

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
May 28, 2019 – 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.

Councilmembers had a Levy Site Tour at 5:00 p.m. returning to Maple Hall for the 6:00 p.m. regular meeting. All Councilmembers were present.

Public Comments:

Resident Jerry Shull is concerned about the speeding and has been trying to get more stop signs on Center Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets. He feels anything within a mile from the school should have a speed limit of 15 to 20 miles an hour. Mayor Hayes stated there are several areas of concern in La Conner that have been under discussion internally. Next year will focus on traffic measures in Town. Third Street also needs some kind of deterrent to slow down cars.

Resident Linda Talman discussed the 2018 Year of the Bird, marking 100 years of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Town recognized it by resolution to include landscaping that attracts birds in future projects. She acknowledged the Port on the beautiful landscaping they have completed south of the Marina. Also, she feels strongly that the Dike should not be a trade-off for the Kirsch Property, where historically there were buildings that stored hay and grains. We do need a comprehensive flood plan and she suggested the funds for the shoreline restoration be put towards the dike and questioned if there was any action towards flooding from the Channel.

Resident Madeline Roozen spoke in support of keeping the Kirsch Property even if we don't do anything for the next ten years. She is also in support of the dike but not at the expense of losing the Kirsch Property.

Glen Johnson, resident of Mount Vernon discussed his dike plan and feels strongly it should be on the north side and constructed with the soil materials we already have. Greg Ellis spoke in favor of Glen's dike plan, and sees it as a model for other communities by providing sustainability and affordable housing.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda
Approval of the Minutes of May 14, 2019

Accounts Payable:	Checks 22128 - 22155	\$131,858.03
	Electronic Pmts.	
	#201524 CC Process Fees	\$75.00
	#201525 Parking Meter Fees	\$371.96
	#201526 April 2019 Excise Tax	\$5,997.43
	Total Electronic Payments	\$6,444.39
	Total Accounts Payable	\$138,302.42
Payroll of May 20, 2019	Checks 5025 - 5030	\$1,386.24
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201522	\$5,743.87
	Payroll Auto Deposit	\$18,753.86
	Total Payroll	\$25,883.97

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

Mayor Hayes and Administrator Thomas chose to forgo their reports for the next meeting.

Arts Commission:

Councilmember Leaver shared they have eleven invitees for Art's Alive.

Dike Discussions:

Mayor Hayes and Council felt the Levy Site Tour was very beneficial in giving a clearer picture of the areas of discussion. Administrator Thomas distributed a handout consisting of current and proposed flood elevations and insurance rate maps, Resolution 398 adopted in 2007 showing the plan of action the Town had set out for itself, a plan of the proposed levy and a memo from CHS Engineers explaining the different options for the levy.

Mayor Hayes recapped the past Army Corps of Engineers levy plan and the 2015 study. Their proposed cost to help the Town was approximately five million, in which the Town would be responsible for about half. We couldn't afford their help and an Army Corps of Engineers approved dike would not be certified. This plan and any others are for practical protection and will not lower insurance rates in Town. There were discussions on acquiring a LOMA like Channel Drive did, but Administrator Thomas stated LOMAs are primarily smaller modifications to the flood insurance rate maps, not the size of the Town. The Town would require high cost hydrology studies.

Evan Henke of CHS Engineers explained the possible routes. The stretch behind the school to North Third Street has always been a part of the plans, but from there it was initially to follow along Town property up to the asphalt and would require sandbagging. The other route would follow the slough tying into the treatment plant. Both are about equal in length. Also discussed was the different levy options that were permanent, temporary or hybrid, which is a little of both. The Mayor and Council agreed it should be either the sheet pilings (60% higher in cost but lower maintenance) or the earth and dike. The infrastructure needs to be established for future additions in height if necessary.

Other items discussed were a walking feature on the dike, the maintenance equipment limitations, the costs of the needed equipment, including a maintenance road alongside the dike, the issues for Drainage District 15 and the deployment/storage/life span of temporary options. The elevations of the La Conner Whitney Road will not protect the Town for the 100 year flood. The Army Corps of Engineers study shows the flooding sources for La Conner are the Sterling area east of Burlington and the Riverbend area.

Mayor Hayes asked Council to absorb all the information for this site tour and meeting and for new pricing on the sheet pilings option

Agreement - CHS/Mavrik Marine (Plan Review and Drainage Design Engineering Fees)

Agreement - CHS/Port (Plan Review Engineering Fees for Binding Site Plan)

Administrator Thomas explained these are pass-through agreements. The Port and Mavrik Marine will pay the Town, and the Town will pay CHS Engineers.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve both CHS Agreements with Mavrik Marine and the Port. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 5/0.

Town Art/Sculpture Requirements:

Currently there are no criteria or standards for guidance to approve the installation of any art or sculpture on public or private property in Town. Councilmember Brunisholz provided his written example for a review and approval process for the installation of sculptures and art. Linda Talman of the Planning Commission noted not only is there no language for guidance of a review, there is not a category for Art. It should include criteria for color, height, width, and distance from the sidewalk. Staff will provide a draft for Council review.


Resident Jamie Baugh read an example of art review from Washington DC.

Mayor Hayes left the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Wohleb resumed the meeting.

Mayor/Council Roundtable:

Councilmember Brunisholz would like a provision identifying a north extension of the Boardwalk identified in the Capital Facility Plan. He also would like it on the next Agenda. Discussions led to the issue going North was private property and the issue going south was the commercial businesses loading boats.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor