

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
October 27, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

The meeting of the La Conner Town Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Mayor Hayes, Councilmembers Brunisholz, Hubbard, Johnson, O'Donnell, and Wright.

Also present: Administrator Doyle, Finance Director Taylor, and PW Director Lease

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve checks 7940 through 7993 dated October 27, 2009 in the amount of \$103,885.55 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve payroll warrants 1706 through 1711 and direct deposits for the payroll period October 1 through October 15, 2009 in the amount of \$22,870.23 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. 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: Chamber Director Marci Plank reported that the Arts Alive is having a meeting on October 28th, and everything is on track for Arts Alive on November 6 through November 8, 2009. Ms. Plank stated that the Chamber had a "Net-at-Noon" meeting to educate businesses on social media and trip advisories.

Administrator Report: Mr. Doyle stated that he met with the Chamber and discussed sharing office space with the Sheriff's Department. The office has two separate entrances and bathrooms.

Council Committee Reports:

Councilmember Brunisholz: stated he attended a Flood Control Zone District Advisory meeting. Mr. Brunisholz stated that the committee has a list of twelve projects and La Conner is sixth on the approved project list for a ring dike.

Councilmember Johnson: stated that the Finance Committee met and reviewed the LTAC recommendation for Hotel Motel taxes. They recommended any funds left over after the bond obligations were met should go to the Chamber of Commerce. The committee recommended that the Council should make a decision during the budget process.

The committee discussed the Sunland Topsoil Proposal. The Town buys wood chips from Sunland as an amendment for producing compost, and Sunland owes the Town of La Conner \$34,608. They proposed a payment plan without interest.

Recommendation: The committee recommends the council approve the Sunland payment proposal and directed staff to check with the auditor's regarding interest on the account.

Councilmember Wright: reported that the Wastewater Advisory Board met on October 20th and recommends approval of the sewer budget for 2010.

Flood Control: Administrator Doyle stated that he and the Mayor met with Rick Larson's aid, Adam LeMieux. Mr. Doyle informed Mr. LeMieux that the Town had applied for Section 205 funding for flood control, and had been told there was not any money available. Mr. Doyle stated he had received a voice mail from Linda Smith inquiring if the Town was still interested in 205 funding. Mr. Doyle will follow up on the issue and report back to council.

I & I Study: Councilmember O'Donnell stated that the information in the memo from Mr. Henke dated 10/21/09 does not match his 8/18/09 memo. Mr. O'Donnell stated the data does not show a correlation between the rainfall and the inflow and infiltration. He stated Mr. Henke never defined the baseline, and the Town wasted \$6,000 on a study to prove we do not have an I & I problem.

Mr. O'Donnell stated he is going to push for curative efforts in the 2010 budget to start a program for solving the Town's I & I problem. He stated he is trying to equalize the percentages between the Town and the Tribe. He stated the Town is paying 70% and the Tribe 30% of the plant costs.

Peak Electric Contract – Photovoltaic Energy Project: Administrator Doyle stated the contract is for electrical construction oversight and planning for the photovoltaic project at the Compost Facility. He stated they are the most experienced contractor in the Skagit Valley.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Peak Electric. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

Sunland Topsoil Proposal: Administrator Doyle stated that there was a change in supervision at the treatment plant, and the Town and Sunland were not aware of any billing problems. The problem came to light during the efficiency study and the Town billed Sunland for \$34,608. Mr. Doyle relayed that Mr. Little stated they had been having internal problems at Sunland Topsoil, and offered to pay \$2,000 per month on the bill in addition to the credit on the purchase of wood chips.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to table the issue until the Town has heard back from the State Auditor's regarding interest on the Sunland account. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

Staff agreed to bring back a contract or agreement with Sunland Topsoil for council approval at the November 10 council meeting.

Amend LCMC Chapter 2 – Adding Lighting for Special Events:

Rick Ward, 519 Talbott, stated that he and his wife were instrumental in decorating Gilkey Square, providing entertainment, refreshments, and Santa Claus at Christmas time. He requested the council approve colored lights for the special events such as the Christmas tree at Gilkey Square.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve Ordinance No. 1036 allowing colored lighting for special events. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0.

Sewer Plant Operation: Councilmember O'Donnell stated that this is to prevent upset, pass through, and interference with processing at the La Conner Wastewater Treatment Plant, resulting from the Lone Tree Fish Company owned by the Swinomish Tribe.

Such an event happened in September for three weeks without notice because of the abundant humpy run and our NPDES limits were exceeded. This required the secondary clarifier and oxidation ditch to be started up to handle the waste. The excessive discharge triggered a surcharge of \$5,000 for the Tribe.

Mr. O'Donnell requested that this be placed on the agenda for the November 10 council meeting.

Miscellaneous:

Mayor/Council Roundtable – Mayor Hayes stated that the professional service agreement with LeGro and Associates for surveying and title clarification for properties for flood protection will be on the agenda at the November 10 council meeting.

There was some discussion between Councilmembers and the Mayor regarding a recent candidate's forum.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Lorraine Taylor, Town Clerk

Ramon Hayes, Mayor