

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
September 27, 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 Tracey, Welch, and Wright.

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

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

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Tracey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Welch. Carried 3-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve the minutes of the September 13th, 2011 regular town council meeting as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Welch. Carried 3-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve checks 10830 through 10878, dated September 27, 2011 in the amount of \$86,416.97 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Tracey. Carried 3-0.

Approval of Payroll:

Councilmember Wright moved to approve payroll warrants 2366 through 2371, 201070 and direct deposits for the payroll period September 1 through September 15, 2011 in the amount of \$22,840.66 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Welch. Carried 3-0.

Community Comments:

Marci Plank, Chamber of Commerce Director, stated she wanted to inform the council about the new La Conner Tourism group that includes the Port of Skagit, Swinomish Tribe, Chamber, La Conner and the business community.

Tom Hill, 705 S First Street, stated that some of the cities had issues with the interlocal agreement with the Skagit County Tourism Bureau, and it has been postponed until after the election in November. It will be an election issue to determine where the candidates stand on the issue. They will meet to set up the charter and keep moving forward.

He stated the La Conner Tourism Committee was formed in response to the tourism study done by Ken Saunderson. They are going to review the Saunderson tourism plan to determine how to implement the suggestions to promote tourism. The structure of the La Conner Chamber needs to be the promotion of tourism and to bring people to town to do business. He stated the main draw is the uniqueness of the Town of La Conner.

Administrator's Report: Administrator Doyle stated that he has completed the FEMA Grant in the amount of \$120,000 for personal protection equipment for the volunteer firefighters.

He stated the Upper Skagit Tribe has withdrawn its application for a comprehensive amendment and rezone.

Mr. Doyle stated he has completed an Option 2 Compliance application to FEMA. He feels our documentation is adequate to comply with the biological opinion for FEMA rules. He stated we are not a part of the drainage that goes into the Skagit River which is a primary issue.

Mr. Doyle stated that all of the bids for the Community Solar Project have expired, and he will be revisiting the project for marketing it in consultation with bond agent he previously had been working with. He stated that PSE is required to participate and do not have the option to opt out.

Mr. Doyle stated the kiosk for the Community Solar Educational Project is complete. He is coordinating with the Bonneville Foundation to provide educational materials to the La Conner School District to include solar and resource curriculum in all three schools. He stated he is coordinating with PSE for an event kick off.

There was an inquiry about the security cameras, and Public Works Director Lease stated they are installed, but do not have an internet connection due to the cost.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hayes stated he has received an application and will be appointing Gerald Johnson to the Arts Commission. He is awaiting another application from a resident.

Mayor Hayes stated he has coordinated a meeting with the Port of Skagit, Port of Anacortes, the Swinomish & Upper Skagit tribes, Dunlap Towing and Commission Dalhstedt regarding the dredging of the channel. They will continue to meet monthly. The Port of Anacortes and Dunlap Towing are researching the benefits of purchasing a dredger versus contracting for dredging. He stated the Upper Skagit Tribe is taking the lead in lobbying in Washington DC for fishing grounds. He will be drafting a letter to all the electives on how important this issue is.

Council Committee Reports:

Councilmember Welch stated he met with Administrator Doyle regarding the Shelter Bay Agreement.

Water Supply Agreement - Shelter Bay: Administrator Doyle stated that he and the Town Engineer had reviewed the cost structure and proposed rate to Shelter Bay. He stated the agreement contains an aggregated number and costs, and after analysis shows that it covers the cost of the Town. Shelter Bay has reviewed and approved the agreement.

Councilmember Wright moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Water Supply Agreement with Shelter Bay. Seconded by Councilmember Welch. Carried 3-0.

2012 Preliminary Budget:

Finance Director Taylor stated that the expenditures exceeded the projected revenues in the preliminary budget was due to proposed capital projects, not operating costs. She stated the council will need to decide how to fund the bond payments. Ms. Taylor stated a budget workshop has been set prior to the next council meeting on October 11th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with the regular council meeting starting at 7 p.m. At that time the council will be discussing vision and goals for the 2012 budget in addition to reviewing the public works budgets.

Councilmember Welch inquired about senior discounts on property taxes and the effect it may have on the budget. Ms. Taylor agreed to check with the Skagit County and report back to the council.

Community Comments:

Administrator Doyle stated that Fire Districts 11, 13, 17, and Anacortes are considering forming a Fire Authority, and it may have impacts on the budget. He stated the council needs to review a levy lid lift and our taxing authority regarding the future of the fire department.

Tom Hill, inquired about the possibility of establishing an email database for town residents to communicate information. He suggested putting in the utility bills a request for residents who would be interested in sharing their email accounts.

Miscellaneous: Councilmember Welch suggested the council needed to set up protocols regarding public records and archiving for our Twitter and Facebook accounts. Administrator Doyle stated that the Marketing Director is working on this issue.

Councilmember Welch inquired about the public works trimming trees that are leaning in Pioneer Park. Mr. Lease stated he budgets every year for trimming, but he may need to consult with an arborist for this issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:43 p.m. Mayor Hayes stated the council would be going into executive session for approximately 10 minutes regarding a real estate acquisition and the value of real estate.

At 6:51 Mayor Hayes reconvened the regular session of the council meeting and stated no action had been taken.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Lorraine Taylor, Town Clerk

Ramon Hayes, Mayor