

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
March 8, 2011 – 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 Hubbard, Tracey, Welch, and Wright.

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

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

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to amend the agenda by removing the Water Supply Agreement with the City of Anacortes. Seconded by Councilmember Welch. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2011 regular town council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 2-0. Councilmembers Hubbard and Wright abstained.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve checks 10012 through 10075 in the amount of \$238,405.04 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve payroll checks 2246 through 2256, 201048 and direct deposits in the amount of \$38,331.11 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 4-0.

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: Marci Plank stated that the Seattle Concierge's visited La Conner on March 4th and the Vancouver B.C. Concierge's may be visiting in May or June. She stated that Skagit County is creating a County Tourism Bureau which will charge an additional fee of \$2 per room for facilities with more than 40 rooms.

Revenue/Expenditure Report: Mayor Hayes stated Hotel/Motel and sales tax receipts were up, but interest earnings were dismal.

Department Head Reports:

- **Planner:** Mr. Doyle attended a two day workshop on the NFIP last week, and stated that in 2005 the National Wildlife Foundation sued FEMA stating that they encouraged development in river floodplains endangering salmon habitat. NWF won the law suit and now FEMA is required to

mitigate further takings, leaving local jurisdictions with three options for development. He stated that the Town of La Conner will adopt option #2 which requires a jurisdiction as a whole to be in compliance with the ESA Checklist. This will entail an analysis of the available developable land in Town and present scientific evidence that the stormwater drainage meets ESA Checklist requirements. He stated he reserved some DOE grant monies from the SMP Update and will use it to comply with the requirements since the two issues overlap. The date for compliance is September 22, 2011. He stated he has written an article for the La Conner Weekly News regarding the National Flood Insurance Program.

Mr. Doyle stated that Susan Musselman, legal counsel, has taken a final review of the Solar Electric Project and has identified two issues that will greatly affect the investment: 1) the higher tier incentive rate is not guaranteed, and 2) program participation is voluntary on an annual basis by PSE. He stated that although neither scenario is likely, it is a possibility. He stated he has been in contact with PSE this week and will pursue options on a project by project basis.

- Finance: There were no questions on the report included in the council packet.
- Public Works: There were no questions on the report included in the council packet.
- Water & Wastewater: Operator Wynn stated he will write an article for the La Conner Weekly News about tours at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the composting facility. Administrator Doyle stated that information about the facilities will be added to the Town webpage.
- Fire Department: Britney Fink, Training Officer, requested \$1,000 for the safety program for items such as pencils, hats, etc. to be handed out to children. It was the consensus of the council to use some planning funds for the program.
- Sheriff's Department: There were no questions on the report included in the council packet.

Council Committee Reports:

Councilmember Hubbard: reported on the following items discussed by the Finance Committee:

Public Works Mobile Office - the bid amount was under the \$35,000 threshold approved by council, but the tax brought the total to \$36,980.33 for the new mobile office.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve \$36,980.33 for the new mobile office for the Public Works Department. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 3-1 with Councilmember Welch voting nay.

Certificates of Deposits – Councilmember Hubbard moved to secure a one year CD with 1st Security Bank at the rate of .75%. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 4-0.

Ms. Hubbard also stated that the committee recommends approving a Certificate of Deposit with Whidbey Island Bank if the interest rate is sufficient to offset any fees for moving the funds from the LGIP Account.

Councilmember Welch reported that the Skateboard Park met and Grindline has submitted the construction plans, and Administrator Doyle has applied for the Tony Hawk Foundation Grant.

Councilmember Wright stated that the Utilities Committee met with the City of Anacortes and stated the Town was not ready to sign the contract yet with the third year left open ended.

Councilmember Welch stated that the Streets Committee met and discussed the 2nd Street project. The Gaches Mansion has some concerns regarding angle parking and don't want to move the fence.

Professional Services Contract - Terre-Source Contract LLC: Administrator Doyle stated that all of the reports by Ms. Thomas were included in the council packet. He stated that the contract was included

in the 2011 budget. Councilmember Welch stated he would like to see a business marketing plan with bench marks.

Ms. Tamara Thomas stated that she feels the WSU Study may not take three years because of the integrated relationship in the Skagit Valley. She stated that marketing the finished product is very important and the necessity of having a plan and implementing it. She stated that using the compost around the Town demonstrates what the product can do for plants.

Mayor Hayes stated that identifying and resolving odor issues and marketing the finished product are crucial.

Councilmember Tracey requested that the Town provide free compost for a week to facilitate marketing the product. Councilmember Welch expressed concern about the possibility of drugs and chemicals in the compost and liability. There was discussion regarding posting of test results and use approval from the Department of Health along with other concerns. The Council agreed to discuss these options further in Council Committee sessions.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the Professional Services Contract with Terre-Source LLC in the amount of \$25,000. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

Water Reservoir Retaining Wall – Bid acceptance & award:

Councilmember Wright moved to accept and award the bid for the Water Reservoir Retaining Wall to Interwest Construction in the amount of \$19,000, not including tax. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

Equinox Contract – Boardwalk & 2nd Street TIB Grant: Administrator Doyle stated this is for the boardwalk and he will have the 2nd Street portion of the agreement in the morning. The two projects are related and the archeological and inventory study is holding up the 2nd Street TIB project. He stated he would like approval for both and would provide the dollar amount to council by email tomorrow.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the contract with Equinox for an archeological and inventory study for the boardwalk and the 2nd Street TIB project. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

2011 Budget Amendment: Finance Director Taylor stated that the amendment was basically housekeeping items and the Finance Committee had recommended approval.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1063 approving the 2011 Budget Amendment. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 4-0.

Mayor/Council Roundtable: Councilmember Tracey wanted more information about why Kenmore Air was not coming to La Conner this year. She stated they are a valuable addition to the Town and the Tulip Festival. Mayor Hayes stated part of the problem revolved around the necessity for a business license, but he will call the manager of Kenmore Air and try to resolve the problem.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Lorraine Taylor, Town Clerk

Ramon Hayes, Mayor