

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
March 23, 2010 – 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 Hayes, Councilmembers Brunisholz, Tracey, Welch and Wright.

Also Present: Administrator Doyle, Public Works Director Lease, Finance Director Taylor, Fire Chief Taylor, Plant Operator Wynn, and Sergeant Wise.

Councilmember Tracey moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember Hubbard. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Welch. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2010 town council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Tracey moved to approve checks 8694 through 8743 and 201004 through 201007 dated March 23, 2010 in the amount of \$219,161.63 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve payroll checks 2042 through 2048 and direct deposits for the payroll period of March 1 through March 15, 2010 in the amount of \$22,058.37 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 4-0.

Community Comments:

Dan O'Donnell, 328 N 3rd Street, requested that the council reconsider the Fair Share Adjustment with the Swinomish Tribe. He disagreed with the spreadsheet allocations created by the Town Engineer to calculate the fair share adjustment.

Administrator's Report: Administrator Doyle stated the trip to Washington DC with Mayor Hayes was valuable in presenting the issues facing Skagit County with the number of jurisdictions present and the focused message. Senator Maria Cantwell was instrumental in getting the USGS and FEMA to meet with the local officials and staff. Mr. Doyle stated that they were able to bore down into the details and review the technical issues of the flood model. Mr. Doyle stated he was encouraged that the representatives concurred with the information and issues provided in the technical meeting. Mr. Doyle stated that the meeting with the Federal Regulatory Commission over Baker Dam issues was less focused and not as successful. He stressed the importance of unity among the jurisdictions in the county in addressing the

issues that occur. Mr. Doyle stated that FEMA withdrew the flood maps in January and they will not release them until they have done a full review and considered the technical material presented.

Mayor Hayes stated it was a team effort between the elected officials and the technical staff.

Administrator Doyle reported that he had received a letter from Fire District 13 regarding some issues over the last year. He will be meeting with them regarding their concerns.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hayes stated that he had received only one response to the salary commission advertisement, and he is contacting residents to serve on the commission. Councilmember Welch stated that the council had authorized the Mayor with the responsibility of seeking candidates.

Mayor Hayes stated he is organizing a skate board park committee for fundraising and meeting with the Skagit County Sheriff's office regarding police services.

Council Committee Reports:

Facility: Councilmember Tracey stated the committee met and discussed hiring a Facility Coordinator to market town facilities. The committee felt there was an opportunity to increase revenue with the right person.

Councilmember Welch stated that Maple Hall is only rented 25% of the time. The committee explored a tourist lodging tax, grants, and creating a contract position or hiring an employee. He stated they should be able to determine within 90 days of hiring a person for the position if they are bringing in additional revenue. He stated that if the position is based only on commission, the Town would need to provide some funds for marketing tools, travel to events, etc. It was agreed to discuss the issue at the next council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING - Town Security Cameras: Mayor Hayes opened the public hearing at 6:48 p.m. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed at 6:48 p.m.

Code Enforcement Officer Bill Stokes stated that the Town can purchase two cameras with high resolution with the \$10,000 grant available. The public works crew would prepare the two camera sites saving additional costs. The cameras would be placed at the roundabout and the bridge and be in weather proof enclosures. Discussion followed on privacy issues, public access to records, and crime deterrence.

Mayor Hayes stated that the cameras would be linked to the internet 24/7, and additionally he would like to create a neighborhood watch.

Councilmember Tracey moved to approve the purchase and installation of two web based cameras with high resolution (including software) for town security with the \$10,000 grant. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Vote was tied 2-2, with Councilmembers Welch and Wright voting nay. Mayor Hayes broke the tie vote by voting yes. Carried 3-2.

Miscellaneous:

Mayor/Council Roundtable: Mayor Hayes stated that the Maple Avenue project has been approved but has not received funding yet.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.