

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
January 22, 2019 – 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: Councilmembers Brunisholz, Leaver, Stokes, Chamberlain and Wohleb.

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

Public Comments:

Citizen Dan O'Donnell discussed his memo regarding the Town Composting. The septage intake has gone down due to Stanwood now accepting septage. Also, he feels the sewer I&I is way too high, and that we are processing infiltration from other sources other than sewage.

Presentations:

Fire Department:

Mayor Hayes announced Chief Morrison has stepped down from his position and Aaron Reinstra will assume the position of Fire Chief for the Town of La Conner. Chief Reinstra is the fourth generation of firefighters for La Conner and his son is now involved. Mayor Hayes recognized Josh Morrison for his time dedicated as Fire Chief and work in reviving the Fire Department. Although he has stepped down, he will remain as a volunteer firefighter with La Conner.

Cindy Verge - Skagit Valley Tulip Festival:

Cindy Verge, Director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, presented the 2019 Festival Poster and brochures. The Hotel Motel funds they receive from the Town every year contribute to the brochures printed and distributed. The Tulip Festival brings in approximately 450,000 tourists from all 50 states and 86 countries. The 2019 Tulip Ambassador selection will be at Maple Hall on February 6th. She welcomed anyone that would like to watch the process.

La Conner School District Levy:

Superintendent Whitney Meissner, Principal Todd Torgeson and Board President Kate Szurek, of the La Conner School, discussed the upcoming levy. The new levy is reduced from 1.2 million to \$870,000 due to the state McCleary funding. The Swinomish Tribe contribution of cash and 15 paraprofessionals, one per grade level and two for the preschool, amounts to 1.6 million. Also discussed was the increasing number of transport for homeless children. The surrounding school districts work together in transporting them as they move around, in an effort to keep them in the same school. Councilmember Leaver requested a contact for a student volunteer for the Art's Commission. Patti Weber was recommended.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of January 8, 2019.

Accounts Payable:	Checks 21776 - 21797	\$42,147.03
	Electronic Pmts. - 201487 - Excise Tax	\$4608.69
	201488 - Hartland CC Rental	\$75.00
	Total Electronic Payments:	\$4683.69
	Total Accounts Payable for Jan 22, 2019	\$46,830.72
Payroll of January 18, 2019:	Checks 4972- 4976	\$1,144.65
	Auto Tax Payment #201489	\$5,848.99
	Payroll Direct Deposit	\$18,721.75
	Total Payroll	\$25,715.39

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

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Thomas distributed a proposal from the City of Woodinville. They want relaxed limitations for alcohol served at events to attract more tourism.

The flood briefing will be scheduled sometime in February after the levy site visit.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes, along with Commissioner Wesen, representatives from the library and Administrator Thomas will be attending Action Days in Olympia to advocate funding for the new Library. They have raised 1.6 million with a goal for 3.6 million. They received \$500,000 in the last session that is due to expire in June 2019. They will be asking for an extension as well as more funding. Mayor Hayes encouraged everyone to send letters of support for the Library funding to the legislatures.

Key Bank in La Conner is closing. This leaves Washington Federal Bank as the only bank in Town. Mayor Hayes encouraged the local citizens to support the local existing bank. He also had other ideas, such as a public bank coalition and the possibility of starting our own La Conner bank. He is waiting on a response from MRSC confirming it as a possibility.

Council Committee Reports:

Art's Committee:

Councilmember Leaver noted the Art's Commission has moved forward to publish the Call to Artists for the sculpture selection for the 2019 Sculpture Show. Due to the budget restrictions, they are reducing the number of sculptures.

Parks Commission:

The La Conner Rotary has donated \$5,000 for the Waterfront Park Gazebo. Mayor Hayes stated the La Conner Rotary has been a vital part of our community.

There will be a fundraiser on February 23rd at Hellams Winery to contribute to the Waterfront Park Gazebo. Mayor Hayes noted the \$5,000 from Shell, \$5,000 from the La Conner Rotary, \$4,000 from the Town and the remainder made at the fundraiser should pay for the gazebo.

2019 Tribal Sewer Rates:

Administrator Thomas presented the 2019 Tribal Rates of 0.4826/Gal. Also, the 2018 year end Fair Share will be a refund to the Tribe of \$18,096.87. This is based on the 2018 budget and what was actually spent.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the 2019 Tribal Sewer Rate as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion Carried 5/0.

There were discussions on the charges to Shelter Bay for the Water Main Phase One project. Administrator Thomas explained we could have billed them in 2018, but the rates would have had to be adjusted after the final cost of the project was submitted. To avoid rate adjustments, it was decided to wait for the final costs. Mayor Hayes stated once the final project costs are known, Shelter Bay will be billed accordingly. Even if they did decide to go with the Tribe as a water provider, it would be at least three to five years for both parties to upgrade for the changeover. In our opinion, they have underestimated the costs and currently only the Town can provide fire flow capacity. They have requested an agreement to release them from the obligation of cost of the project if they decide to changeover to the Tribe. Our position is no, either we have a partner or we don't.

Resolution #553 - Appointment of the Parks Commission:

Administrator Thomas distributed an updated resolution naming the appointment to the Parks Commission. There were some discrepancies in the dates of expiration, but it has been resolved in the resolution as Commissioners

Howard Martin, Annie Taylor and Tom Winn will expire in January 2022, Commissioner Ken Lee is retroactive and expires in 2021 and Commissioner Oliver Iversen is retroactive and expires on January 2020.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve Resolution 553 as presented for the appointment of the Parks Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion Carried 5/0.

Maple Hall Elevator Agreement - Thyssenkrupp:

Administrator Thomas presented the agreement between the Town and Thyssenkrupp for the modernization of the Maple Hall elevator. The approximate cost is \$150,000. Public Works Director Lease confirmed there will be a maintenance agreement that will come before Council for approval after the installation is complete. The more years included in the agreement will reduce the costs overall.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Mayor to sign the contract between the Town of La Conner and Thyssenkrupp, for the Maple Hall Elevator modernization. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 4/0 with Councilmember Brunisholz voting no.

Councilmember Brunisholz noted the caps on a few of the pilings were missing. Public Works Director confirmed they had been ordered.

There were discussions on when the Council Packets would be on tablets rather than printed. Finance Director DeGoede and Public Works Director Lease are researching it and will implement it as soon as possible.

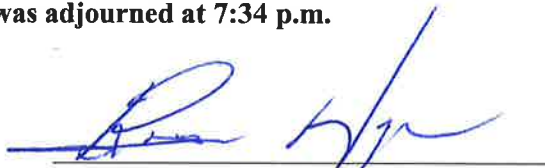
Executive Session:

6:45 Mayor Hayes announced there will be an Executive Session regarding real estate matters. Administrator/Attorney Thomas stated it shouldn't be more than 20 minutes with no action after. 7:34 pm Mayor Hayes resumed the meeting. No action taken.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor