

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
December 8, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Councilmember Wright moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember Johnson. Seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Wright moved to amend the agenda by adding the WWTP Improvements Change Order #1 under Miscellaneous. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2009 regular town council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve checks 8101 through 8155 and 200951 dated December 8, 2009 in the amount of \$220,539.74 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 3-1. Councilmember O'Donnell voted nay.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve payroll warrants 1734 through 1747 and direct deposits for the payroll period November 16 through November 30, 2009 in the amount of \$36,329.47 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 4-0.

Community Comments:

Laverne Lamboureaux, US Census Bureau, stated that the Census Bureau is partnering with cities to get the word out about the 2010 census. She said a short form will be mailed in March 2010 and if there is not a response, census workers will be contacting residents at home in June.

She stated the importance of the census is twofold: 1) 400 billion dollars will be allocated on a per capita basis, and 2) the representation of congressional districts.

Chamber Report: Marci Plank thanked the La Conner Public Works for putting up the Christmas tree in Gilkey Square, and Teresa and Rick Ward for putting up the colored lights. She stated the tree lighting was very well attended.

She stated the Chamber Board is considering the options in moving the Chamber office to a different location.

Revenue/Expenditure Report: Mayor Hayes stated that Hotel Motel receipts were down, sales taxes are at budgeted amounts, and Real Estate Excise Taxes are up due to the sale of the Dorsey property. Ms. Taylor stated that interest rates are still dropping and LGIP is paying only .36% interest currently. She

said the Town does have three CD's with local banks, but with interest rates lower than we were receiving a year ago.

Department Head Reports:

- Finance: Ms. Taylor reported that all of the funds are within their budget appropriations and all of the funds have a positive fund balance. She stated that all of the funds from WSDOT and Skagit County have been received regarding the ARRA Maple Avenue Resurfacing Project.

Ms. Taylor stated that the Town had just received a renewal agreement for 2010-2011 with the State of Washington for a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement and requested council approval.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with the State of Washington. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

- Sheriff's Report: There were no questions on the report included in the council packet.
- Fire Department: Fire Chief Taylor stated that he will be receiving some bottles for the self contained breathing apparatus in a week. In the spring he is hoping to get new SCBA's through a grant.
- Water-Wastewater: Councilmember O'Donnell requested that the data from the effluent of the belt filter press be included in the monthly report.
- Public Works: Director Lease requested refurbishing and installing the old Welcome to La Conner National Historical District sign at the entrance of Town. Council agreed to install the sign.

Mr. Lease reported that he had budgeted \$15,000 for a generator transfer switch for Maple Hall & Center in 2009. He received a bid of \$8,786 and requested council approve the Mayor to sign the contract.

Councilmember Wright moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract for a generator transfer switch with Quinton Design & Electrical Contracting. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried. 4-0.

- Administrator/Planning: There were no questions on the report in the council packet.

Council Committee Reports:

Councilmember Hubbard: stated she attended the Arts Commission meeting and they discussed the Art's Alive Show. They discussed the possibility of a wider price range of art for next years show. There is a deadline at the end of December for the sculpture show and the sculptures will be juried in January. The sculpture walk will be held in early spring.

Councilmember O'Donnell: passed out a memo to the council on the Shelter Bay agreement.

Flood Control: Councilmember O'Donnell requested that the council look at a community rating system with Dolores McCloud to reduce flood premiums. Administrator Doyle stated that three years ago he went through extensive efforts to reduce La Conner's flood rating but was unable to do so with the current point system used for measurement. He stated the Town of La Conner is penalized because it does not have ponding and pooling areas. The Mayor will research the Town's option in regards to flood control.

2010 Final Budget: Finance Director Taylor stated that the department heads had reviewed the budget again and made minor changes such as: increasing council training, increasing public utility services by 4%, adding \$20,000 for a Recreation Conservation Grant for boardwalk planning, increased the purchase of wholesale water to \$133,000, an additional transfer of \$8,000 from Fund 001 to Fund 210, and repair the Caledonia pump instead of replacing it. She stated that \$100 needed to add to the budget expenditures for annual dues to OWMBE.

Administrator Doyle stated that the Mayor's salary can be increased or decreased by the council since he is considered an employee. Councilmember's cannot increase or decrease their stipends for meetings during their terms unless they set up a salary commission.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve an appropriation of \$100 for OWMBE in the 2010 budget. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve Ordinance No. 1038 adopting the 2010 Final Budget. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 3-1. Councilmember O'Donnell opposed.

Docketed Code Amendments: Administrator Doyle reviewed the three items to be amended in the code: 1) parking permit fees for \$30 per year for local business owners and employees; 2) increasing business license fees by \$3.00 for costs relating to the purchase of parking permits; and 3) increasing the cost of an annual dog license for residents 65 years of age and older to \$2.50 for spayed and neutered animals and \$7.50 for those that are not spayed or neutered. Councilmember Wright recommended amending the language relating to dog licenses by adding "or an affidavit to that effect".

Councilmember O'Donnell moved to approve Ordinance No. 1039 adopting the docketed code amendments as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 4-0.

Biosolids Contract – Alderwood Water & Sewer District: Operator Kelly Wynn summarized the contract and the impact to the sewer plant. He stated that this will be a new supplier and they will bring between 200-300 wet tons per month and take the composting facility to its current limits.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Alderwood Water & Sewer District. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

Mr. Wynn stated that the material from Shelter Bay is not acceptable and they take their material elsewhere for processing.

Capital Facilities Plan: Administrator Doyle stated that this is the annual process for updating the plan and coordinating it with the projects in the budget. He stated that the skate park improvements at the end of Sixth Street in the amount of \$75,000 dollars need to be added on page 29.

Councilmember Wright moved to add the skate park to the Capital Facilities Plan. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – CFP: Mayor Hayes opened the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m. Stuart Welch, 314 Fourth Street, stated he was concerned about the expansion of the composting area and the potential liability for flood and the implications for the Town.

Administrator Doyle stated that according to the Department of Ecology the composting facility does not pose a pollution threat and is elevated and outside the flood plain. The yard waste debris that is collected prior to grinding is an issue for DOE.

Mayor Hayes called a break at 7:23 p.m. There was cake and coffee served in thanks for Councilmember's Johnson and O'Donnell's service to the Town.

Mayor Hayes reconvened the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Councilmember O'Donnell stated he strongly disagreed with the opinion of CHS regarding inflow and infiltration in the plan. Councilmember Hubbard requested that the skate board park be added as item #1 under Parks on page 37 of the plan. (At 7:40 p.m. Councilmember Wright left the meeting in response to a fire call.)

Administrator Doyle stated he held public workshops on the development of the Kirsch waterfront property and had discussions with the business owners. He stated the next step is to do the environmental applications and the permitting process.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve Resolution No. 444 adopting the Capital Facilities Plan as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 3-0.

Resolution – Cash Box Policy: Finance Director Taylor stated that this was a recommendation by the Washington State Auditor's Office.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve Resolution No. 445 adopting a cash box policy for the Town of La Conner. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 3-0.

Administrator Doyle stated that staff is organizing and indexing Town policies per their classification so we will not have to rely on historical knowledge.

Stipend Increase for Mayor and Council: Administrator Doyle stated that at the last council meeting it was suggested to increase council stipends for meetings. He referred to a memo from Municipal Research and a constitutional requirement that elected officials cannot vote themselves a raise. The compensation is set at the time of election, and the exception to this requirement is to establish a 10 member salary commission.

Councilmember Brunisholz inquired if councilmembers can purchase medical insurance through AWC at their own cost. Staff agreed to research the issue.

Miscellaneous:

WWTP Improvements Change Order #1:

Councilmember O'Donnell moved to approve change order #1 with Sturdeweld Construction for the WWTP Improvements. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 3-0.

Mayor/Council Roundtable: Finance Director Taylor inquired if the council will have a second regular meeting in December and the process for reviewing the accounts payable.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to cancel the second council meeting in December. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 3-0.

Councilmember Hubbard moved that the Finance Committee review the accounts payable and payroll, the Mayor and Administrator will sign the checks, and have full council approval at the January 12th meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 3-0.

Mayor Hayes thanked Councilmembers O'Donnell and Johnson for their service to the Town.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p. m.

Lorraine Taylor, Town Clerk

Ramon Hayes, Mayor