

Town of La Conner

Town Council Special Meeting
September 27, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Upper Maple Center, 104 Commercial Street
And By Zoom

Present: Councilmembers, Carlson, Dole, Chamberlain and Wohleb

Also Present: Administrator Thomas and Finance Director DeGoede., Planner Davolio and Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Reinstra.

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.

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Hayes.

Councilmember Dole moved to excuse Councilmember Taylor. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.

Finance Director DeGoede opened with the Fire Department Budget with an operating cost of \$226,959. Discussions included the following:

- The need for a new roof at \$180,000. The Fire Hall roof has several leaks. The new roof would set the Fire Hall solar ready. Possible funding from set asides or reserves.
- Fire Hall air conditioning with two options, \$6,000 for two standalone units and \$50,000 for a complete new heat/ac pump.
- A new generator priced out by the Fire Chief for \$7,000 or the shared unit with WWTP for \$29,000.
- Reserving the unused balance of the Fire Departments operating budget for future needs, or budget a set amount annually to reserve.
- Setting up an equipment rental fund.

Finance Director DeGoede discussed the General Fund as well. Reserves and set asides are as follows:

- \$ 264,912 Restricted Covid Funds
- \$98,262 remainder balance of the Kirsch Property Sale
- \$100,000 set aside from the Cell Tower bonus

The CPI for June 2022 was at 9%. The budget reflects a 6% increase in the staff wages. Public Works negotiated agreement is at 3% for 2023. The Teamsters agreement is up for negotiations for 2024.

It was requested to raise the staff wages to 7.3% to see how it affects the budget. All agreed on the 15% raise for the Deputy Clerk. Utilize the \$100,000 cell tower bonus for the Fire Hall roof with the remainder balance of \$80,000 for financing, and see if we can use the Covid funds for the Fire Hall generator and heat/ac pump.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 5:46 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor