

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
January 26, 2021 – 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 Brunisholz, Leaver, Stokes, Chamberlain and Wohleb.
Also present: Administrator Thomas and Finance Director DeGoede and Public Works Director Lease.

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.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments at this time.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda
Approval of the Minutes of January 12, 2021

Accounts Payable:	Checks 23783 - 23818	\$80,991.06
	<u>Electronic Pmts. – 201677 Excise Tax</u>	<u>\$6,785.47</u>
	Total Accounts Payable	\$87,776.53
Payroll of January 20, 2021	Checks 5329 - 5334	\$1,980.56
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201676	\$7,886.11
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$25,167.47</u>
	Total Payroll	\$35,034.14

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

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes stated he, Councilmember Wohleb and Administrator Thomas met with the Citizen's Advisory Committee to discuss the Maple Ballfield. Discussions included the lack of grant opportunities and the existing proposal. He felt the meeting was very transparent.

Resident Mike Ritchie expressed his appreciation for the time the Mayor, Councilmember Wohleb and Staff spent with the Citizen's Advisory Committee regarding the Maple Ballfield. Many questions were answered on how we got to where we are now. They are still looking for answers for lesser development and more park, maybe half of each. They want to bring more ideas to Council, such as a levy for a vote of the Town citizens. There is still some confusion on the timeline and the next steps for committees and Council.

Resident Rick Dole stated this project is not new and has been in Council discussions for months.

Mayor Hayes agreed the public has been kept informed for over nine months. Council chose the one-year option for first right to purchase. During that time the Planning Commission has been working on the Comprehensive Plan Amendments to include the rezoning of the Hedlin property to all residential, for the opportunity of increased density. The next step is the survey.

Councilmember Wohleb suggested the Planning Commission come up with pros and cons of alternative percentages for park and residential, to help Council with the decision of the percentage allocation.

Council Committee Reports:

WAB:

Councilmember Brunisholz reported on the WAB Meeting. The Treatment Plant is running well and they just purchased a new screener for composting.

Arts Committee:

Councilmember Leaver stated there will be a meeting on Friday regarding a sculpture donation, “Puddles”. It is currently in front of the Blackfish Gallery. Councilmember Wohleb noted she sent the meeting link to the Parks Commission members for an opportunity to attend. Councilmember Leaver reminded everyone of the February 5th First on First shopping night in Town.

There is the possibility of another Clayton James art donation to the Town, but it is still extremely preliminary.

Streets Committee:

Councilmembers Stokes and Chamberlain reported the meeting involved discussion on the parking provisions for new construction. Currently there is an annual fee for lack of parking. The change would be a onetime new construction fee of \$5,000 per space. This upfront fee would reduce the financial burden of the current annual fee.

2021 Tribal Sewer Rates:

Administrator Thomas explained this rate increase is based on information provided by the Town to our Engineer, Evan Henke. The 2020 Fair Share is a refund to the Tribe of \$6,636.50 and the new 2021 Rate will be .4748.


Resident O’Donnell tried to comment at this time, but was having technical difficulties with his computer. Mayor Hayes suggested submitting written comments for the record.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the 2021 Tribal Sewer Rates. Motion seconded by Councilmember Brunisholz. Motion carried 5/0.

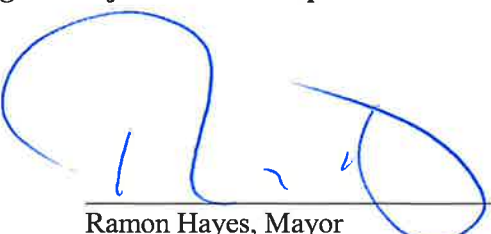
Shelter Bay:

Councilmember Leaver questioned Shelter Bay’s future water supplier. They hired an engineer to compare water costs of the Tribe and the Town, as well as a possibility of reviving their own water system. Mayor Hayes stated they don’t agree on the costs and include a dispute letter with every bill. They have also sent formal letters on our charges. We have sent all the information to them and we are confident in what we are charging and have acted appropriately.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor