

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
June 13, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

The meeting of the La Conner Town Council was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Mayor Hayes

Present: Councilmembers Carlson, Dole and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, Planner Davolio and Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Reinstra.

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 Dole moved to excuse Councilmembers Taylor and Chamberlain. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carlson. Motion carried 3/0.

Public Comments:

Resident Jim Matthews noted there was not a second Public Comment on the Agenda per his request at the last meeting. Mayor Hayes explained it was looked into and MRSC confirmed most cities have one public comment on the agenda. The agenda is published a week prior to the meeting giving the public time to reach out to staff or Councilmembers with questions, or to submit comments and questions in writing prior to the meeting.

Ollie Iversen, resident and Parks Commissioner read his statement in support of saving and maintaining the Fish Slide, urging the Council to rethink their decision of May 23, 2023, to remove it.

Resident Marilyn Thostenson stated the development behind her home started work before 7:00 a.m. and was excessively loud. Code Enforcement Officer Reinstra will follow up, as the Town Code is no construction before 8:00 a.m. Also, she was very involved in the Fish Slide Sculpture and would like to see it saved.

Resident Glen Johnson noted he is in favor of keeping the Fish Slide and knows a sculptor, who is interested in fixing it.

Matt May of Mount Vernon submitted an email read by Administrator Thomas, in favor of Tiny Home Villages. He believes the Jenson Property would be ideal for such a project, and to ensure completion and remain long-term low-income housing, it should not be done by a private developer.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the May 23, 2023 Council Meeting.

Accounts Payable:

	Checks 26096 - 26157	\$168,485.55
Electronic Payments:	#2018118– US Bank Fees	\$411.66
	#2018119 – Invoice Cloud Fees	\$155.00
	Total	\$169,052.21

Payroll of June 5, 2023	Checks	5727 - 5733	\$2,973.29
Electronic Payments:	#2018113	AWC Benefit Trust	\$14,004.22
	#2018114	Deferred Comp	\$2,241.00
	#2018115	PERS Retirement	\$10,308.68
	#2018116	Teamsters Benefit	\$6,972.80
	#2018117	Payroll Taxes	\$7,724.30
		<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$23,721.75</u>
		Total Payroll	\$67,946.04

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 3/0.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the Sales Tax for May dropped again with a decrease of just about \$20,000 from last year. However, this was a late season for the Tulips, so hopefully we will see an increase next month. The remaining taxes were solid.

Department Head Reports:

Planning:

Planner Davolio shared the parking study along North and South First Street found the Town actually has more parking spots available than required by our ordinance. However, that doesn't resolve the parking issue during the tourist season.

Public Works:

Councilmember Dole reported the Water Audit was excellent with no findings of negative impact.

Fire Department/Code Enforcement:

Fire Chief Reinstra noted his concerns on the upcoming 4th of July and reminded everyone no fireworks are allowed in Town.

Sheriff's Department:

Mayor Hayes shared Sgt. Montgomery is retiring and today was his last day working with the Town.

Council Committee Reports:

Emergency Management Commission: Councilmember Dole reported discussions included:

- Engaging and coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers on protecting the Town
- The Town is collecting the flood height data, because the Government is not doing it.
- Identify the Library as a cooling space for hot days.
- Educating the public to receive community notifications.
- A community time bank as a cheaper and quicker way for recovery after a disaster.

Pioneer Park Tree Removal:

Administrator Thomas explained the Park analysis found 27 trees that need to be removed. However, because Public Works Director Lease is out on vacation, he requested to table this discussion for the next meeting.

Councilmember Dole moved to table the Pioneer Park Tree Removal. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 3/0.

Resolution 623 - Appointment to the Planning Commission:

Mayor Hayes has appointed Sommer Holt to the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Dole moved to approve Resolution 623 appointing Sommer Holt to the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carlson. Motion carried 3/0.

Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem - Carlson:

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Councilmember Carlson's appointment as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 3/0.

6:48 p.m. Councilmember Taylor joined the meeting by Zoom.

Mayor Roundtable:

Councilmember Dole recommended a resolution honoring UPS driver, Hector Soltero, as an honorary citizen of La Conner.

It was the consensus of the Council to recognize the UPS driver, Hector Soltero.

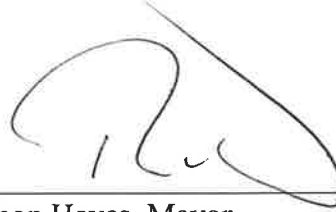
Councilmember Dole questioned how we could remove advertising kiosks in Town. Many of them are unused and in disrepair. Administrator Thomas stated we would first have to find out who owns them and that can be a challenge, as there is no owner or contact information on most of them. It was suggested to tag them with a time limit for claiming. Administrator Thomas will look into it.

Councilmember Wohleb discussed the Snapdragon Hill construction project. The excessively loud construction started around 6:45 a.m. Also, the eight-foot setback was in question. Code Enforcement Officer Reinstra will visit the construction site first thing in the morning.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:53 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor