Payroll of July 20, 2022	Checks 5597 - 5601	\$2,498.91
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201810	\$6,852.25
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$20,390.39</u>
	<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$29,741.55</b>

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

### **Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Thomas has implemented a cooling center at the Fire Hall beginning today from noon to 5:00 pm during the heatwave. It has been posted on the Town website and the paper.

Later in the meeting there will be a discussion on the new job description for Council consideration. We are not entirely sure on the remaining job responsibilities and how they will be covered, either full-time or possibly part-time. During the upcoming budget, we will need to review the reassigned duties to be sure the compensations match up to the obligations.

The Hearing Examiner's decision on the Motions of Reconsideration for the Center Street rezone agreement was remanded back to the Town with two questions.

1) Whether the rezone agreement is valid, void at the outset, or later became moot for various reasons.

2) If it is valid, what is the next step? What historic guidelines are applied, ones adopted in 1978 or what was adopted later.

In order to resolve these questions, it is in our best interest to retain an attorney with expertise of contract law, property law and land use law for advice on the decision. Administrator Thomas has been in contact with a firm in Seattle. All relevant documents will be supplied to them for review.

Councilmember Wohleb asked if there was air conditioning in the upstairs of the Fire Hall. Administrator Thomas stated there was not. We did get an estimate of \$50,000 for installing air conditioning to the existing four furnaces in the building. He will follow up with the Fire Chief.

### **Council Committees**

#### **Arts Committee:**

Councilmember Taylor noted the Art's Commission's main focus is preparing for Art's Alive and updating the Art Walking Tour Guide.

#### **Resolution 608 – Moorage Fees:**

Administrator Thomas explained this is to remove the Yacht Club special moorage rate because of our inability to accommodate it. Moorage is a first come basis, so there was no guarantee of a spot. They were to call Town Hall before they came and that didn't work with Town Hall closed on the weekends and we were not able incorporate the rate in the new payment stations installed this year. Public Works Director Lease stated there is a code that can be incorporated in the machines, but that would cost the Town extra monthly fees on each machine.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Resolution 608 removing the Yacht Club Moorage Rates. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 4/0.**

#### **2022 Tribal Rates:**

As requested by Council at the last meeting, the 2021 rates were provided in the packet. Finance Director DeGoede discussed the 2022 rate with Evan Henke, the Town Engineer, and he confirmed it was correct. Even with the wage differences, it doesn't matter as it flows through the end of the year reconciliation. There were changes in 2012 in the percentages and the Tribe has approved the rates every year. Also, positions have changed, so the positions in the original agreement no longer pertain to what we have now. Finance Director DeGoede also stated she had changed the wage allocations for D. Freiburger. In the beginning she was hired as an office assistant. As her position transitioned to primarily planning, the sewer allocation was removed and planning was increased to 70%.

Resident Dan O'Donnell requested to talk with Evan Henke, he does not agree with the rate calculations. He will send his questions to Administrator Thomas.

**Councilmember Dole moved to approve the 2022 Tribal Rates as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.**

#### **Agreement – Grey & Osborne Inc.**

Public Works Director explained we need another engineering company that is available for upcoming projects. One is the upcoming Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, which this firm specializes in.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Mayor to sign the agreement between the Town and Grey & Osborne. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 4/0.**

#### **Snap Dragon Flat Discussion:**


Public Works Director Lease explained Snap Dragon Hill LLC applied for a fill and grade permit for the removal of 100 cubic feet of rock on private property. It has nothing to do with land use or building permits. He has not approved it yet as there is required information he is waiting for.

**Hotel Motel Discussions:**

Finance Director DeGoede stated she will be advertising for Hotel Motel applications in August, and would like Council to think about what they would like to see the funds allocated to by the last meeting in August. There were some discussions on the Gilkey Square Sculpture approved for funding this year. They will need to reapply for 2023.

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.**

  
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Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

  
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Ramon Hayes, Mayor