

**Town of La Conner**  
Town Council Meeting  
August 8, 2023 – 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 Dole, Chamberlain and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, and Public Works Director Lease, Planner Davolio, WWTP Operator Wynn, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Reinstra and Sgt Holmes 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 Chamberlian moved to excuse Councilmembers Taylor and Carlson. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 3/0.**

**Councilmember Taylor joined the meeting at 6:01 p.m.**

**Public Comments:**

Resident Barbara Brunisholz discussed the Center Street Project now named the Talmon Project. She feels the project name was very rude and an impolite gesture of the contractor, toward a longtime resident, Linda Talman.

**Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the July 24, 2023 Special Meeting and the July 25, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

|                            |                      |                               |                     |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Accounts Payable:          | Checks               | 26280 - 26327                 | \$129,988.44        |
|                            | Electronic Pmts.     | 2018137 US Bank Fees          | \$496.82            |
|                            |                      | 2018138 Invoice Cloud Fees    | \$155.00            |
|                            |                      | <b>Total Accounts Payable</b> | <b>\$130,640.26</b> |
| Payroll of August 4, 2023: | Checks 5755 - 5762   |                               | \$4,190.21          |
|                            | AWC Benefit Trust    | #2018132                      | \$13,646.08         |
|                            | Deferred Comp        | #2018133                      | \$2,281.88          |
|                            | PERS Retirement      | #2018134                      | \$10,307.26         |
|                            | Teamsters Benefit    | #2018135                      | \$8,716.00          |
|                            | Auto Payroll Taxes   | #2018136                      | \$8,175.97          |
|                            | Payroll Auto Deposit |                               | \$24,706.42         |
|                            |                      | <b>Total Payroll</b>          | <b>\$72,023.82</b>  |

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

**Chamber Report:**

Chamber Director Hulst reported the annual Boat and Car Show was well attended. He is currently working on the design phase for the new banners along Morris Street. The intent is to increase the size, but he needs approval from PSE since they are displayed on their light poles. Brew on the Slough is planned for October 14<sup>th</sup> and he has also been working on the Shop Local program and Ladies Night of Shopping.

**Revenue & Expenditure Reports:**

Mayor Hayes noted the slight increase of Sales Tax and Hotel Motel Taxes continue to increase at 69% for the year. Everything else is stable.

**Planner's Report:**

Planner Davolio shared he received a request from the Center Street Project to schedule a Pre-Construction Meeting. They will be required to show they are in compliance with the required soil removal and infrastructure plans.

**Fire Department/Code Enforcement:**

Discussions involved the mysterious oil leak in the Channel. The source was never confirmed, but it did disappear.

**WWTP:**

Administrator Thomas explained we are currently in the first phase of the WWTP upgrades, selecting an engineering consultant for the analysis. The engineering process will take at least a year for recommendations and assessments, with construction expected to be over the course of many years.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Hayes is in the process of setting up a meeting with the Port, to include one of the Commissioners, to keep involved in their vision. Both the Port and the Town have needs for fire protection, and Public Works needs a new location in the near future.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Emergency Management Commission:** Councilmember Dole explained Public Works Director Lease provided a list of what is needed for the short-term plans before the next flood season. The costs exceed the available funds of \$163,000 by \$52,000, so the recommendation of the Commission is the first five items on the list totaling \$117,000. He asked for a Council consensus to move forward.

It was questioned if the \$52,000 sandbagger was needed. Public Works Director Lease needs over 8,000 sand bags filled. His crew does not have the time to fill them manually and availability of borrowing a sandbagger is not looking positive.

**It was the Council consensus to move forward, but through the purchasing process involving Council approval.**

Finance Director DeGoede stated these costs will expend out the Flood Fund. She will close the fund and all flood costs will be allocated to the Drainage Fund.

**Parks Commission:**

Councilmember Wohleb noted the new street trees are unfunded, so the Commission is looking at possible donations.

**Jensen Property:**

Mayor Hayes explained there are no set future plans or timelines identified, but eventually there will be a public process involving community input. Also, Administrator Thomas noted this was not identified as a priority in the recent Council strategic plan.

**Tillinghast Drive Tree Removal:**

Public Works Director Lease explained the sidewalks are a tripping hazard from the tree roots. The roots have also made their way into residents' yards. The removal of the trees estimated cost is \$3,000. The Town is not obligated to replace the trees, but we do have to replace the sidewalk at a cost of up to \$3,000. There was supposed to be an association with this neighborhood, but it was never formed, so this has become a Town liability. His recommendation is to remove the trees and replace the sidewalk.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the removal of the Tillinghast Drive Trees and replacement of the sidewalks. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 3/0 with Councilmember Dole abstaining.**

**Pioneer Park Hazard Tree Removal Bid Recommendation – Eager Beaver Tree Service:**

Public Works Director Lease presented the Eager Beaver bid recommendation of \$43,983. In the bid it was prorated at \$6,750 per day. He has approximately \$9,000 in his budget for this project, so his recommendation is to have them for one day to remove just the priority trees and address the remainder trees in next year's budget.

**Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the recommendation of a one-day removal of the priority trees in Pioneer Park by Eager Beaver Tree Service. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 4/0.**

**Fire Hall Roof Bid Recommendation:**

Public Works Director Lease explained, due to a solar grant and the possible construction grant for the roof, he recommends rejecting all bids.

**Councilmember Dole moved to approve to reject all bids for the Fire Hall Roof Project. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 4/0.**

**Ordinance No. 1229 – Amending Chapter 15.070 of the La Conner Municipal Code:**

Administrator Thomas explained this is to update our codes for compliance of State Law on utility shutoffs during heat advisories.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Ordinance 1229, amending Chapter 15.070 of the La Conner Municipal Code. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 4/0.**

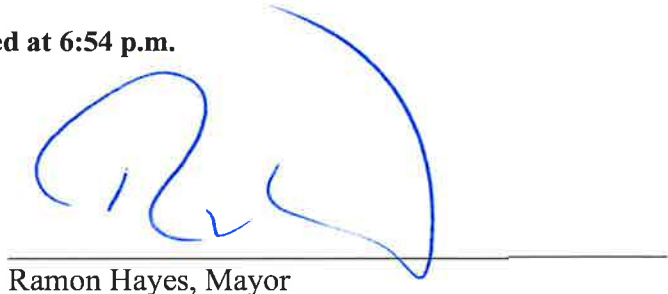
**Mayor Roundtable:**

Discussions included landscape businesses working under the table in Town and the success of Councilmember Wohleb obtaining a solar feasibility grant for the Fire Hall, with the probability of a Phase II construction grant.

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:54 p.m.**



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor