

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
June 27, 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, Chamberlain and Wohleb.

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

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.

Public Comments:

Resident Debbie Aldrich requested the Planner not approve a building permit for the 306 Center Street Project and wanted confirmation the project will comply with the height restrictions.

Resident Linda Talman asked if a bird assessment and replacing trees was part of the tree removal project in Pioneer Park. She also reminded Council of the availability of DNR Grants.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the June 13, 2023 Council Meeting

Accounts Payable:	Checks 26158 - 26195	\$132,546.03
	<u>Electronic Pmts. 2018121 Excises Tax</u>	<u>\$9,486.26</u>
	Total Accounts Payable	\$142,032.29
Payroll of June 20, 2023:	Checks 5734 - 5739	\$3,455.85
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #2018120	\$7,637.74
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$22,828.90</u>
	Total Payroll	\$33,922.49

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

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes invited two Councilmembers to the WWTP for the tour with Marna Hanneman and himself on Friday June 29th at 10am. Councilmembers Dole and Carlson accepted the invitation. He will also be attending the upcoming Growth Management Meeting.

Council Committee Reports:

Emergency Management Commission: Councilmember Dole reported they are working on setting the ecology blocks on the south end of Town, but need to confirm with the Upper Skagit Tribe on placing them on their side of the fence. The ecology blocks planned for the East side of the WWTP have to go through the County permit process that could take up to 18 months. The Commission is also planning a walk through with Public Works Director Lease to assess the North end of Town. The Commission decided to reduce their meetings to one a month; to be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Parks Commission: Councilmember Wohleb reported the kiosks are repaired and setup in Town again.

Agreement – Berk Consulting:

Administrator Thomas explained this agreement will provide two facilitators who will attend the July 11th meeting for a SWOT Analysis and facilitate the July 24th retreat meeting. The cost is more than expected at \$11,000.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Agreement with Berk Consulting. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carlson. Motion carried 5/0.

Pioneer Park Tree Removal:

Public Works Director Lease explained the focus was on hazard trees that could cause harm along the trails. Next will be the bid process for removing them. He had considered replanting new trees, but that is not necessary with the new growth. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward. The topic of a bird analysis will be discussed by staff.

Fish Slide:

At the last Council meeting, Council decided to remove the Fish Slide due to the structural issues and ongoing costs. Parks Commissioner Iversen asked Council to give the community the opportunity to try to save the slide. It was the consensus of the Council to give the Community the opportunity to save the slide with the understanding all costs are covered through fundraising.

Mayor Hayes noted the upcoming costs Council will be discussing at the retreat will include critical decisions on public safety and rising costs of projects and wages.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:54 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor