

**From:** Linda Clark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 28, 2025 4:35 PM  
**To:** Linda Clark [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Maria DeGoede - La Conner Finance Director <[financedirector@townoflaconner.org](mailto:financedirector@townoflaconner.org)>;  
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[council\\_5@townoflaconner.org](mailto:council_5@townoflaconner.org); [council\\_1@townoflaconner.org](mailto:council_1@townoflaconner.org)  
**Subject:** 306 Centre Street Project

Please post.

Dear Town Council Members:

This will hopefully be the last email concerning this project — unless something else finds its way to my attention as the below did today.

Please find attached two newspaper articles concerning Michael Davolio, La Conner's former planner. The Langley meeting minutes for 12-7-15 are also included. There are other articles from these papers which are not included.

The information available indicates that Mr. Davolio was relieved from his positions with Pawtucket, RI and Langley, WA due to "difference of philosophies" and citizen pressure. In Langley, he was placed on paid and unpaid administrative leave prior to his "resignation."

This information was not provided to the La Conner public in the article written by the *La Conner Weekly News* on February 17, 2021 "Town Planner has Picture Perfect Background", nor were any steps taken by the Town or any follow-up information provided to the newspaper after Mr. Davolio forwarded the 306 Centre Street project onto the Hearing Examiner despite the Planning Commission objection on or about March 15, 2022.

"Commissioner Bradburn said that the main issue seems to be the short term rentals and suggested that the units be converted into condo storage. Brandon Atkinson said that wasn't an option due to the zoning, since the ground floor has to be commercial, but that perhaps some of the units could be converted into long-term residential using the 49% allowance. Commissioner Theaker said that the scale of the project was concerning.

Commissioner Hanneman said that parking is a major issue. Commissioner Theaker moved to deny the conditional use permit as presented. Second by Commissioner Hanneman. Motion carried 3-0". From 3-15-22 minutes

I came across Mr. Davolio's Facebook page while researching this. It goes back to at least August 2020. Did the Town of La Conner review this prior to engaging Mr. Davolio as its planner? I would look at it if I were you. I have it saved as a pdf in the event it gets taken down.

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Lastly, getting back to the Mormons - I want to give you a little bit of an idea of how "small" the Mormon community really is.

While researching Ryan **Van Alfen** (see my email of December 26, 2025) I found a Facebook page for Julie **Van Alfen** McLean. Ryan Van Alfen is one of her "friends". Also on her "friends" page she has: Nicole **Saunders Atkinson** and Lisa Cook **Saunders**.

Lisa Cook Saunders was my back yard neighbor in Fruit Heights, Utah. She was a good friend of my oldest sister.

I also wanted to give you information about my ancestry. I keep talking about the fact that I am a 7<sup>th</sup> generation Mormon, but I think it would be helpful to really see what that means.

Therefore, I am attaching a few of the documents that I've prepared while learning about my ancestral lineage.

I am also including a few "informational" videos about Mormons on YouTube from young men who have recently transitioned out of the organization. They are really informative. I would bet these two are maybe 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. One grew up in California, the other Oregon - NOT in the heart of Mormon country but still its influence on them was immense.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUW7j9GmXjI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kicCFwMqKtE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23owsv-R0fs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmJwmlbFpQk>

[sorry for the foul language on at least one of these]

Best regards,

Linda Clark

<https://www.valleybreeze.com/2016-04-12/pawtucket/planning-director-barney-heath-leaving-pawtucket>

## Planning Director Barney Heath is leaving Pawtucket

ETHAN SHOREY, Breeze Online News Editor

Apr 12, 2016



PAWTUCKET – Barney Heath, the city’s planning and redevelopment director since the summer of 2012 and a veteran of more than two decades in the department, is headed for a job as planning director in Newton, Mass.

According to a report on Wicked Local Newton, Mayor Setti Warren called Heath a man with “wide-ranging experience in planning” with a “special expertise in community development.”

Heath, who has a master’s degree in community planning from the University of Rhode Island, was first named community development planner for Pawtucket in October of 1994. He eventually rose to the rank of assistant director of the Department of Planning and Redevelopment. He served for one year as interim director after the retirement of former Planning Director Michael Cassidy before going back to assistant director when Mayor Donald Grebien hired Michael Davolio in June of 2011. A year later, Grebien let Davolio go over a “difference of philosophies,” and reappointed Heath to the top planning post.

Heath is set to start in Newton on June 6, according to Warren. The Newton job has been vacant for two years.

Pawtucket's departing director has had a hand in many successes in the city, including the ongoing redevelopment of the Pawtucket riverfront, the transformation of old mill buildings into residential and mixed-use centers, the rehabilitation of neighborhoods like Barton Street, and the conversion of Pawtucket into a craft beer capital, among others.

## NEWS

# Exiting planner to get \$17K, plus recommendation letter from mayor McCarthy

Langley will pay its former planning director more than \$17,000 as part of a separation and severance package.

By [Ben Watanabe](#) • December 11, 2015 6:23 pm



The Langley City Council recently accepted the resignation of city planning director Michael Davolio.

Langley will pay its former planning director more than \$17,000 as part of a separation and severance package.

The city released the contract for former planning director Michael Davolio on Friday afternoon. Included are \$11,909 equal to eight weeks of salary, \$2,336 for 68 hours of accrued sick leave, \$2,911 for two months of continued health, dental and vision coverage, \$755.92 for remaining vacation leave, and \$274.88 of accrued personal leave.

The deal also stipulates that the mayor write Davolio a recommendation letter for future employment.

The planning chief resigned Monday, Dec. 7 following more than a month of being off the job; he was placed on paid administrative leave Oct. 22, then unpaid administrative leave Nov. 16.

The city council accepted his resignation during Monday's regular meeting. In his letter, a brief, one-paragraph statement said he resigned "for both personal and professional reasons."

Why Cancer Insurance Is Bigger in Japan Than in the United S

The council, after a 30-minute executive session with attorney Rosa Fruehling-Watson, also approved a separation agreement and severance. *The Record's* request for a copy of the deal was denied Tuesday, with Mayor Fred McCarthy saying it would not be released for seven days due to a "recision" clause which allowed Davolio to consider the offer.

Government agencies are given five days to respond to a public records request, under the Public Records Act, with either the documents requested, a citation of the state code that allows an exemption, or an estimate of time to gather the documents.

If records are denied, cities must supply the state under which the records are exempt. There are no provisions that permit a delay. Although the city had already responded to the request, officials later said they would use the five days to process the request. The documents were released Friday at noon, a few hours before *The Record* goes to press.

Attempts to reach McCarthy for comment were unsuccessful.

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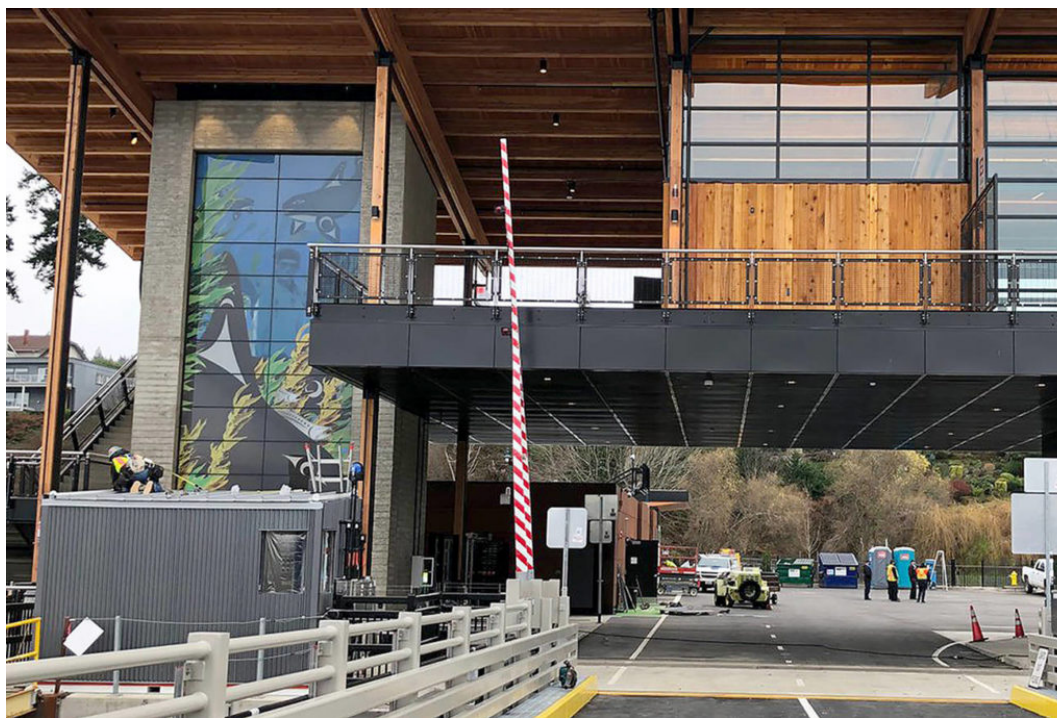
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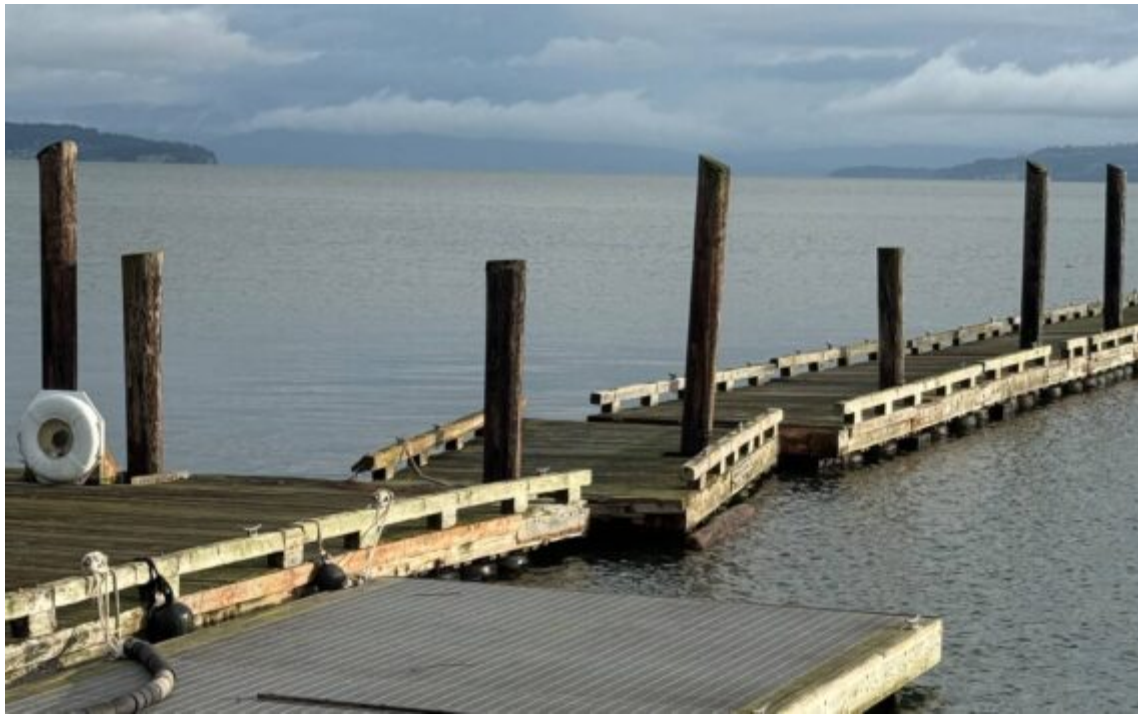


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**Langley City Council nixes proposed...**

By [Ben Watanabe](#)





## NEWS

### **Wharf's dock closed after storm damage**

The Coupeville Wharf's dock is closed after getting damaged last week in the wind storm.

By [Marina Blatt](#) • December 26, 2025 1:30 am



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## NEWS

### **Sounders arrive just in time for bad weather**

A famous gray whale was first spotted in the Saratoga Passage on Dec. 11, early for a sounder.

By [Jessie Stensland](#) • December 26, 2025 1:30 am

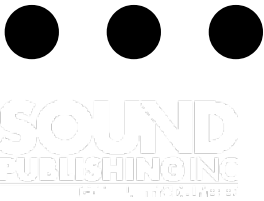


NEWS

**Whidbey woman severely injured in I-5 crash**

The woman was injured in a one-car accident early in the morning on Dec. 24.

By Jessie Stensland • December 26, 2025 1:30 am



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## Town planner has picture perfect background

[Bill Reynolds](#) | Feb 17, 2021 [Share](#)



MICHAEL DAVOLIO



Having an eye for art helped Michael Davolio focus on La Conner as his latest stop in a lengthy planning career that has seen him address land use issues on both coasts.

A native of central Massachusetts, Davolio has come out of semi-retirement in Bellingham to succeed Marianne Manville-Ailles as the Town's planning director. He took part in the Jan. 9 Town Council and Jan. 16 Planning Commission Zoom meetings and has spent a couple days setting up his office at Town Hall.

So far, it has been a good fit for Davolio.

A frequent visitor here, Davolio doubles as a commercial photographer and has created a calendar for Whatcom County. He has volunteered with the Washington Center for Performing Arts and previously oversaw a month-long arts festival in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, where he also guided an agency designed to attract new businesses to the city.

"One of the things that drew me to La Conner," he told the Weekly News, "was its great arts tradition."

Davolio knows successfully navigating the various layers of planning jurisdiction in La Conner – from shoreline management to historical preservation – can be something of an art form in itself.

"I want to help the community manage growth in a responsible way," he said.

It is a challenge he has faced elsewhere on what has been a cross-country journey sparked by a college urban geography course.

"It was then," Davolio recalled, "that I first got hooked on planning."

He was working in Maine when that state adopted growth management legislation. That was an ideal prerequisite for his move to Washington state, which was then developing its own law to curb uncoordinated and unplanned growth that deemed threats to environmental protection and sustainable economic development.

His familiarity with growth management and related land use issues increased demand for Davolio in the state. He has worked for communities between Long Beach on the coast and Spokane at the heart of the Inland Empire.

Interestingly, Davolio sees similarities between La Conner, a tourist destination with a scenic waterfront, and Pullman, home to Washington State University and surrounded by rolling hills and wheat fields.

Both, he notes, have avoided sprawl into nearby farmland, either due to planning priorities or economic factors.

Davolio has long made his mark in Washington. In 2001 he was recipient of the state chapter of the American Planning Association's second-ever distinguished service award.

Davolio had partially retired after a stint in Langley in late 2015 but was ready to get back in the game when he learned last month of the La Conner vacancy.

"I was finding retirement boring," he said.

Davolio anticipates his La Conner assignment being anything but boring. He has relied on Manville-Ailles to help him hit the ground running.

"Marianne has been a godsend to me in terms of having everything organized for me to make the transition easier," Davolio said.



Davolio will work two days a week – likely Tuesday and Thursday – at Town Hall.

“I hope to help build on the community’s strengths,” he said. “I believe one of the strengths of the community is how the town has preserved its history. The historical preservation district not only has value, (but) it creates value.”

Manville-Ailles is completing her move to a position with the City of Mount Vernon after three years in La Conner, a period that has included a major overhaul of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan and oversight of in-fill development of several vacant residential lots.

She had expected to turn over her duties here to Concrete planner Kevin Cricchio, but he withdrew because family health issues precluded him from serving both roles.

Davolio’s availability was a stroke of good fortune, Mayor Ramon Hayes said.

“Marianne calls him ‘the planner’s planner,’” he said. “We’re just grateful we have a new planner on board who, like Marianne, has a lot of experience in the field.”

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## **Langley City Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 7, 2015**

Mayor McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Thomas Gill, Jim Sundberg, Robin Black, Bruce Allen and Rene Neff. Also present were Stan Berryman, Public Works Director; Jack Lynch, Temporary Planning Director; Dave Marks, Chief of Police, Doug Yormick, planning intern, City Attorney Rosa Frueling Watson, and Debbie Mahler, Clerk. Mayor McCarthy led the flag salute.

**MOTION:** To approve the agenda. Motion - Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Black. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** To approve the consent agenda. Motion – Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gill. The consent agenda was approved with all in favor.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 11/2/15, 11/16/15
- b. Approval of claims warrants Nos.33787, EFT 11/3/15, 33965-33999 in the amount of \$61,435.1
- c. Confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Jay Hugret to the Library Board
- d. Confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Bruce Allen to the Island Transit Board

### **COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS**

*Ethics Training and Advisory Board* – Bob Frause chairman reported that it is a very conscientious board that is working very hard. They have been working on finding principal values for the code and making proposed amendments to the ethics code. They are working on a confidentiality section for the code and procedures for dealing with ethics complaints. The board met earlier today, and will have a long (3 hr) meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> to complete work on the code. They would like to have a joint work session with the council at some point. Currently, they meet from 5-6 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month.

*Library Report* – Librarian Vicky Welfare reported that the Sno-Isle TedX event was received by thousands of people and very well appreciated. They have a new server upgrade at the Library so log-in's for computer use will change. They have a lot of exciting programs this month. Those programs are listed on their website. Vicky also mentioned that the library used to be powered by city's portable generator during power outages, but when the city got a grant to install a permanent wired in generator, it no longer powers their building. She asked if there is any way to bring the portable generator back to the library during outages. Public works will look into that issue and see if it is possible.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

*Downtown Parking analysis* – Doug Yormick, Planning Intern presented his parking analysis with a short power point presentation.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Sharon Emerson reported that during the last power outage, the Whidbeytel Cyber Café accommodated people who needed a warm place to charge and use their electronics. She feels Langley needs to fund a similar center here. She stated that the City always finds money for things that are important. Bruce Allen informed her that the Langley Methodist Church is a warming center. Their friendship hall is open to anyone when the temperature is under 35 degrees, they serve a hot dinner, cots for sleeping with bedding and breakfast in the morning.

Walt Blackford, PSE representative and former City administrative assistant, said that we meet with the three churches in town several years ago to discuss this issue. None of the churches have a generator. Walt also explained the former “City Generator” as people often refer to it, was a generator leased by PSE and was there to provide backup when the power was down, when the lease was up, PSE did not renew because the generator did not have enough capacity to power the whole area. PSE then upgraded their lines and system to provide more reliable service.

A discussion ensued regarding the cost of a large generator and where one could go to house people during power outages and other disasters.

## **MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor McCarthy shared the meeting agenda for tomorrow’s Rabbit Committee meeting. He also gave a report of the Island County Substance Abuse Prevention Committee meeting that took place on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thomas Gill was appointed as the new Chairman of that committee. The Mayor also distributed an updated strategic priorities list and went over the finished and pending projects. The sign at the old firehouse – The Fire Department had wanted the sign on the old building placed in their memorabilia area. Callahan McVay who runs the glass shop in the old firehouse got a bid to replace the sign that was very expensive. Main Street and the Historic Preservation Committee have weighed in and feel that it is very iconic sign and identifies the Glass shop and should remain.

Supervisor evaluations are taking place this month and supervisors will also evaluate their employees. There is a memorial for Larry Cort taking place in Coupeville tomorrow afternoon. Debbie Mahler will be attending for the City. Jim Sundberg stated that Larry Cort was a very good planner here in Langley, he had a PhD from a prestigious university in England and was very good at dealing with controversy. He moved on to Oak Harbor to head the project on Pioneer Way and then became their City Administrator. A plaque recognizing former Mayor Vincent F. Jones used to be at the entrance to the city. That was on private property and the sign is now gone. Mayor McCarthy ordered a new plaque to replace it. The Holiday Business Networking luncheon will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. The Mayor elect has been meeting with each department head and participating in other transition activities with the Mayor.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Modified Six-Year Capital Projects Plan* – Stan Berryman discussed the updated CIP and answered questions.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – 2016 FINAL BUDGET**

Mayor McCarthy opened the public hearing at 6:45 PM. Debbie Mahler passed out new pages to update the budget. She explained that the only change was to move the amount of funds (\$5,000) budgeted for the Arts Commission this year, into 2016 as they will not finish the project they are working on until early next year. In cities where the Grow Washington organization operates, the cities have participated with them in some capacity when they set up in their jurisdictions. They are interested in doing something here in Langley. We do have funds budgeted in the planning department that could be used on this kind of



project. Debbie mentioned that the projected beginning balance of the general fund is \$344,197 and the ending balance is \$289,090 so the city has budgeted more expenditures than the yearly revenues will cover. She cautioned that while this is still a healthy carry over, the balance should not be reduced any farther. The public hearing was closed at 7:04 PM.

**MOTION:** To waive the first reading and adopt Ordinance 1025 adopting the 2016 budget in the amount of \$6,491,271. Motion – Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gill. Motion carried unanimously.

*Posting of Council appointed position.* Councilwoman Robin Black who was just re-elected, will be resigning her position at the first meeting in January. Debbie has prepared a posting for our website and the newspaper inviting people to apply for the position. The closing date is December 18<sup>th</sup>, interviews will be held at the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and the appointment made at that time. The new member will be sworn in at the first meeting in January.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** To approve an agreement with SeaTac Shuttle for Tourism Promotion services in the amount of \$7,400 plus \$645 per month. Motion – Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sundberg. Motion was unanimously approved.

**MOTION:** To approve an agreement with Rosenkranz Productions in the amount of \$7,157 for graphic services design and installation on the SeaTac Shuttle. Motion – Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Black. Motion was approved with all in favor.

**MOTION:** To approve the Tourism agreement with the Langley Chamber. Motion – Neff, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sundberg. Motion carried with Robin Black abstaining as she is the Chamber Board President.

Mayor's Excellence Award for Mayor Nancy Conard of Coupeville. Mayor McCarthy explained that Nancy Conard has been a mentor mayor to him and very helpful during his term.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Thomas Gill reported that there will be a Library Board meeting at City Hall, tomorrow. The Board meets quarterly. Thomas thanked Fred McCarthy for his leadership on the Substance Abuse Coalition. Mayor McCarthy will be stepping down when his mayoral term ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Jim Sundberg reported that he attended several Transit Board meetings this month. They have hired a recruitment firm to find a new executive director. The current interim director will stay until April. They are continuing to discuss charging fares on inter-county routes. There will be public hearings and policies established for that if that is the direction they go in. Robin Black reported that the Chamber needs to be aware of any events in Langley so they can be posted on their website calendar. This coming Sunday the Chamber will be closed and will be closed on Sundays November through March. Robin is now president of the Chamber Board

and Nancy Rowan is vice president. Robin also reported that Western United States Agricultural Association is a new client of hers. They will help anyone who is exporting agricultural products and will give Grants up to \$350,000 to businesses to do so. Bruce Allen reminded everyone about the warming center at the Methodist Church. It has not received much use so far. Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery Board discussed at their last meeting the issue of the City being only partially in the cemetery business. Staff is currently researching what other cities with cemeteries do and the Board will make a recommendation to the Council for any needed changes.

Council went into executive session at 7:52 PM for approximately 30 minutes to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

Executive session ended at 8:21 PM and the regular meeting was reconvened at that time.

**MOTION:** To accept Michael Davolio's letter of resignation effective December 7<sup>th</sup> for personal and professional reasons. Motion – Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Neff. Motion carried with all in favor.

**MOTION:** To approve a separation and severance agreement with Michael Davolio accepted by Mr. Davolio and signed by him on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion – Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Neff. Motion was approved without opposition.

Mayor McCarthy presented council with a draft job description and posting for the Community Planning position. He suggests it be posted in December and January and leave it open until filled. He asked for any comments or amendments council wants on the posting. Jack Lynch has been serving as interim planning director and his contract expires December 18<sup>th</sup>. Mayor McCarthy would like to contract with Jack for January and most or all of February while the city searches for a replacement and possibly to help the new hire get settled in. The Mayor will work up additional contract tomorrow to run thru February.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/Clerk