

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
June 23, 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 O'Donnell, Johnson, and Wright.

Councilmember Johnson moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember Brunisholz and Hubbard. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 3-0.

Also present: Town Administrator Doyle and PW Director Lease

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the agenda as amended by removing the WWTP Contract Addendum. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 3-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2009 regular town council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell. Carried 2-0. Councilmember Wright abstained.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve vouchers 7531 through 7577 dated June 23, 2009 in the amount of \$228,644.10 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 3-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve payroll warrants 1624 through 1629 and direct deposits for the payroll period June 1 through June 15, 2009 in the amount of \$23,092.80 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 3-0.

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 stated he has been busy with grant applications and opened it up to questions.

Councilmember O'Donnell inquired about South 1st Street being open for vehicular traffic. Mr. Doyle stated it is completely open for pedestrian traffic, but he and the PW Director made the decision to keep it partially closed because it did not meet road standards.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hayes stated that he will be providing to the council some proposed policy on meeting guidelines to review when all of the council is present.

Council Committee Reports:

Councilmember O'Donnell: stated that he attended a County Flood Control meeting and the proposal to include lower Baker Dam flood storage was not included.

Councilmember Johnson:

- 2009 Budget Amendment: the committee reviewed the proposed budget amendment and recommend approval at the July 14 council meeting.
- Vision Municipal Software: the committee reviewed the contract, the modules required, and the cost. They recommend the council authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Vision.
- Policy on vacation hours: currently employees cannot accrue vacation hours in excess of their annual accrual amount. It was recommended that the council consider this issue at the July 14 meeting.

Policy on Billing Corrections to Utility Customers: Administrator Doyle stated that Town Attorney Furlong had reviewed the policy and recommended not passing an ordinance but develop a policy on billing corrections. Mr. Furlong stated that in each situation there are a number of legal and technical issues and he recommended that all billing corrections be referred to council for consideration after legal and staff review.

Councilmember O'Donnell moved to table the issue. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING: Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program

Administrator Doyle stated that this is the Town's six year rolling transportation plan. It lists the road and transportation projects relative to La Conner to be placed on the Capital Facilities Plan for grant funding.

PW Director Lease stated that he held a public workshop on the Six-Year TIP on June 16th. He briefly outlined the proposed projects:

- Project 1 – S 2nd Street: WA to Douglas was placed as a priority due to the improvements being made on the current WA Loop Project.
- Project 2 – S 1st Street: this project will replace sidewalks on the east side and the water main. On the west side replace the water meters and service lines.
- Project 3 – Conner/Sherman Street: this will bring sewer, water, power, drainage, and street design to the Industrial Area.
- Project 4 – Road Street: improvements for school traffic.
- Project 5 – State 1st to 3rd: very poor road conditions and drainage.
- Project 6 – State to 6th Street: drainage, resurfacing and a new sidewalk.

Council discussed the need for a 5' gravel walkway up 3rd Street from Center to State, and requested an estimate of additional cost for extending the sidewalk on the east side of Maple all the way to Caledonia.

At 6:37 p.m. Mayor Hayes opened the public hearing for comments. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed at 6:38 p.m.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve Resolution No. 440 adopting the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed Amendments to Residential Use on Morris Street

Administrator Doyle explained that the purpose of the Planning Commission in recommending the amending of LCMC 15.35.035 Commercial Zone and 15.50.120 District/Neighborhood Zone was to

provide for structures on Morris Street that were originally constructed as single-family residence and, 1) provide a vital potential for economic opportunities for owners on Morris Street; and 2) retain the desired streetscape on Morris Street.

At 6:45 p.m. Mayor Hayes opened the public hearing.

Laura Campbell, 114 2nd Street stated she does not live in the historical district, but her property is zoned commercial and would like for her property to be considered for residential also.

Sheila Herzog, 205 Morris Street has a rental cottage in the back and inquired if it would it be possible to have two rentals on a property? In the future, could the property revert back to commercial?

At 6:48 p.m. Mayor Hayes closed the public hearing.

Mr. Doyle stated that this allows businesses on Morris which were originally constructed as single-family residence to become 100% residential again in the Historical District. It does not take away the use of a cottage rental, and permits both uses. In the case of reverting back to commercial, the county code regulating mixed use often trigger sprinklers and the necessity to determine what other conditions might occur. It would have to go through a change of use permit.

Councilmember Wright moved to refer the issue back to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 3-0.

LCMC 12.10.090 – Residential Sewer Cap:

Councilmember O'Donnell moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1026 as stated. Motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Councilmember Johnson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1026 by removing the month of June and leaving the sewer cap at 700 cubic feet. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 2-1. Councilmember O'Donnell voted nay.

Vision Software: Administrator Doyle stated that Vision Software was created by the people who were formally with ASP Software. It is designed for Washington State accounting and auditing practices, can create the required reports, it is a cash basis system, and is recommended by the Finance Committee. The business license module will not be available until 2010, and Mr. Doyle stated he does not see the need for a Permit Module at this time. Discussion followed on the six month warranty period, compatibility with the WA State reporting requirements, and the purchase of a Microsoft SQL Server for five users. It was agreed to pursue more information on these issues. Mayor Hayes has requested that Attorney Furlong write a letter to Springbrook Software requesting some consideration for the cost of the software.

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve Mayor Hayes sign the contract with Vision Software. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 2-1. Councilmember O'Donnell voted nay.

Mayor Pro-Tem:

Councilmember Johnson moved to appoint Councilmember Wright as Mayor Pro-tem for six months. Seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell. Carried 3-0.

Memorial Benches Contract: Councilmember Wright inquired about the plaques on the original memorial benches in Town. PW Director Lease stated that the plaques had deteriorated and been given back to the Chamber of Commerce who had originally taken the lead on the benches. The Chamber was to contact the families, but Mr. Lease has not heard back from the Chamber on this issue.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the Memorial Bench Contract. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING: Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program

At 7:20 p.m. Mayor Hayes reopened the public hearing for further comments.

Bob Raymond, 608 2nd Street S., stated that he feels 2nd Street operates well, and had several questions about the project.

At 7:27 p.m. Mayor Hayes closed the public hearing.

PW Director Lease stated that the 2nd Street project will leave in place 450' of existing sidewalk and he will hold 2-3 public workshops on the project. He stated that the state funding will set the criteria and standards for the project. The road condition is very poor and the utilities have elevated the priority of this project.

Miscellaneous:

Councilmember O'Donnell requested that the 2008 Annual Report be added to the agenda at the July 14 meeting, if feasible.

Mr. O'Donnell also submitted to the Mayor for approval a proposed memo to Jesse Hofheimer at the City of Anacortes.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Lorraine Taylor, Town Clerk

Ramon Hayes, Mayor