

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
August 11, 2009 – 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. by Mayor Hayes.

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

Councilmember Johnson moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember Hubbard. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 4-0. (Councilmember Hubbard arrived at 6:06 p.m.)

Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Hayes requested that the council discuss the letters regarding the turkeys under Miscellaneous.

Councilmember Johnson moved to amend the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2009 Town Council meeting as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to approve checks #7688 through 7729 dated August 11, 2009 in the amount of \$93,055.88 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve payroll checks 1652 through 1665 and direct deposits for the payroll period of July 15 through July 30, 2009 in the amount of \$37,258.44 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. 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: Cindy Tracey, Chamber of Commerce President, reminded the council that on August 15th the Classic Yacht & Car Show will be held in La Conner.

Department Head Reports:

- **Revenue/Expenditure Report:** Ms. Taylor stated that she was on vacation and will present the July Treasurer's Report at the August 25, 2009 meeting.
- **Administrator's Report:** Mr. Doyle stated he would like to reconvene the Long Term Planning Committee in regard to the Alternative Futures Project for council input in the process. He requested a meeting of the Utilities Committee to discuss the new transfer station. Mr. Doyle stated that no one came to the public workshop on the webcams.

- Public Works: Director Lease stated that the concrete curbs on Maple Avenue were poured on August 11, 2009. Mr. Lease stated that the Water Comprehensive Plan will be concluded this year.
- Water Wastewater: Councilmember O'Donnell requested copies of the tables for the I&I study presented by Engineer Evan Henke at the last council meeting and a report from Terre Source on the Compost Efficiency Study.
- Fire Department: Fire Chief Taylor stated that the Fire Department is at a critical level of staffing. Since June they have lost 3 of the most active and skilled volunteers. They need 5 in the Explorers Program to form a troop with the scouting program, and the next opportunity to sign up for the Fire Academy is next year.
- Sheriff's Department: Sergeant Wise stated that the number of arrests for alcohol problems had increased, but the number of alcohol complaints had decreased.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hayes stated that the Red Hat Ladies were appreciative of the council declaring the first Saturday in August as the Red Hat Society Day. Mayor Hayes stated that sales tax revenue for July was up 25% over last year. He stated he believed it was a combination of good weather, extending the Tulip Festival into May, and the television commercial. Cindy Tracey, Chamber President, concurred.

Mayor Hayes reported that they are waiting to hear from the school regarding a lease for the skateboard park.

Council Committee Reports:

Councilmember O'Donnell: requested a Utilities Committee meeting regarding the Shelter Bay contract.

Flood Control: Councilmember O'Donnell state that on August 12th in Seattle, the US Geological Survey, Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific International Engineers, and Chal Martin of Mount Vernon will meet to resolve the hydrology and hydraulics of the Skagit River. He stated it is very important meeting because it will condition the base flood elevations for La Conner.

Mr. O'Donnell requested that the council consider hiring Dolores McCleod of Skagit County to review the CSR rating of La Conner.

Amending First Street Vacation:

Attorney Brad Furlong stated that La Conner Associates and Dunlap Towing, Inc. requested vacation of a portion of South First Street for dedicated Public Access Improvements creating a promenade adjacent to the bank of the Swinomish Channel. Ordinance No. 1006 called for the Town to obtain an appraisal of the portion to be vacated and the petitioners submitted funds to pay for the initial appraisal, and the council determined it should fund a second appraisal. He stated that the Town has been paid back by the first appraiser, and the error in the legal description has been corrected. This ordinance requires that the document be recorded by September 25, 2009 after the payment of \$175,000 is received.

Councilmember Hubbard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1031 amending Ordinance No. 1066 regarding vacating a portion of South First Street. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 3-2. Motion carried, Councilmembers O'Donnell and Brunisholz opposed.

Discussion followed on several items raised by Councilmember O'Donnell.

LCMC 15.35 – Proposed Amendments to Residential Use on Morris Street:

Councilmember Wright moved to accept the proposed amendments to Residential Use on Morris Street. Seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Carried 5-0.

Ballfield Lease Agreement with the Hedlin Family:

Councilmember Hubbard moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the lease in the amount of \$5,000 for the ballfield. Seconded by Councilmember Wright. Carried 5-0.

Councilmember Wright thanked the Hedlin family for their generosity.

Miscellaneous:

- **Skagit Bay Search and Rescue** -Mayor Hayes stated that the Skagit Bay Search and Rescue has requested a community rate for the rental of Maple Center on October 24, 2009.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the community rate for the Skagit Bay Search and Rescue on October 24, 2009. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

- **Rotary** – Mayor Hayes stated that the Rotary will be holding their annual auction on August 29, 2009 in Maple Hall and are requesting the free use of the parking lot.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the free use of the parking lot for the annual Rotary auction. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 5-0.

- **Turkey population:** Mayor Hayes stated that he has received several letters regarding problems with the current turkey population.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to eliminate all of the turkeys in La Conner. Seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell. Failed 2-3, Councilmember Hubbard, Johnson and Wright opposed.

Councilmember Johnson moved to reduce the turkey population by humane means to seven. Seconded by Councilmember Hubbard. Carried 3-1, Councilmember O'Donnell opposed and Councilmember Brunisholz abstained.

Roundtable:

Finance Director requested scheduling the Budget Class on September 8th from 5-7 p.m. prior to the regular council meeting. Council concurred with the request.

Councilmember O'Donnell requested that the reconciliation of the water bill for 2007 with the City of Anacortes be placed on the agenda for 8/25/09 meeting.

Councilmember O'Donnell stated he believes the Town should support the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Doyle suggested exploring a contract between Park and Recreation and the Boys and Girls Club.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Lorraine Taylor, Town Clerk

Ramon Hayes, Mayor