

*Town of La Conner*  
Town Council Meeting  
May 12, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.  
Upper Maple Center

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

Present: Mayor Hayes, Councilmembers Brunisholz, Hubbard, O'Donnell, Johnson, and Wright.  
Also Present: Administrator/Planner Doyle, Public Works Director Lease, Finance Director Taylor, Plant Operator Kelly Wynn, and Sergeant Wise.

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**Approval of Agenda:**

**Councilmember Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2009 Town Council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Accounts Payable:**

**Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve checks 7383 through 7441 dated May 12, 2009 in the amount of \$140,634.24 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Payroll:**

**Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve payroll checks 1590 through 1603 and direct deposits for the payroll period of April 16 through April 30, 2009 in the amount of \$37,855.53 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. 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 public comments.

**Chamber Report:** There was not a Chamber Report.

**Department Head Reports:**

- **Revenue/Expenditure Report April 2009:** Ms. Taylor stated that the Hotel/Motel and investment earnings are below projections, but sales tax receipts are on target. Ms. Taylor passed out the bank reconciliation spreadsheet for the 2007 audit from the State Auditor's Office. She stated that \$96,000 in property taxes was received on 5/11/09 and is not reflected in the April report. Additionally, the Town received a \$37,000 payment from Channel Cove for past drainage fees relating to Skagit Housing Solutions.
- **Planner's Report:** Mr. Doyle stated he will be signing off on the PURD for Channel Cove.
- **Finance Report:** Ms. Taylor emphasized the reason for the delay in the 2009 budget amendment was due to the fact that the Town is waiting for additional direction from the Auditor's Office.

Councilmember O'Donnell suggested that there needs to be more communication with our water & sewer customers, such as the latest increase in rates, and suggested the Mayor use the billing statements for information.

Councilmember Wright inquired about the RFP for the new financial software. He suggested contacting other cities that are currently using the software. Ms. Taylor stated that she and the Administrator had visited two cities last fall to view the software in a real work environment, and would follow up with phone calls to determine their continued level of satisfaction with the software.

- **Public Works:** PW Director Lease presented the council with a schedule for the WA Loop Project. The start date is May 18<sup>th</sup> with a tentative completion date the week of July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Fire Department:**  
**Councilmember O'Donnell moved to declare a proclamation and purchase a plaque for Volunteer Fire Fighter Zdenek Weig for his service to La Conner. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 5-0.**
- **Sheriff's Department:** Councilmember Johnson asked about the required distance allowed for parking a car from a stop sign. Councilmember Wright stated it was 15'. She stated there has been a parking problem on the streets near the ballfield.
- **Water Wastewater:** Councilmember O'Donnell stated he found a source for alder sawdust for the Water Wastewater Treatment Plant at \$65.00 per unit.

#### **Council Committee Reports:**

**Councilmember Brunisholz:** stated that the Facilities Committee met to discuss the ballfield lease that has lapsed, and who is responsible for the financial and liability issues. Administrator Doyle stated he met with Little League to discuss their use of the field, and he will also meet with the Hedlin family.

**Councilmember Johnson:** stated that the committee also discussed getting bids for the cost of repainting the interior of Town Hall. The committee will review the bids and come back with a recommendation.

**Councilmember O'Donnell:** requested a meeting of the Utilities Committee to discuss a RFQ for the I&I Study.

**Councilmember Wright:** inquired about the progress on developing the Explorer Scouts program. Administrator Doyle stated he had not been able to meet with the Fire Chief yet.

**Flood Control:** Councilmember O'Donnell stated that the Flood Control Assistance Program does not have any funding for FCAAP for the next two years. Mr. O'Donnell requested that Councilmember Brunisholz be added to the Flood Control Committee. Council concurred.

Councilmember O'Donnell requested pursuing purchasing the land east of La Conner Whitney to the existing dike from Mr. Lervik, and then hire someone for design to fill the gap. Mayor Hayes requested a formal proposal from Councilmember O'Donnell.

**RCM Policies:** Bill Stokes, liaison for the Resource Conservation Manager for SCOG, stated that Ric Boge has requested that La Conner adopt the policy to focus on utility savings for daily operations in government offices.

**Councilmember O'Donnell moved to adopt Resolution No. 437 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Resource Conservation Management Policy as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 5-0.**

**Miscellaneous:** Mayor Hayes referred to the letter clarifying the use of the Garden Club September 10-13, 2009 from Gretchen McCauley. Council was satisfied with the additional information and agreed to a rental fee of \$195 for the four days.

**Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve the request to use the Garden Club at the community rate in September, 2009. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 5-0.**

La Conner Channel Lodge Letter: Council discussed the fact that the Town's recording equipment can only accommodate six microphones, the Town will only set up one microphone as a courtesy, and the need for businesses to hire their own recording technician. It was agreed that the Administrator will meet with them and discuss the issue.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Hayes responded to Councilmember O'Donnell's memo of 5/4/09 regarding sewer credits, and stated they have been applied and council has reviewed the issue several times. Councilmember O'Donnell stated that the Town had gone back to January 2005 to credit the sewer accounts. Administrator Doyle stated that the issue had been brought to council a year ago, and council instructed staff to go back three years to apply the credits. He stated that all the information on the accounts was also discussed and presented at a Utility Committee meeting last year. Mr. O'Donnell recommended developing a policy stating how many years back the Town will adjust utility billings that are under or overcharged. He agreed to draft a resolution.

Councilmember O'Donnell requested that Resolution No. 425 be amended to reflect the auditor's recommendation. Council concurred.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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Lorraine Taylor, Town Clerk

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Ramon Hayes, Mayor