

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
April 25, 2023 – 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, and Chamberlain.

Also present: Administrator Thomas and Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease and Planner Davolio.

This was a hybrid meeting held in person and 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.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to excuse Councilmember Wohleb. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 4/0.

Public Comments:

Resident Linda Talman informed Council she is on the SCOG Non-Motorized Advisory Committee and urged the Town to apply for the grant to improve walking and biking. May 12th is the deadline date to apply.

Resident Mollie Rice addressed the need for more handicap parking in Town.

Resident Bill Stokes is disappointed on how long it is taking for the Moore Clark Building issue. The Town needs access to the Town property the building is sitting on to complete the First Street Project.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the April 11, 2023 Council Meeting

Accounts Payable:	Checks 25979 - 26011	\$127,577.38
	<u>Electronic Pmts. 2018103 Excises Tax</u>	<u>\$8,313.04</u>
	Total Accounts Payable	\$135,890.42
Payroll of April 20, 2023:	Checks 5708 - 5713	\$3,247.50
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #2018102	\$7,491.28
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$22,433.42</u>
	Total Payroll	\$33,172.20

Councilmember Dole moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes talked about the history of Shelter Bay and the 75-year lease that expires in 2044. Due to reevaluations of the land, the leases have doubled. Ultimately, the Tribe and Shelter Bay need to come to terms on the master lease that comes due in 30 years. At this time, banks have already stopped giving 30-year mortgages and are uncertain of 15-year loans.

Council Committee Reports:

Arts Commission: Councilmember Taylor reported Hallie Walls will be replacing Rachel Haley as the representative for the student position on the Art's Commission. Also, the Commission is looking for budgeted funds for upcoming maintenance and repair of art in Town and possibly storage during the winter for specific pieces.

Emergency Management Commission: Councilmember Dole reported they had their first meeting and Commissioner Stokes was voted in as chairman. The meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.; possibly in the Fireside Room. There needs to be a Flood Response update, the last one was 2016. The first priority of the Commission is to establish plans for the next flood season in the fall.

Communication Committee: Councilmember Chamberlain noted there will be some overlapping of collecting Community input between the Communication Meetings and the Planning Commission in regards to the Comprehensive Plan.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Thomas noted previous discussions on the Jensen Property involved the possibility of affordable housing. Currently the Legislature has made quite a bit of funding available in the next year for affordable housing projects.

Agreement - PSNR Grant:

Administrator Thomas explained this is for the engineering and design study of the WWTP for the upgrades.

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the Mayor to sign the PSNR Grant. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carlson. Motion carried 4/0.

Town Parking:

Administrator Thomas explained this discussion is primarily on First Street. Issues such as parking spaces monopolized due to no time limits, traffic flow is impeded by the number and size of vehicles parked, as well as trucks and motorhomes have a difficult time navigating the street with vehicles coming from the opposite direction. Also, buses don't have room to drop off or pick up passengers that are ability impaired, which also includes the needed parking for our Senior Center. Staff preferred option is to make First Street one-way with angled parking.

Mayor Hayes stated this is a small Town and this has always been an issue. We worked with the Port for free Merchant parking on the North end and we also provided businesses with a business license free parking passes in the Town lot. The next problem was to encourage them to use them, which some have.

Planner Davolio reported his inventory of 350 parking spaces within First, Second and the side streets. Next, he will do an inventory of all the existing businesses and compare that to our zoning for a protocol on what needs to be addressed.

Resident Bill Stokes (former Code Enforcement Officer) discussed the following:

- First Street one-way with angled parking. Issues are Second Street residents would end up a thruway.
- Install signage for time limits of parking along First Street. No one to monitor the parking.
- Installing solar operated parking meters. No one to monitor the parking, however, conservatively estimated, the cost of the meters would be covered in the first year.
- A trans-system transporting people to and from the parking lot.
- Completing the First Street Project for traffic flow one way to Caledonia Street and to the Town parking lot.

Mayor Hayes discussed the issue of crossing Maple Avenue and the need for flashing lights at the crosswalks. Cars are not stopping for people to cross the street. Public Works Director Lease is getting quotes, but roughly the cost is between eight to ten thousand dollars each, and that is just for the equipment.

Ordinance 1228 – 2023 Budget Amendment:

Finance Director DeGoede explained this covers the PSNR Grant in both the revenue and expenditures for the Sewer Fund. The remainder increases to expenditures are due to unexpected cost increases.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Ordinance 1228, for the 2023 Budget Amendment. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 4/0.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:40 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor