

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
January 10, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.

The meeting of the regular La Conner Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Hayes, Councilmembers Brunisholz, Hubbard, Tracey, Welch, and O'Donnell.

Also present: Administrator Doyle, PW Director Lease, Operator Wynn, Fire Chief Taylor, and Sergeant Wise.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve the minutes of the special and regular meeting on November 22, 2011. Seconded by Councilmember Welch. Carried 4, Abstain 1

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Welch moved to approve checks 11264 through 11301 close out in the amount of \$255,382.96 and checks 11302 through 11326 in the amount of \$8,434.45 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve payroll checks 2436 through 2447 and direct deposits in the amount of \$60,989.63 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Welch. Carried 5-0.

Community Comments: Time was given for members of the audience to address the council regarding issues that are not on the agenda.

Jana Gage, Park Street, spoke to the Council regarding the status of the committee formed to redesign Maple Center Plaza. Jana's committee will be looking to design features into the plaza that memorialize the Conner Family and honor the farming heritage of La Conner. Jana requested that the Town authorize the removal of the tree and planter, in addition to relocating the gas and power apparatus that are within the planter. This will clear the way for them to complete the design. After much discuss, Public Works will look into removing the tree and getting solid estimates on relocating the utilities and removing the planter.

Chamber Report: Marci Plank, Chamber Director, mentioned that thirteen new businesses opened in Town in 2011 which makes 144 chamber members total, one new business this year. She showed the Council the new marketing materials for membership generation.

Revenue/Expenditure Report: Finance Director Taylor was absent and will present the revenue/expenditure report at the next Council meeting.

Department Head Reports:

Planner: Mr. Doyle stated that the Fire Authority discussions are continuing, and the Council will have to decide in the near future whether or not proceed as a participant in the planning and formation of a Regional Fire Authority. On another item, the FEMA NFIP program is being sued by the National Wildlife Federation to prohibit all development in the 100-year floodplain. He will keep the Council posted on the outcome. He also mentioned that GeoCell (flood wall company) will be conducting a site evaluation and presentation on January 19th & 20th.

Mr. Doyle discussed with the Council the possibility of adopting a Moratorium on Marijuana cultivation for prescription medical use. He will research what other communities have done that have permitted the activity.

Bill Stokes presented a proposal to place the Town car around Town to curb speeders. Council approved the use of the Town car.

Finance: There were no questions on the report included in the council packet.

Public Works: No questions on the report to Council.

Water & Wastewater: Councilmember O'Donnell had a question regarding billing which was addressed.

Fire Department – There were no questions on the report included in the council packet.

Sheriff's Department – Councilman Welch was suggested again to put a notice in the utility billing to alert people to keep their cars and homes locked.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes stated that the Town has requested that the Chamber invest in a substantial ad for the La Conner Visitor Guide being produced by the La Conner Weekly News. Marcie will follow-up with the Board to confirm their commitment.

The Mayor will be in Olympia on January 26th promoting Town projects to the legislators.

He also indicated that Terre Source has provided important information to assist staff in the reconfiguration of the WWTP site.

Council Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Councilmember Hubbard stated that the committee reviewed the Artspace proposed to reallocate 2012 funds to support the Feasibility Study to be conducted on January 25th and 26th. There was some discussion to clarify the project and the Town's involvement. The project will be addressed later on the agenda through a Budget Amendment and Letter to Artspace.

No other committees had reports.

2012 Budget Amendment:

Councilmember Tracey moved to approve the budget amendment Ordinance #1074 – An Ordinance Amending the 2012 Budget to reallocate funds for the Artspace project. Councilmember Welch seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Letter of Agreement – Artspace Projects Inc.:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve the Mayor signing the Artspace Letter of Agreement. Councilmember Tracey seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Mayoral Pro-tempore – Six Month Appointment:

After some discussion, Councilmember Hubbard was appointed Mayor Pro-Tempore for the next six months.

Council Committees and Responsibilities:

Mayor Hayes led the discussion with the advice from Brad Furlong that the Council could not make any of the Committee requirements compulsory per RCW. There was some additional discussion about Councilmember responsibilities and work on rescheduling committee meetings to encourage Councilmember attendance.

Professional Service Contract Amendment with Land Strategies – Jerry Hann:

After a preliminary explanation by Administrator Doyle, Councilmember Tracey moved to approve the contract amendment. Councilmember Hubbard seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-1. Councilmember O'Donnell voted nay.

Professional Services Contract Amendment with Terre Source LLC:

Administrator Doyle introduced the contract amendment and after a short discussion, Councilmember Tracey moved to approve the contract amendment and Councilmember Brunisholz second the motion. The Council had further discussion regarding the value of the consultant. Motion was approved 3-2. Councilmembers O'Donnell and Welch voted nay.

Resolution Amending Investment of Town Funds:

The Finance Committee has recommended reducing the minimum amount to increase revenues. Councilmember Welch suggested that we may want to reduce the minimum even more. Staff will review. Councilmember Tracey moved to approve. Councilmember Welch seconded. Motion approved 5-0 Resolution # 475.

Hotel/Motel Agreements

There was some discussion regarding disbursement of the funds over the years. Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve. Councilmember Welch seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Miscellaneous – Mayor/Council Roundtable:

There was some discussion regarding the Chamber and Town's participation in the La Conner Weekly News' tourist promotional brochure. The Mayor and Council encouraged Marci to invest in a highly visible position in the brochure.

There were some additional comments on tourism issues to stimulate business in Town.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

John Doyle, Administrator

Ramon Hayes, Mayor