

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
July 11, 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, Public Works Director Lease 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.

Public Comments:

Resident Leslie Smith, felt Airbnbs and short-term rentals should be added to the threat list for the Council Retreat review as they are a threat to affordable housing.

Resident Debbie Aldrich expressed her concern on the parking on Center Street. It was bumper to bumper parked cars during the La Conner Live Concert. Where are the cars going to park for the 306 Center Street Project?

Resident Linda Talman stated we have an opportunity to do the right thing with short-term rentals and focus on our community, families and the survival of our schools.

Resident William Smith questioned the reference of Airbnb and short-term rental. Staff will direct this question to Planner Davolio when he returns to the office.

Resident Gary Nelson discussed the parking issues on Morris Street and how the Center Street Project will just exasperate the problem.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the June 27, 2023 Council Meeting.

Accounts Payable:

	Checks 26196- 26244	\$102,340.45
Electronic Payments:	#2018127 - Invoice Cloud Fees	\$153.80
	#2018128 - US Bank Fees	<u>\$263.48</u>
	Total	\$102,757.73

Payroll of July 5, 2023	Checks	5740 - 5747	\$4,054.06
Electronic Payments:	#2018122	AWC Benefit Trust	\$13,646.08
	#2018123	Deferred Comp	\$2,241.00
	#2018124	PERS Retirement	\$10,780.28
	#2018125	Teamsters Benefit	\$10,459.20
	#2018126	Payroll Taxes	\$9,128.73
		<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$29,261.37</u>
		Total Payroll	\$79,570.72

Councilmember Wohleb noted a misspelling in the minutes.

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

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the Sales Tax for June dropped again with a 3% decrease from the estimated budget. However, Hotel Motel is 7% over the estimated budget. The remaining taxes were solid.

Department Head Reports:

Public Works:

The speed cushions have been installed on Center and Talbot Streets and have slowed down traffic. Also discussed was the Town is unable to obtain a Franchise Agreement with Ziple as they are the successor to the lines that historically have been franchised by the State.

Fire Department/Code Enforcement:

Fire Chief Reinstra explained he has received complaints regarding the Town docks being used by commercial fishing boats that are damaging the docks and noise complaints due to fireworks. He is also working closer with Planning on addressing non-permitted construction in Town.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes reported on his tour at the WWTP and the composting process. Also, he will be putting together a proclamation for the Tom Robbins Day, to include presenting him with the key to the Town. A parade and festivities will also take place, put together by a few citizens.

Council Committee Reports:

Emergency Management Commission: Councilmember Dole reported the Commission will now meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be a walking tour of the North end of the Channel.

Agreement – Talmon Infrastructure Improvement Agreement (306 Center Street):

Public Works Director Lease explained the contractor pays for the engineering fees that includes his calculated time. A 50% deposit is required and they are responsible for anything above the estimated costs. Also, he stressed this agreement has nothing to do with land use or building permits, only the infrastructure such as the utilities, right-of-way improvements, traffic and parking.

Council did not second a motion. The Talmon Infrastructure Improvement Agreement was not approved.

Resolution 623 – Honoring UPS Driver Hector Soltero:

Mayor Hayes read the Resolution in appreciation for over a decade of Mr. Soltero's service to the community. Councilmember Dole will make arrangements for him to be presented with the Resolution.

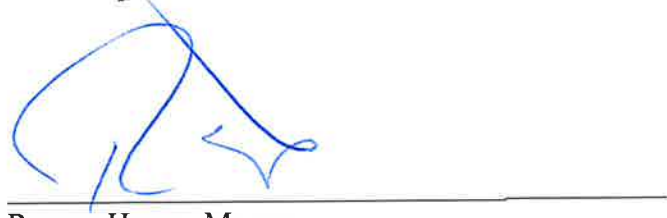
Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve Resolution 623 in appreciation of UPS Driver Hector Soltero. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 5-0.

Pioneer Park Tree Removal:

Public Works Director Lease explained he looked into Resident Linda Talman's concern on the eagles' habitat and removal of trees. He researched on Federal, State and Local levels and found that unless the tree has an active nest, it can be removed. Because he has only received verbal estimates from contractors, he is not requesting a motion from Council at this time.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:39 p.m.


Maria DeGoede, Finance Director


Ramon Hayes, Mayor