

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
January 13, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.
Upper Maple Center

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

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Wright, Councilmembers Brunisholz, Hubbard (by phone), O'Donnell, and Johnson.

Also Present: Administrator/Planner Doyle, Public Works Director Lease, Finance Director Taylor, Kelly Wynn, and Officer Wade.

Mayor Pro Tem Wright moved to excuse the absence of Mayor Hayes. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Johnson moved to amend the agenda to authorize the Mayor to sign the Hotel Motel Agreements under New Business. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2008 town council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0. Councilmember Johnson abstained.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve checks 6911 through 6973 dated December 31, 2008 for 2008 expenditures in the amount of \$86,328.79 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve checks 6974 through 6980 dated December 31, 2008 for 2008 expenditures in the amount of \$10,928.47 as presented. (Check #6961 to Valuation Associates for \$1,050 is VOID and is replaced with check #6980) Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve payroll checks 1511 through 1523 and direct deposits for the payroll period of December 16 through December 31, 2008 in the amount of \$39,128.63 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell. 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.

Chamber Report: Marci Plank stated that the Chamber, the Port of Skagit, and the Town are planning to collaborate together for a television ad featuring La Conner, and the billboard is up on Highway 20.

Department Head Reports:

- Revenue/Expenditure Report December 2008: The report will be presented at the January 27th council meeting.
- Administrator: Administrator Doyle stated that the Town will be submitting a grant application for the CERB program of CTED. It will provide an 80% grant & 20% loan options for utility and access redevelopment of the Conner Way right-of-way. This application will be in partnership with Triton America for the redevelopment of the Tract 23 property.
- Public Works: There were no comments or questions on the report included in the council packet.
- Water Wastewater: There were no comments or questions on the report included in the council packet.
- Fire Department: There were no comments or questions on the report included in the council packet.
- Sheriff's Department: There were no comments or questions on the report included in the council packet.

Council Committee Reports:

Councilmember O'Donnell: stated that he attended the Land Use Technical Advisory Committee Meeting for Skagit River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan on January 6, 2009. He stated that they would not consider a plan for floodway, the old by-pass, and farm land preservation was removed from the plan. The next meeting will be on January 20th. He requested a meeting of the Utilities Committee before the next WAB meeting.

Councilmember Johnson: inquired if the Parking Permit stickers would be mailed out with the Business Licenses. Ms. Taylor stated that they are ready to be mailed, and each business will receive two free parking permits for 2009. Ms. Hubbard stated that the permits will be monitored for use and the merchants should be recognized for using them.

Mayor Pro Tem Wright: stated that the Public Works Department was to be commended for job "above and beyond" with the recent snow storms.

Mayor Pro Tem moved that since the Public Works had to work through a planned day off that they be granted two days off (instead of the usual time & a half) for this one occasion. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0.

Flood Control: Councilmember Brunisholz received a letter from Linda Smith, Army Corp of Engineers, regarding 205 funding for flood control. Discussion followed on doing a survey and purchasing land in 2009 for the gap filler.

Administrator Doyle stated that the Town developed a hazard plan two years ago and identified emergency facilities and contact points. He stated that some areas need further planning such as, support systems, stocking & re-supplying of essential items.

WA Loop Project – Bid Results: Public Works Director Lease stated that they had 24 bids for the WA Loop Project. The low bid was submitted by C. Johnson Construction for \$372,943.50. He stated that the TIB Board is reviewing our application amount, and the bid amount results in a \$15,000 savings for the Town. The bid award and contract will be on the January 27th council meeting agenda.

Staff agreed to due research on interest paid on retainage for PW projects so council can develop a policy.

Mayor Pro Tem Appointment:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to reappoint Councilmember Wright as Mayor Pro Tem for six months. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

Appointment of Planning Commission Members: Administrator Doyle referred to a memo from Mayor Hayes requesting council approval of the reappointment of Chris Nessen and Linda Talman to Planning Commission positions 1 & 4, and Cindy Tracey to fill position 3 through 2009.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to accept the Mayor's appointment of Chris Nessen, Linda Talman, and Cindy Tracey to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell Carried 5-0.

2009 Hotel Motel Agreements:

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the 2009 Hotel Motel Agreements with the budgeted amounts. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Lorraine Taylor, Town Clerk

Don Wright, Mayor Pro Tem