

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
October 11, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

The meeting of the La Conner Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Hayes, Councilmembers Brunisholz, Hubbard, Tracey, Welch, and Wright.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011 regular town council meeting as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 4-0 with Councilmember Hubbard abstaining.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve checks 10832, 10880 through 10940 in the amount of \$212,762.15 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve payroll checks 2372 through 2383, #201072, and direct deposits in the amount of \$39,080.16 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. There were no comments

Chamber Report: Director Marci Plank reported that the FAM Tour will be October 16-18, 2011 with eight concierges from Canada attending. Dinner will be on Sunday night at the Swinomish Casino and includes a presentation of their new hotel. A Zombie Walk will be held from 1 – 4 p.m. on October 27th, put on by WA Sips and the Pressgang.

Revenue/Expenditure Report: Mayor Hayes reviewed the September 2011 Treasurer's Report. Ms. Taylor stated that revenues are currently at 70% and expenditures were at 64% for the year to date.

Department Head Reports:

- **Planner:** Administrator Doyle stated that until FEMA has made a determination on the Biological Opinion Implementation, the Town will be operating under Option 3. This means that any building or development plans that increase impervious surface by more than 10% will require environmental analysis for impacts to Chinook Salmon and Orca Whale. He stated he has filed the paperwork to comply for Option 2 several months ago. He stated the only thing FEMA considers is onsite mitigation to retain and dissipate the water in the current water table. It affects all of the Puget Sound area. His contention is that the Town is outside the scope of the ESA and is in compliance because none of our drainage impacts the Biological Opinion, and our drainage is in compliance with their specifications.

Mr. Doyle stated that the Planning Commission performed the Historic Design review of the proposed bicycle racks to be placed along First Street.

- **Finance:** Ms. Taylor stated that La Conner will be hosting a “Small Cities Regional Connector Meeting” at Maple Hall on Wednesday, November 30th from 6 – 8 p.m. to discuss issues relative to small cities and towns.
- **Public Works:** There were no questions on the report included in the council packet.
- **Water & Wastewater:** Councilmember Brunisholz inquired about the gallons of outside waste processed relative to the income. Sewer Operator Wynn stated that the number of wet tons processed effect the total income.
- **Fire Department:** Discussion followed on having a recruitment officer, recruitment plan, and determining equitable pay for fire calls as an incentive to attract new volunteers. These issues will be considered in the 2012 budget discussions. It was determined that Councilmember Welch & Wright are on the Safety Committee and will look into these issues relating to the Fire Department.
- **Marketing Director:** Mayor Hayes stated that Ms. Lyons will be attending the Facilities Committee meeting next week. Mayor Hayes briefly recounted the tasks that have been completed. Councilmember Welch requested looking at the municipal guidelines for the social media accounts and have council approve them.
- **Sheriff’s Department:** Sergeant Wise stated that during the Canoe Journey there was a reduction of activity that required police enforcement during the month of July. Mayor Hayes thanked Sergeant Wise for the quick coordinated police response in locking the Town down on October 3rd.

Council Committee Reports:

Councilmember Hubbard stated that she attended an Arts Commission meeting on October 3rd, and Gerald Johnson is a new member of the commission. He has volunteered to take over the Art Sculpture Walk.

Ms. Hubbard reported that the Finance Committee met on October 5th and reviewed the Lodging Taxing Advisory Committee’s recommendations on Hotel Motel taxes for 2012. The Finance Committee recommendations were presented and will be discussed at the October 25th council meeting.

Councilmember Tracey stated the Finance Committee also reviewed the proposed 2011 budget amendment recognizing the donation and grant for the skateboard park, and using REET 1 funds for assessing the trees in Pioneer Park.

The committee also reviewed renewing the Certificate of Deposit at Columbia Bank at .35% for 12 months. Since the LGIP is currently paying .13% interest, it was decided to look for another bank that would offer a Certificate of Deposit at a better rate.

Flood Control: Administrator Doyle stated he will follow up on the cost of portable flood walls. He stated that they would be very effective against the type of flood that La Conner might experience.

2011 Budget Amendment: Councilmember Hubbard stated that the Finance Committee recommended approving the budget amendment.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve the 2011 budget amendment as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 5-0.

Community Comments:

Dan O’Donnell recommended reading Ordinance #853 regarding the Fire Station Bond. He stated the maturity date is May 2012.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.