

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
February 26, 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 Planner Manville.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to excuse Councilmember Stokes. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.

Public Comments:

Rick Dole, resident of La Conner, requested a garbage can at the bus stop by Wave Broadband on Morris Street. Public Works Director Lease stated they do rotate the garbage cans in Town and will have one put there. Also Mr. Dole discussed the problem of speed control on Sixth and Third Streets. Mayor Hayes confirmed it is a process but the speeding issue is being addressed.

Citizen Dan O'Donnell distributed two memos. The first addressed an initiative regarding double taxation caused by the tax shift, as a result of the Great Wolf Lodge decision. He has spoken with the County Commissioners and has sent a letter to the State Legislatures. He is asking for support from Council to eliminate the double taxation.

The second memo was on the City of Anacortes water charges. They should be following the Grey & Osborn Study, and charge us for two records rather than all records. Also, their project this year is to replace the water lines on Commercial, Thirteenth and Fourteenth. It is a \$500,000 project, within the City limits, that will be included in the billing of the regional customers.

Presentations:

Crown Castle Cell Tower:

Crown Castle representatives Margaret Powell, Jessica Hunter and Michael Fierley discussed the 20 foot height cell tower extension and the reflective camouflage film they are planning to use. It is designed to blend in with its surroundings, mimicking the sky. It will cover the 20 foot extension and any attached antennas. The concerns of glaring light from the sun to residential areas won't be an issue, as it refracts light. Also, there have been no incidents of birds flying into the towers, as they see differently than us. There will be a structural analysis done, which is a part of Crown Castle's process and required by the Town's permitting process. This will address any possible modifications needed for erosion or structural issues, resulting from the addition of the 20 feet extension. Crown Castle will be responsible for any needed structural upgrades and erosion control during the project and future unforeseen problems. Mayor Hayes stated a provision must be in the agreement naming Crown Castle as responsible for all structural or erosion issues, caused now and in the future, with no liability of the Town.

The terms are as follows: with acceptance of a 20 foot extension and the execution of an agreement, Crown Castle will issue a check in the amount of \$100,000 to the Town's General Fund, to utilize with no restrictions, as the Council deems fit. Also, the cell tower lease they currently pay the Town will increase 2.5% annually. Currently it is a lower rate biannually. In addition, the cost share for carriers will be 50/50 and will also have increases as per the agreement the carrier signs with Crown Castle. This will be a 25 year lease extension with a five year auto renewal, unless it is terminated. And lastly, Crown Castle will pay the Leasehold taxes, which will be included in the monthly lease payments to the Town. The extension will only accommodate the one carrier. T-Mobile has been actively pursuing this location.

There were discussions on the residents' reactions to the tower extension. Planner Manville explained there will be a public process during the SEPA Review, in which the residents will have the opportunity to submit comments. The Mayor asked Council if there was a consensus to move forward with the process. All Councilmembers were in agreement due to the financial benefits to the Town and the issues of camouflage, erosion and excise taxes have been resolved. The actual agreement will come before Council for approval at a future meeting.

Consent Agenda:

The February 12, 2019, Council Meeting was canceled due to weather conditions. An Executive Order for the payment of the claims and payroll was initiated to meet Town obligations.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of January 22, 2019.

Accounts Payable Feb 12, 2019:	Checks 21798 - 21862	\$564,532.16
<i>Executive Order</i>		
	Electronic Pmts. - 201490 - CC Bank Fees	\$375.42
	201494 - CC System Phr	\$97.65
	201495 - CC Process Fees	\$96.60
	201496 - Prk. Mtr. Fees	\$39.57
	<u>201497 - CC Rental Fees</u>	<u>\$65.10</u>
	Total Electronic Payments:	\$674.34
	Total Accounts Payable for Feb. 12, 2019	\$565,206.50

Payroll of Jan 16-31, 2019:	Checks 4977- 4984	\$19,916.63
<i>Executive Order</i>		
	201493 PR Taxes	\$5,629.50
	201492 DRS	\$9,818.75
	201491 DCP	\$2,241.00
	<u>Payroll Direct Deposit</u>	<u>\$18,756.77</u>
	Total Payroll of Jan 16-31, 2019	\$56,362.65

Accounts Payable Feb 26, 2019 :	Checks 21863 - 21890	\$164,920.51
	<u>Electronic Pmt. 201499</u>	<u>\$5,156.49</u>
	Total Accounts Payable for Feb. 26, 2019	\$170,077.00

Payroll of Feb 1-15, 2019	Payroll Checks 4985-4989	\$1,268.37
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201498	\$5,914.32
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$18,794.74</u>
	Total Payroll of Feb 1-15, 2019	\$25,977.43

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

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Thomas is working with the Port to obtain federal funding for the dredging of the Channel. Congressman Larson will hold a coffee at the Garden Club this Saturday from 10:00am to 11:30am. It would be beneficial for Councilmembers and residents to stop by in support of funding for dredging.

There were discussions on the Council levy site tour. It was decided to have it before a Council meeting. It will have to be advertised and open to the public. Administrator Thomas drafted an outline of topics to cover. He requested Councilmembers review it and let him know if there is anything else they would like to add.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes discussed a State planning effort for the possibility of blowing out the McGlinn Island Jetty. He was made aware of it by a representative of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Channel already has a silting problem. This would severely affect a major navigational waterway and those who are dependent on it economically. This is one of the topics Patsy Martin, from the Port of Skagit, would like to bring up when she goes to Washington DC on March 14th and 15th. Mayor Hayes is not sure yet if he will be going and didn't want to alarm anyone, as they are still gathering information.

Shelter Bay will receive their first bill for the Water Main Phase 1 Project the beginning of March.

The Mayor recognized Ollie Iversen and Ken Lee for the successful Waterfront Park fundraiser, which met the goal needed to pay for the gazebo. The Mayor played the piano and Administrator Thomas stayed for the duration of the event.

Council Committee Reports:

WAB Meeting:

Councilmember Brunisholz reported on the WAB meeting. The new Compost Pad has been completed and they are working on the purchase of the new tractor, and the Solar Panel Project. Discussions involved the concern of future major sewer plant upgrades that will be needed to meet the changing required standards. Future budgets should include a plan of reserving funds to do them. Currently there is no federal funding for these upgrades. Administrator Thomas noted there will probably be an additional Tertiary Treatment as well. This will be another huge investment we can expect in the future.

Town resident, Dan O'Donnell noted CHS was incorrect in his 48.35 Tribal Rate. It should be 40.0.

Art's Committee:

Councilmember Leaver put out a call for artists for new sculptures needed to replace the existing ones, but has not received a response.

Agreement - Pape Machinery Purchase of Compost Tractor:

Public Works Director Lease noted the purchase is under a state contract and recommended the Mayor to sign. It has been budgeted for this year.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Mayor to sign the agreement for the purchase of the Compost Tractor from Pape Machinery. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion Carried 4/0.

State Street TIB Recommendation of Acceptance:

Public Works Director Lease explained even though we were not happy with the outcome of the project, they did meet the minimum standard requirements reviewed by CHS Engineers. He confirmed the contractor did come back and replace some panels on the sidewalks and fixed curb and gutter issues. It does have a one year warranty, so they will be responsible if anything happens within that time. He recommended the Council to accept the completion of the project.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the recommendation for acceptance of the State Street TIB Project. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion Carried 4/0.

2018 Compost Pad Recommendation of Acceptance:

Public Works Director Lease stated this project went very well and on schedule. He recommended the Council to accept the completion of the project.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the recommendation for acceptance of the 2018 Compost Pad Project. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 4/0.

Agreement with Frontline Cleaning - Cleaning of Public Restrooms:

Public Works Director Lease noted this is an annual contract with Frontline Cleaning.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Frontline Cleaning Agreement for the cleaning of the public restrooms. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Planner Manville requested a date for the annual joint Council/Planning Commission meeting. It was decided to schedule it for the April 9, 2019 Council meeting. The Planning Commission has a draft of items to discuss at the

joint meeting. Planner Manville will include the list in her staff report and asked Council to email any topics they wish to review that is not on the list.

Mayor Hayes discussed the advantages of cottage housing. It is identified in the Comp Plan as a worthy goal, but there is no functional process to get there. Planner Manville noted cottage housing has fallen out of favor because of issues surrounding it, but there are other mechanisms that will get us to the same place. The Planning Commission will need a vision, and then they can come up with a mechanism to get there.

There were questions on the traffic counters in Town. The County is collecting numbers, but also we are collecting information needed to complete the Transportation updates in our Comp Plan.

Executive Session:

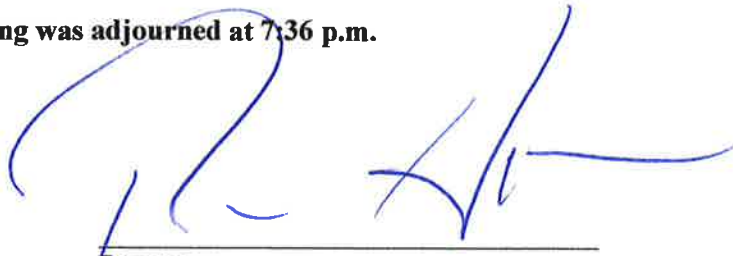
7:08 p.m. Mayor Hayes announced there will be an Executive Session regarding acquisition and/or disposal of real estate. Administrator/Attorney Thomas stated it shouldn't be more than 20 minutes with no action after.

7:36 p.m. Mayor Hayes resumed the meeting. No action taken.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor