

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
May 25, 2010 – 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, Tracey, and Welch.

Also present: Administrator Doyle, PW Director Lease, Finance Director Taylor, and Engineer Evan Henke.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve the absence of Councilmember Wright. Seconded by Councilmember Welch. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Welch moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2010 regular town council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Tracey moved to approve checks 8917 through 8963, 201011, 201012 dated May 25, 2010 in the amount of \$65,211.53 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve payroll warrants 2081 through 2087 and direct deposits for the payroll period May 1 through May 15, 2010 in the amount of \$22,130.18 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.

Administrator Report: Mr. Doyle reported that the Skateboard Park Grant had been submitted. He outlined additional item he needs:

- An inventory of the individual volunteers, area of expertise, and the value of their donated time
- The level of their commitment
- Letters of support from individuals and community groups

Mr. Doyle stated that he will be doing a presentation in August and he will know the status of the grant in September.

Councilmember Welch requested that Mr. Doyle draft a letter for the volunteers with the information needed to be distributed to the volunteers. Mr. Doyle agreed to draft the letter.

Administrator Doyle stated that due to the short turn around time for the ring dike grant, he was only able to send a letter of intent to secure a qualification slot. He is not sure the Town will qualify for the grant.

Mr. Doyle stated that he researched the Department of Commerce grant and stated the Town did not qualify for it. The Town Council would have to declare an imminent danger and it would have to be validated by a third party.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hayes thanked Molly McNulty for the success of the Skagit Valley Poetry Festival. Ms. McNulty reported that the three day event is held every two years, and is one of the best and biggest poetry festivals in the country. She thanked the Town of La Conner for their support.

Council Committee Reports:

Councilmember Tracey: stated that they have over 100 people on the Facebook page for the Skateboard Park. The La Conner Rotary will be serving hotdogs and hamburgers on the 4th of July as a fund raiser. They have obtained the Pepsi wagon and Councilmember Welch is working on the music for the fund raiser.

Councilmember Welch: stated he met with officials from Skagit County regarding the prescription drug return program and that La Conner will be a pilot project for the County. They will be using the Snohomish County model that uses the police departments as a drop off. Snohomish County may have an extra receptacle box that La Conner can use. He stated that after further research, the programs using the police departments are not as effective as the ones that involve the community, and he prefers locating the box in the drug store.

Water Comprehensive Plan Update: Engineer Evan Henke stated the public hearing involves the water comprehensive plan and the water use efficiency rules. He stated the public hearing is a requirement for the water use efficiency guidelines to look at adopting goals for water conservation.

PUBLIC HEARING – Mayor Hayes opened the public hearing for the Water Comprehensive Plan Update at 6:29 p.m.

Dan O'Donnell, 328 N 3rd Street, La Conner, stated he had four disappointments with the plan:

- The need to review the Town's legal duties and risks as a purveyor of water to Skagit Beach.
- The lack of a plan for agricultural water.
- The lack of a conservation plan.
- The lack of any discussion of the rate setting process with the City of Anacortes.

Mr. O'Donnell read a list of 13 additional minor items he felt needed to be addressed in the plan.

Mayor Hayes closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Henke stated that the water tank does have cathodic protection. When it was recoated it included a zinc underlayment and a polymer.

Mr. Henke stated that delay in the water comp plan was in part due to the water/sewer rate study and for financial reasons. He stated that the Department of Health did the first review of the plan in December 2009 and in March 2010 their suggested revisions were incorporated. The Town now needs to adopt and

approve the plan and then it will be resubmitted to DOH for their final approval. It is a six year cycle and the next update will be in 2016.

Mr. Henke stated that during the negotiations with the City of Anacortes this year, the issue of providing water to the agricultural users at a reduced rate would be a part of the discussions. He stated there is a 4” line to Skagit Beach but no fire flow. If the residents in Skagit Beach want fire flow they will need to form an LID to provide it and the Town of La Conner is not required to provide it.

Mr. Henke stated the Washington Department of Health requires submission of a water system plan every six years. The plan needs to provide detail for how the water system is operated and maintained, review the water use efficiency goals, and discuss the Capital Improvement Program. In 2008 the DOH mandated that the plan have a Water Use Efficiency component for conservation. The Town of La Conner has two goals – 1) maintain unaccounted/non-revenue water to less than 10%, and 2) reduce the Average Daily Demand by 2% by the year 2014.

Councilmember Brunisholz suggested putting on the monthly utility bills a resident’s consumption history. Mr. Henke stated that water consumption has had a downward trend and it may be due to rate increases or newer appliances using less water. He suggested promoting water conservation and putting an article in the local newspaper.

Mayor Hayes called a five-minute break at 7:19 p.m. and excused himself from the meeting. Mayor Pro-tem Hubbard chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Henke stated there are six projects identified in the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan at a total estimated cost of \$896,000. The CIP is used to be eligible and apply for grant funding, and is a component of usage rates. There are three additional projects outside the 6-year window – one being the replacement of the existing 8” & 14” AC water transmission main along La Conner/Whitney Road.

Councilmember Welch requested that the plan address the issue of reclaimed water for agricultural users in the future. Mr. Henke stated he would add a paragraph under system analysis and in Chapter 8 under Capital Improvements.

Mr. Henke stated that the council needs to set the goals for the water comprehensive plan and the utility committee can determine how the goals will be implemented.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve Resolution No. 450 adopting the Water Use Efficiency goals. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 4-0.

Councilmember Tracey moved to approve Resolution No. 451 the Water Comprehensive Plan Update. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 4-0.

Miscellaneous: Councilmember Welch inquired about the 8’ right of way near the barbeque pit. Mr. Doyle stated it is not owned by La Conner Associates and there is no discrepancy in the plat. There is a maintenance agreement for the right of way when construction begins.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.