

# **Town of La Conner**

Town Council Meeting  
June 25, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

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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 and Public Works Director Lease.

## **Mayor Hayes added the La Conner School Band Event to the Agenda to the Mayor's Report.**

### **Public Comments:**

Resident Rick Dole acknowledged there has been more police presence to deter the speeding on Sixth and Third, but they can't be there all the time. He still is advocating for speed bumps on those streets. Also, there has been a spike in the homeless population in Town.

Mayor Hayes stated traffic safety and the homeless issues are the most forefront issues for 2020. There will be a safety meeting with the School and the Port tomorrow to try and pool resources for increased enforcement presence in Town.

Resident Leann Bushy also addressed the speeding issue and emphasized the need for traffic humps, not bumps, on the smaller streets like State and Centre.

There were discussions on the possibility of the use of the grant from the Safe Routes to School project to fund the speed humps. Public Works Director Lease is updating the TIP and waiting for the Traffic Control Study before making any decisions. The problem is complex because it is Town wide, not just one road.

Resident Tracy McCain appreciated the police interaction to control the speeding. It has helped.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of June 11, 2019

Accounts Payable:	Checks 22198 - 22232	\$87,280.63
	Voided Check - 22197	
	Electronic Pmt. <u>201533 May 2019 Ex Tax</u>	<u>\$5,735.16</u>
	<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$93,015.79</b>
Payroll of June 20, 2019	Checks 5040 - 5045	\$1,595.04
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201532	\$6,029.74
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$19,491.04</u>
	<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$27,115.82</b>

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

### **Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Thomas discussed the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, involving the parade beginning at noon, picnic at Pioneer Park and the music and fireworks event at the Port. This year there will be a kid's area at the Port event.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Hayes gave a presentation to the County for funding the La Conner Library. His request was for half a million dollars to complete funds needed for the \$3,740,000 project. If they don't get it, they will lose the Swinomish Tribe contribution of \$750,000 and the States \$1.2 million. The largest contributions were through private donations in the amount of \$1.29 million. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2020 and

completed by the summer of 2021. We should know if the County grant was successful within a few weeks. Administrator Thomas acknowledged Mayor Hayes on his excellent presentation to the County for the funding.

The Mayor is looking at the possibility of funding the Dike through an Economic Development Grant. We have over 40 million in infrastructure as well as able to meet the requirement of creating and/or retaining family wage paying jobs. The next opportunity to apply is May of 2020. The Town would probably have to come up with half of the funding.

**La Conner School Band Event:**

Last year, there was an event consisting of several bands that went on for two weeks from 9am to 9pm non-stop. Complaints of the volume and noise were acknowledged, but because it was explained as a one-time event to solve a last minute location issue, the community put up with it. They are back again and citizens are upset.

**Resident Linda Peterson** complained the volume is aggravating and unbearable and it is non-stop. It is disturbing the peace.

**Residence LeAnn Bushey** complained as well and wants our Noise Ordinance revised for clarity. She personally got out of bed and went to the school to request them to stop.

**Resident Tracy McCain** feels the school has not been a good neighbor. Last year she asked the school if they could call her to let her know if it was going to happen again, but they didn't. The school is relying on the Noise Ordinance on the time and is stretching it minute to minute. She requested a change to the ordinance to address this issue.

Mayor Hayes stated we will beef up the Noise Ordinance and they will not be back next year. Administrator Thomas noted he did get a commitment the event would not be back next year, but the ordinance still should be revised to prevent this from happening again.

**Utility Committee:**

Councilmember Brunisholz discussed the committee meeting regarding the Anacortes water charges. They are passing on internal capital and maintenance costs to regional customers. According to Resident Dan O'Donnell, La Conner is over charged by approximately \$22,000 per year. Also, they have passed the fiber optic line through the water line, which La Conner does not benefit from. This does affect La Conner when repairs are needed. The response from other regional customers is they don't want to rock the boat. La Conner is the smallest customer at only 2% of the regional use. Administrator Thomas will meet with Dan O'Donnell to review his numbers, and then will set up a meeting with Steve Hognlund to understand how Anacortes is allocating their costs regionally.

Councilmember Stokes met with the Skagit Watershed Council. They are working on salmon habitat in the County and recommended going to their website. Also, he discussed the possibility of the removal of the break water, but discovered it is actually the opposite from Commissioner Dahlstedt. They are actually looking at raising the break water to prevent over silting in the Channel. There were discussions on the dredging schedule and the problem areas.

**Parks Commission:**

Councilmember Wohleb reported they are looking at the relocation of the Fiddler Crab to the Washington Street end. Also, Planner Manville is working on the permits for the Waterfront Park shoreline restoration and the Parks Commission is working on the updates to the Parks Plan.

**Right of Way Permit - La Conner Classic Boat & Car Show:**

This is an annual Town sponsored event.

**Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Right of Way Permit for the La Conner Classic Boat and Car Show. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 5/0.**

**Mayor/Council Roundtable:**


Councilmember Brunisholz discussed a newspaper article on how bad shredded tires are in playgrounds. It is bad for our kids and the environment.

Councilmember Brunisholz is going on vacation and will not attend the next two meetings.

Administrator Thomas and Finance Director DeGoede addressed Council on TVI (Time Value Investments). It is getting harder to find approved banks that take public funded CDs, and the ones that do are at a very low interest rate. TVI is a low risk plan and is used locally by Anacortes, Mount Vernon, Burlington and Oak Harbor. After discussions, Council directed the CD to rollover another time, with the existing bank, and do more research on how TVI is paid, comparison on the interest between the CDs and TVI investments, and how long other entities have been with TVI.

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.**

  
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Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

  
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Ramon Hayes, Mayor