

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
April 28, 2020 – 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, Finance Director DeGoede and Public Works Director Lease.

This meeting was held electronically on Zoom. Information to join was posted on the Town website.

Public Comments: No Public Comments

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of April 14, 2020

Accounts Payable:	Checks 23113 - 23143	\$77,009.28
	Voided Check - 23107	
	Electronic Pmts. - 201608 Leasehold Tax	\$1,276.79
	201609 Excise Tax	\$5,140.38
	201610 Parking Mtr. Fees	\$34.04
	Total Accounts Payable	\$83,460.49
Payroll of April 20, 2020	Checks 5192 - 5197	\$1,875.57
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201607	\$6,192.99
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$18,104.43</u>
	Total Payroll	\$26,172.99

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

Mayor Hayes assured Council he and staff are working on the budget revisions and will keep them updated as we go. He also discussed the financial hit on the Chamber due to the COVID-19 restrictions. They have not been able to get sponsorships with the businesses all closed, as well as concern of the Hotel Motel funding. Chamber Director Carter will be canceling the Classic Car and Boat Show due to no funds to have the August event and has had to change her hours to part time with unemployment to compensate her wages. Another issue is the Chamber/Visitor's Center will have to close if she can't find some help to relocate due to no funds to pay the rent. Mayor Hayes would like to relocate the Chamber/Visitor's Center to the Fireside Room at Maple Hall, to help get them back on their feet, with the goal to reopen on Morris Street within two years. It was the consensus of the Council to have the La Conner Chamber/Visitor's Center move to the Fireside Room. Administrator Thomas will draft an agreement and Public Works Director Lease will look at securing the room.

The Town has had problems with visitors following the social distancing restrictions. Sgt. Willard suggested pavement markings six feet apart outside the businesses that are selling takeout meals, coffee and ice cream. Also, Public Works put up social distancing signs throughout Town, along with a "Stay Home, Stay Safe" flashing light at the entrance of Town. Mayor Hayes noted it did make a difference. He had some difficulty with two businesses with one eventually complying.

With upcoming budget cuts, Administrator Thomas expressed concern of the extra costs involved with weekend additional needs during the restrictions, such as the rental of the flashing light at the entrance of Town.

Councilmember Wohleb has received positive feedback from the residents regarding the implemented measures taken to protect the Town.

Caledonia Pump Station Bid Recommendation:

Public Works Director Lease was very pleased with the outcome of the bids. Equity Builders LLC has done many lift-station projects. He recommended Council to approve Equity Builders LLC for the Caledonia Pump Station project and the Mayor to sign the agreement. The project is estimated to begin in September.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Equity Builders LLC for the Caledonia Pump Station and for the Mayor to sign the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Pile Grinding Bid Service Recommendation:

Public Works Director Lease noted there were two bids received. He recommended Council approve C. Johnson Construction for the compost pile grinding service and the Mayor to sign the agreement.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve C. Johnson Construction for the pile grinding service and the Mayor to sign the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 5/0.

ChargePoint Cloud Plan Renewal:

Public Works Director explained this is a renewal for the cloud monitoring of the car charging station. He recommended the one year Option One for \$650.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the ChargePoint Cloud Monitoring Plan for one year. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Lautenbach Recycling:

Finance Director DeGoede explained the agreement is for the transport of recycling bins to the Treatment Plant. They need it for recycling of scrap metal.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Lautenbach Recycling agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 5/0.

United Protection Service:

Mayor Hayes brought in extra protection to patrol the Town during COVID -19 restrictions, due to the vulnerability of the businesses and residents. To start immediately, Administrator Thomas signed the agreement and needs it to be ratified by Council. This is a temporary service that will continue until the Governor's restrictions are lifted.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve ratifying the United Protection Service agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 5/0.

Mayor Hayes stated even though there will be budget cuts, the projects we have to move forward with are the Caledonia Pump Station and the Maple Hall Elevator.

Administrator Thomas updated Council on the homeless camp at the end of Caledonia Street. The Sheriff has been out a few times. The one left is the motor home and they told the Sheriff they can't start the vehicle as the person they bought it from is holding the key as collateral for payment. An idea was to have a key made for them. Councilmember Stokes was told a different story and believes they are scamming us. He feels we should be following the Town Code and have them towed out, as they have been there for about three months. After discussions on leaving them alone during this time and the cost of towing, it was decided to post the notice to be towed.

There were further comments on the upcoming National Teachers Appreciation Week, updates on COVID-19 and grants for small businesses

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor