

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
August 13, 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 and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Manville, WWTP Operator Wynn, Fire Chief Reinstra and Sgt. Willard.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to excuse Councilmembers Stokes and Chamberlain. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 3/0.

Public Comments:

Resident Dan O'Donnell referred to a letter from David Paint of the Department of Ecology via the Town Planner. It is a request to consider a reformation for the Kirsch Property, to include a dike in front and fill behind. Also, he provided a spreadsheet on the 2018 Anacortes reconciliation. Using their figures the Town would get a return of \$8,000. Using his figures it would be \$18,000.

La Conner Business owner, Bob Jacobson, discussed his concerns of cars not stopping at the intersection of Sixth and Morris. He will try to provide some videos in the next few weeks. Resident Rick Dole reiterated the concern of this intersection.

There were further discussions regarding the traffic plan. Planner Manville stated the Planning Commission needs to do some preliminary items before giving the information to the consultant. The Planning Commission has really taken an interest in this process and is taking longer than anticipated. Once the information is to the consultant, it should take about four to six weeks. She has had preliminary discussions with the consultants and wants them to emphasize traffic calming. She has identified the areas of concern. The Sixth and Morris intersection is a new one that she will add to the list. Mayor Hayes stated we are waiting for the completion of the traffic plan which should coincide with the 2020 Budget process. That does not help immediately, but maybe there are other things we can do in the interim. We are actively working on it. Public Works Director Lease needs to review the Traffic Plan Report once it is done before making any decisions.

Presentations:

John Doyle, former Town Administrator, stated the previous Storm Surge Charrette strategies were on tidal surge and flows, and didn't incorporate river side. Both need to be consistent and not exasperate each other, to avoid the Town becoming a fish bowl. He suggested another design charrette, before investing in the dike, to iron out inconsistencies. He estimated the costs to be \$10,000 to \$20,000 on the high end, but because we already have 75% of the data collected from the first charrette, costs would probably be at \$4,000 to \$5,000. He would be willing to facilitate and participate in the charrette, but first needed confirmation from Council that they are interested in pursuing this.

Mayor Hayes supports the value of a comprehensive view, but also does not want to slow down the progress of the dike project. If it is at the \$5,000 level and this year's budget could be adjusted, it could be very helpful. Also, the costs for a dike based on the Sheet Pile method is double the cost and unaffordable.

Also discussed was to move forward with the remaining land issues, with the goal to have them resolved by the end of 2019.

Resident Dan O'Donnell provided a worksheet of his analysis for the costs of the dike based on vinyl, with a total of 3.25 million.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve John Doyle to move forward with facilitating the Charrette. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 3/0.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of July 23, 2019.

Accounts Payable:

Checks 22313 - 22363	\$77,877.86
<u>Auto Payments:</u>	
201545 - Parking Meter Fees	\$168.20
<u>201546 - CC Processing Fees</u>	<u>\$113.60</u>
Total Electronic Payments	\$281.80
Total Accounts Payable August 13, 2019	\$78,159.66

Payroll of August 5, 2019:

Checks 5061-5069	\$16,812.12
Auto Payment DCP - 201542	\$2,241.00
Auto Payment DRS - 201543	\$9,500.18
Auto Payroll Taxes - 201544	\$6,735.70
<u>Payroll Auto Deposits</u>	<u>\$21,685.75</u>
Total Payroll August 5, 2019	\$56,974.75

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 3/0.

La Conner Chamber Report:

Chamber Director Heather Carter reported the August 3rd La Conner Classic Boat and Car Show was at its highest attendance. There were 178 cars registered, 14 boats on trailers and 13 on water. The Friday Night Cruise had 40 participants verses 25 last year. She is now focused on the next event, “Brew on the Slough” on October 19th.

Because Thanksgiving is late this year, the Tree Lighting is scheduled for December 5th and she is encouraging merchants to stay open later to kick off the season shopping. The lighted Boat Show is December 7th.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted all the funds are steady.

Planner’s Report:

Planner Manville reported the Parks Survey is coming in. So far we have received 41 responses.

We were informed by DOE that we are eligible for grant money to update our Shoreline Plan, which has been extended another year. Also, there has been a lot of interest in Snapdragon Hill (High Street). There have been plans for both multi-family and single family construction.

Public Works Report:

There were discussions on the issue of the money box at the Launch. It was broken into twice so it has been removed. Public Works Director Lease stated as long as there is cash in the box, the problem will continue. An upgrade to a credit card machine for the Launch would be approximately \$11,000. There are cameras at the Launch and the Fire Department, but they need high speed internet and live time public viewing to accommodate at least 20 viewers at a time. The cost was too high so Council didn’t vote it through years ago.

Sheriff’s Report:

The Sheriff’s Department participated in a two day Active Threat training at the La Conner School. It involved several different departments. There are future plans for more training that will include other first responders such as the fire departments.

WWTP Report:

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Wynn discussed the increase of biosolids intake at the plant. Friday Harbor will be dumping all their biosolids. This will help with the reduced dumping from one of last year's customers.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Thomas attended the EMS meeting with discussions on what would happen if the Ross and Diablo dams burst, both the Baker and Skagit Projects, and emergency notifications.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes received several compliments from visitors in La Conner about the Town. He emphasized the need to protect our environment, community, and retail as a whole.

Council Committee Reports:

Arts Commission:

Councilmember Leaver noted there will be an extra meeting to discuss concepts of memorializing past and present artists. Also, he went to White Rock to attend the Sea Fair event. They want to get together with the Mayor/Councilmembers. He feels it is our turn to invite them here. Mayor Hayes will follow up on organizing something.

Parks Commission:

Councilmember Wohleb stated there will be a Parks Commission meeting tomorrow. Councilmember Leaver will attend on behalf of the Arts Commission to participate in discussions on art placement. Among discussion will be the La Conner Braves sculpture.

TVI (Time Value Investments):

Finance Director DeGoede provided the information requested by Council on the other local municipalities that work with TVI. Councilmember Leaver noted this was something Councilmember Stokes was very interested in and asked if this could be discussed at the next meeting. All agreed.

Conveyance of Utility & Late Comers Agreement:

Public Works Director Lease stated the new waterline has been completed per the DE Agreement between the Town and the Weidenbach Family. We need to approve the Conveyance of the Utility to the Town. Also, we need to approve the ten year Late Comers Agreement, in which anyone within that time has to pay \$13,000 to hookup to the new line. 10% goes to the Town and the remainder 90% goes to the Weidenbachs, as they paid for the project.

Councilmember Leaver moved to approve the Conveyance of Utility and the Late Comers Agreement for the Weidenbach project. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 3/0.

Resolution 558 - Appointment to the Parks Commission - Pease:

Mayor Hayes has appointed Martha Pease to the Parks Commission.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Resolution 558 appointing Martha Pease to the Parks Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Motion carried 3/0.

Interlocal Agreement - Skagit County and the Town of La Conner Library Funding:

Administrator Thomas explained Skagit County granted \$500,000 towards the La Conner Library. The Town had to be the applicant for the grant funding.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Skagit County and The Town of La Conner for the \$500,000 grant for the La Conner Library. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 3/0.

SHB 1406 - Funding for Affordable Housing:

Administrator Thomas explained communities can either collect their portion as an individual or it can go to the County to be pooled for construction of new housing. These funds are very restrictive. If it is put on the ballot for

additional tax and it passes, it would double the percentage received. Planner Manville explained most small Towns don't have housing authorities to maintain and manage these restrictive funds. After discussion, it was decided not to put it on the ballot and have the Town's portion go to the County pool for building new housing. Administrator Thomas will provide a resolution at the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve SHB 1406, not to go to on the ballot and for funds to go to the County pool. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 3/0.

US Bank Purchasing Cards:

Finance Director DeGoede explained this is a government program that does not charge any interest. The cards can be regulated by limiting the dollar amount and what it can be used for, such as just travel and meals when employees go to a conference. It will replace the current credit cards.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the US Bank Purchasing Cards program. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 3/0.

Agreement - La Conner Braves After School Program:

Administrator Thomas stated this is an annual agreement to provide the Town budgeted contribution to the La Conner Braves After School Program.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Mayor to sign the La Conner Braves After School Program Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Motion carried 3/0.


Mayor Roundtable:


Chamber Director Heather Carter expressed her concerns regarding a group in Town planning on replacing the existing banners on Morris. The Chamber paid for the previous ones and then replaced them in 2018 with the new ones reflecting the Town's events and attractions. They also coincide with their website and marketing. The Chamber went through the process with the Town and the banners were paid for with Hotel Motel Funds. Although this group has been working on making Morris Street more attractive for tourists, replacing the banners is redundant and even so, they need to go through the process required. The Mayor will have a conversation with them to express this and maintain communication.

Councilmember Brunisholz discussed his previous proposal to update the Town Codes on regulating the placement of artwork in La Conner to no more than five feet in height. Planner Manville stated they are working on that now. Since the placement of the last sculpture there has been a great deal of input from Council and she now has a better idea of where they stand. The process has changed and it won't happen again.

Councilmember Wohleb shared complaints that there were dogs penned up in the Tribal fenced area in Town. The dogs barked all night.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Maria DeGoede, Finance Director


Ramon Hayes, Mayor