

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
January 11, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Councilmembers Taylor, Carlson, Dole, Chamberlain and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas and Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Davolio, WWTP Operator Wynn, Sgt. Willard of the Sheriff's Department and Assist Fire Chief Avery.

This meeting was held electronically on Zoom. Information to join was posted at Town Hall, the published Agenda in the La Conner Weekly News and on the Town Website.

Oath of Office:

Councilmember Carlson Position 2, Councilmember Dole Position 3 and Councilmember Chamberlain Position 4, were sworn into their Council positions.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Presentations:

Resident Dan O'Donnell discussed the Anacortes 2021 Reconciliation. His figures show the Town will be billed \$5,589.91, but there should be a refund of \$18,526.00 due to overhead charges the Town should not have been included in.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of December 14, 2021

Accounts Payable 2021 Closeout:	Checks 24688 – 24714	\$92,002.10
Auto Payments	201762 – Leasehold Tax	\$1,621.64
	201763 – CC Process Fees	\$134.20
	<u>201764 – Parking Mtr. Fees</u>	<u>\$45.88</u>
	Total December 2021 Closeout	\$93,803.82
Accounts Payable Jan 11, 2022:	<u>Checks 24715 - 24724</u>	<u>\$125,249.26</u>
	Total January 11, 2022 Claims	\$125,249.26
Payroll of January 5, 2022	Checks 5502 - 5510	\$20,138.42
Auto Payments:	DCP #201759	\$2,241.00
	PERS #201760	\$8,448.09
	PR Taxes #201761	\$6,126.20
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$18,644.41</u>
	Total Payroll	\$55,598.12

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carlson. Motion carried 5/0.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes stated even though we budgeted conservatively for 2021, the taxes were at a historic high.

Planner's Report:

Discussions confirmed the equipment on the property behind Pioneer Market belongs to the Library project. Final plans for the Center Street Project have not been submitted.

Public Works:

Discussions included the power outages, brown outs and flooding.

Moore Clark Building:

Mayor Hayes stated debris has been falling from the rafters and the Town has deemed it unsafe. There will be a letter sent to the property owners regarding the issues, and the Town will be fencing off the area to keep the public out.

Fire Department:

Assistant Fire Chief Avery gave a year end summary of the Fire Departments activity for calls and trainings. Also, he asked about the generator. Public Works Director Lease is meeting a contractor tomorrow for an estimate.

WWTP: Discussions included grants for solar panels and availability of grants. Water Wastewater Plant Operator Kelly Wynn has been with the Town for 41 years.

Sheriff's Department:

Sgt. Willard, Mayor Hayes and Councilmember Dole discussed an incident with an individual, who turned aggressive in the end, and complemented the Sheriff's response time arriving within minutes of the 911 call. Mayor Hayes stated we need eyes and ears in our community and spoke in favor of a citizen's patrol. Also, Citizen Bruce Bradburn shared an incident involving a visitor staying at the Planter Hotel and one of the employees shooting out vehicle windows with a pellet gun. He suggested cameras placed in specific spots in Town. Sgt. Willard stated the Sheriffs have begun foot patrol in Town day and night.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes stated he, representatives of the Library and hopefully someone from the Tribe will be petitioning the State for more funding in the amount of \$625,000, due to the increase of cost in materials and labor.

The Mayor also shared the outcome of the 2019 and 2020 Audit. The real estate sale and purchase of the Kurch and Maple Filed properties were found to be completely clear. Overall, it was a clean audit.

Ordinance No. 1207 – Correcting Scrivener Errors fo the 2022 Budget:

Finance Director DeGoede explained a few of the cells in the spreadsheet did not add into the balance. This is to correct the issues for the final 2022 Budget

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Ordinance No. 1207 correcting the 2022 Budget. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution No. 592 in Appreciation of Councilmember Leaver:

Mayor Hayes read the Resolution acknowledging John Leavers service to the Town from September 2012 through December 2021.

Councilmember Dole moved to approve Resolution 592 in appreciation of John Leaver. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution No. 593 in Appreciation of Councilmember Stokes:

Mayor Hayes read the Resolution acknowledging Bill Stokes service to the Town from January 2013 through December 2021.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Resolution No. 593 in appreciation of Bill Stokes. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution No. 594 in Appreciation of Councilmember Brunisholz:

Mayor Hayes read the Resolution acknowledging Jacque Brunisholz service to the Town from August 2009 through August 2021.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Resolution No. 594 in appreciation of Jacque Brunisholz. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution No. 595 in Appreciation of Public Works:

Mayor Hayes read the Resolution acknowledging Public Works service to the Town during the holidays due to the challenges of the recent weather conditions and vandalism.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Resolution No. 595 in appreciation of Public Works. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 5/0.

La Conner School Sculpture Agreement:

Administrator Thomas explained the sculpture in front of Maple Hall is owned by the school and on loan to the Town. This agreement will extend the time through December 2023.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Mayor to sign the agreement between the Town and the La Conner School, to extend the loan of the sculpture through December 2023. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carlson. Motion carried 5/0.

La Conner Chamber Lease Agreement:

Administrator Thomas explained this is an amendment to the agreement for their use of the Fireside Room. During COVID, they could no longer afford their previous location. This agreement will extend the lease through December 2022, but they are actively looking for another location and expect to be out within the first quarter of this year.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the lease agreement between the Town and the La Conner Chamber. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem:

Because there are three new Councilmembers, it was decided to appoint Councilmember Wohleb as Mayor Pro Tem for the next six months, and reverse the order to Councilmember Chamberlain for the next appointment.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Councilmember Wohleb as Mayor Pro Tem for the next six months, with the next appointment in reverse order to Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Hayes stated there will be an Executive Session to discuss Real Estate for the next ten minutes.

7:17 Began the Executive Session

7:30 Administrator Thomas announced they will need another five minutes.

7:35 Executive Session ended. There were not decisions made.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor