

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting

April 9, 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, Planner Manville, Fire Chief Reinstra and Sgt. Willard.

Public Comments:

Resident Dan O'Donnell spoke against the selling of the Kirsch property. It was purchased in 2001 for the purpose of a park. If sold, there would not be enough space left for a street end park. If funds are what the Town needs, he recommended selling the lot on South Fourth Street for \$90,000.

Ken Stern of the La Conner Weekly News introduced Jacob Carver, a student from Western Washington University. He will be interning at the local paper for the next ten weeks.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of March 26, 2019.

Accounts Payable:	Checks 21971 - 22012	\$72,823.03
	Electronic Pmt. - 201512 - CC Pr. Fees	\$113.20
	Total Accounts Payable for April 9, 2019	\$72,936.23
Payroll of April 5, 2019:	Checks 5003- 5010	\$18,245.11
	Auto Payment DCP 201509	\$2,241.00
	Auto Payment DRS 201510	\$9,467.69
	Auto Payroll Taxes 201511	\$6,992.58
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$25,007.26</u>
	Total Payroll	\$61,953.64

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

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the retail sales and Hotel Motel revenues are keeping up with last year so far.

Public Works:

There were discussions on the Safe Routes to School project.

Fire Department

Chief Reinstra reported the annual Saint Patrick's Day Dance went well though the attendance was down. They are currently working on the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt at Pioneer Park and will be involved with the parade as well.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes stated there are several traffic issues in Town that will need to be addressed this year and 2020.

Agreement Amendment - Thyssen Maple Hall Elevator:

Public Works Director Lease explained this amendment excludes subcontractors that were previously planned for. Thyssen will be able to do the project from start to finish, which will bring the overall cost below budget.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the amended agreement with Thyssen for the Maple Hall Elevator. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion Carried 5/0.

Agreement - Crown Castle Cell Tower Lease:

Items of concern discussed were liability and responsibility of the property for any damages caused by the extension of the tower, and future cleanup of the site if abandoned. Administrator Thomas will check the remaining issues. Agreement was up for discussion only.

Town Hall Maintenance Issue:

The safe in Town Hall has caused a mold issue that has extended into the front reception area. It is critical to address the situation for the safety of staff. Public Works Director Lease requested quotes from three companies with only one response. ServPro has quoted \$10,485.00. As soon as the agreement has been completed, the Mayor will sign it to get the work started as soon as possible. Administrator Thomas stated the agreement will be presented before Council for ratification. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward as soon as possible by having the Mayor sign the agreement for ratification at a later meeting.

Mayor Hayes and Administrator Thomas are working with the owners of the Moore Clark property to get a project going. They have discussed the Town's comprehensive goals for more residential density with some retail. Councilmember Stokes noted the building is on ten feet of the Town's right of way and would like First Street completed as a part of the project.

Mayor Hayes clarified the Council did not vote on the sale of the Kirsch Property, they voted to list it. Any offers would be brought before Council for a vote to approve the sale. There will be a public process as well. The Finance Committee met to discuss the pros and cons of selling and or developing the property. Years ago, it was estimated to be at least a quarter of a million to bring it a point for development.

Council/Planning Commission:

Planning Commissioner's Hanneman, Hedlin and Theaker were present. Planning Commissioner Bradburn was present by phone.

Planner Manville lead the discussions focusing on the immediate issues they are working on. The Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan and updating the Town's Critical Areas Ordinance. They are also working on updating the Parks Plan for the conversion of an element in the Comprehensive Plan.

Other areas of discussion involved the Climate Change Charrette report on the flooding impact in the Town, and ideas to implement for readiness. The next step is to have a design competition for solutions on flooding in the historical district. Skagit County has two design interns they are willing to share with us for the design of Gilkey Square.

Also, the Town needs to focus on adding residential density. Councilmember Wohleb stated density is a high priority item she will be looking for. There is a need for cottages and other housing that fit with the Town's historical appeal and increase of housing.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.


Maria DeGoede, Finance Director


Ramon Hayes, Mayor