

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
January 27, 2009 – 5:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 5:30 p.m. Mayor Hayes stated that the executive session will be on potential litigation and the purchase and sale of real estate, and will last for approximately 30 minutes.

Present: Mayor Hayes, Town Attorney Brad Furlong, Administrator Doyle, Councilmembers Brunisholz, Johnson, and O'Donnell.

At 6:00 p.m. the Council reconvened the regular council meeting of January 27, 2009, no action was taken in or as a result of the executive session.

Present: Mayor Hayes, Councilmembers Brunisholz, Hubbard, O'Donnell, Johnson, and Wright.
Also Present: Town Administrator Doyle, Finance Director Taylor, and PW Director Lease

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to amend the agenda removing the 2009 Tribe Sewer Rate. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 regular town council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve vouchers 6981 through 7033 dated January 27, 2009 in the amount of \$100,379.85 as presented. Check #6986 to Blade Chevrolet for \$50.50 was declared void. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve payroll warrants 1524 through 1529 and direct deposits for the payroll period January 1 through January 15, 2009 in the amount of \$22,498.45 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. 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.

Administrator's Report: Administrator Doyle stated that the Town is planning to submit for a CERB Grant with CTED for funding assistance on Conner Way for utility and access improvements. These improvements are necessary for the development proposed by Triton America. He stated that he will be requesting authorization for the Mayor to sign a Contingency Agreement between La Conner and Triton America, which will be a partner in the grant.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes reported that he and Administrator Doyle met with County Commissioner Sharon Dillon regarding flood control. He stated that the Port, Skagit County, and the La Conner Chamber of Commerce are working together with the Town in these tough economic times.

Council Committee Reports:

Administrator Doyle stated that the Parks Commission met and discussed the design of the street end parks, their connection to the boardwalk, and renaming Benton Street End Park.

Councilmember O'Donnell: stated he will continue to attend the Land Use Technical Advisory Committee meetings. He stated he is preparing his own spreadsheet on the water & sewer rates, and requested council input.

Flood Control: Mayor Hayes stated that the Port favors a road on the top of the gap filler for flood control. It was decided to identify issues on the road for further discussion, inquire about stimulus money, and apply for grant funds.

2008 Finance Report: Finance Director Taylor expressed her appreciation to all the departments for keeping expenses to a minimum in 2008. The Town spent \$153,000 less than it received in revenues, resulting in positive fund balances.

Ms. Taylor reported that the Town has received a \$13,154 credit from the Department of Revenue on excise taxes that were overpaid for the period of 2004-2008.

Resolution Adopting Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan: Administrator Doyle stated that this is an update to the Skagit County Plan which La Conner participates in.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to adopt and authorize the Mayor to sign the Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0.

Interlocal Agreement for Flood Storage: Administrator Doyle explained that this allows the Town to partner with other cities and agencies to pursue review and oversight of PSE's dam licensing conditions that require additional storage and enhance flood control operations at the dams.

Councilmember Johnson moved to adopt and authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement for Flood Storage. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

Intergovernmental Purchasing Agreement with WA State: PW Director Lease explained that this agreement allows the Town to save money and purchase items without going through the bid process.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to adopt and authorize the Mayor to sign the Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing with WA State. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0.

WA Loop Project – Bid Award and Contract: PW Director Lease stated that the Town received 24 bids on the WA Loop Project. The lowest bidder was C. Johnson Construction at \$372,943.50. He stated that the Town will receive \$344,200 of grant money from TIB for the project

Councilmember Wright moved to award the bid to C. Johnson Construction and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

Ordinance Amending Business Licenses: Administrator Doyle stated that this amends LCMC 5.05.050 relating to Business License Fees to include two free parking permits to businesses on First and Morris

Street that council had approved on October 28, 2008. Councilmembers discussed whether two permits were adequate for the businesses. Council and staff agreed to monitor the permit use this year to determine if any changes should be made in following years.

Councilmember Johnson stated concern regarding cars parking over the white line at the Sacred Heart Church on Sunday mornings. Administrator Doyle stated that he will speak with the Code Enforcement Officer regarding this issue.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve Ordinance 1018 amending LCMC 5.05.050 relating to Business License Fees. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

2009 Council Committee Appointments: Council President Wright stated the council committee appointments will remain the same as in 2008. Some concern was raised over Councilmember Brunisholz's ability to attend his commission assignments. Councilmember Wright will review the assignment further to see if he can make some accommodation.

Councilmember O'Donnell moved to dissolve the Long Range Committee. Motion failed to lack of a second.

Arts Commission Appointments: Mayor Hayes announced his appointment of Tracy Powell to the La Conner Arts Commission.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the appointment of Tracy Powell to the Arts Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

Mayor Hayes stated that the Chamber of Commerce has requested MONA and the Quilt Museum to work with them on Arts Alive. Discussion followed on purchasing art work and seed money for the Chamber.

Mayor Hayes called for a five-minute break at 7:15 p.m.

Resolution Pursuing CTED Grant - CERB: Administrator Doyle stated that this resolution authorized the Mayor to apply for state funding by financing the cost of utility and road improvements in the Conner Way right-of-way. It would be an 80% grant to 20% loan ratio. All the Town commitments are contingent upon Triton lease and CTED grant approval.

Councilmember Wright moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the CERB Grant for Conner Way. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

Contingency Agreement between the Town of La Conner and Triton America: Administrator Doyle explained that the contingency agreement is an element of the CERB grant application, and is necessary to accommodate the proposed development for industrial use.

Councilmember Wright moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Contingency Agreement between La Conner and Triton America. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.


Lorraine Taylor, Town Clerk

Ramon Hayes, Mayor