

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
June 28, 2022 – 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, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Davolio, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Reinstra and Sgt. Montgomery of the Sheriff's Department.

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 Linda Talman requested detailed information on public comments for meaningful minutes for future reference.

Resident Dan O'Donnell questioned when the Tribal Sewer Rates were approved by Council.

Resident Kathy Shiner asked how to get an item on the Council Agenda. Administrator Thomas explained the process.

Presentations:

Christy King of 15174 Channel Drive, La Conner, requested a plaque for the Bob Patterson art work displayed in Maple Hall. Council referred her to the Arts Commission. Mayor Hayes has already initiated contact with the Arts Commission.

Assistant Fire Chief Avery gave a presentation on the need for a fire boat. Mayor Hayes will help make arrangements for the presentation to go before the Port Commissioners. It should also go before other entities in the area, such as Anacortes, Shelter Bay and the Swinomish Tribe. The two boats of interest are the Safe Boat and the Landing Craft. Both are between \$300,000 and \$400,000. Also discussed was grant requirements.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the May 24, 2022 Meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 7, 2022 Special Meeting.

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| Accounts Payable: | Checks 25131 - 25165 | \$129,000.24 |
| | Electronic Pmts. – 201809 Excise Tax | \$7,436.80 |
| | Total Accounts Payable | \$136,437.04 |

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Payroll of June 17, 2022 | Checks 5584 - 5589 | \$2,747.24 |
| | Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201808 | \$6,776.16 |
| | <u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u> | <u>\$19,998.16</u> |
| | Total Payroll | \$29,521.56 |

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

Chamber Report:

Chamber Director Carter stepped down from her position for another job opportunity. The Chamber Board is working on a strategy for a replacement.

Expenditure and Revenue Reports:

Mayor Hayes stated the Sales Tax last year was the highest in history and as of May of this year, the Sales Taxes are just over 50% budgeted. Hotel Motel is not as robust, but still stable.

WWTP:

Mayor Hayes recognized Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Wynn in receiving another award from Department of Ecology.

Council Committees

Facility Committee: Councilmembers Carlson and Chamberlain reported on the Facility Committee meeting. The Fire Hall roof is leaking and needs to be replaced. The cost for a short-term roof of up to ten years is approximately \$85,000 and a long-term roof for up to 30 years is \$165,000. Public Works Director Lease explained the intent is to go for the long term for future solar panels.

Also discussed was the installation of cameras. One placed on Maple Hall facing down First Street and up towards Town Hall and another on Town Hall facing down to Maple Hall and viewing the front reception area in Town Hall. Costs would be approximately \$1,900 per installation and \$85.00 a month per each camera. The committee felt the benefit was not worth the expense, but further discussions with the Sheriff's Department will be beneficial.

Communications – Ad-Hoc:

Councilmember Chamberlain reminded everyone the second public forum will be on June 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Club.

Parks Commission:

Councilmember Wohleb reported:

- Waterfront Park Pavilion permitting has been delayed with the County.
- The fish slide repairs will be done by volunteers.
- There has been no word on the Solar Grant as yet.
- There has been no word on the Love La Conner Sculpture.
- The Roger Small Sculpture has been installed at the base of the Benton Street Stairs.
- Artist Tracy Powell donated his sculpture called the Peace Dove. It has been installed in the Peace Park.

Sixth Street Pump Replacement:

Public Works Director Lease recommended Ackerman Electric with a bid of \$16,038.31 for the electrical modifications to the 20-year-old pump station panels.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Ackerman Electric Bid Award for the Sixth Street Pump electrical updates. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Six Year Transportation Update

Capital Improvement Plan, Storm Water Project Updates

Capital Improvement Plan, Water Project Updates

Public Works Director Lease explained this is his Six Year Transportation Improvement Updates at 5.2 million, which has to coincide with the Capital Improvement Plan projects. These projects are listed by priority with a total cost of 15 million. It was the consensus of the Council to accept the recommended updates to the Six Year Transportation Updates and the Capital Improvement Plans.

Mayor Pro Tem:

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Councilmember Chamberlain as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 5/0.

Agreement – Pitney Bowes:

Finance Director DeGoede explained the postage machine agreement expires in October of this year. Due to problems with the machine, we are changing to a new one now.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Agreement with Pitney Bowes for the new postage machine. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 4/1 with Councilmember Carlson voting nay.

Agreement – Community Action Water Assistance:

Finance Director DeGoede stated this is for utility billing assistance for delinquent customers. Because of uncertainty of Community Action receiving more funding, it is only good to October.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Agreement with Community Action for utility billing assistance. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution 605 – Personal Policy 413 (Sick Leave):

Administrator Thomas stated in the past few years, legislature has been busy making changing and adopting several statues. This revised policy will bring us in compliance with State Law.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the updates to the Personal Policy 413, Sick Leave. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 5/0.

There was discussion on the costs for the Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades. They are not included in the earlier total costs of 15 million from Public Works Director Lease.

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



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor