

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting
July 12, 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, WWTP Operator Wynn, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer 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 read her letter addressing three items. 1) Was in regards to what was posted in the letter from the Planner on the responses to the motions for reconsideration. 2) Suggested a citizen survey like Anacortes on issues facing the Town, 3) Felt we should get the Fire Boat.

Presentations:

Parks Commissioner Iversen discussed the past annual repairs on the Fish Slide done by him and John Doyle. Now he is asking for professional advice from a concrete expert, as the inside of the slide has areas that could hurt someone. After discussions, it was decided Public Works Director Lease will get an assessment for the repairs of the inside of the slide, the slide will be sealed this year for sliding but the outside of the slide will be repaired by the volunteers.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of June 28, 2022

Accounts Payable:	Checks 25166 – 25206	\$104,259.09
Auto Payments:	2018015 – Invoice Cloud CC Fees	\$143.80
	2018016 – US Bank Pmt. Station Fees	\$187.83
	<u>2018017 – Leasehold Taxes</u>	<u>\$1,781.54</u>
	Total Claims	\$106,372.26

Payroll of July 5, 2022	Checks	5590 - 5596	\$2,640.49
	AWC Benefit Trust	#2018010	\$13,785.34
Auto Payments:	DCP	#2018011	\$2,241.00
	PERS	#2018012	\$9,468.36
	Teamsters Benefit	#2018013	\$6,688.00
	PR Taxes	#2018014	\$8,060.78
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>		<u>\$25,856.70</u>
	Total Payroll		\$68,740.67

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

Chamber Report:

Chris Jennings, President of the La Conner Chamber, discussed the hiring of a new director. The Board is reassessing the position and the needs of the community. Another issue is lack of staffing since the pandemic. Currently the Visitor Center is only open nine hours a week. They are currently in the middle of the annual membership drive and working on the annual La Conner Classic Car and Boat Show on August 6th.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted the taxes are still coming in strong, the property taxes are consistent and the REET Taxes are exceptional.

The Mayor also recognized the time and work of Administrator Thomas, Public Works Director Lease and Fire Chief Reinstra and other firefighters on the Fourth of July Event.

Administrator Thomas shared we need more accessible parking for the Senior Center. It is too difficult for them to navigate up the hill from the parking lot. After discussions, it was decided to install limited time parking signs on Commercial Street to keep it open on Senior Center day.

Planner's Report:

Planner Davolio is drafting an ordinance to establish impact fees for fire and parking.

Public Works:

Public Works has completed 120-meter replacements. The batteries for the new automatic meters last approximately 20 years, which is technically when the meter wears out as well.

Fire Department/Code Enforcement:

Councilmember Dole received complaints regarding late night loud music on COA's back deck and early morning garbage trucks before 7am. Sheriff Montgomery and Administrator Thomas will talk with the owners of COA.

Sheriff's Department:

Council and the Mayor thanked Sgt. Montgomery for the help on the Fourth of July and the visibility in Town.

Council Committee Reports:

Communication Committee:

Councilmember Chamberlain reported on the public forum. Discussions included Administrator Thomas and Planner Davolio explaining regulatory information and Bill Henkle of Community Action spoke on affordable housing. The general public feedback was that we do need affordable housing for people that want to live and work in La Conner.

2022 Tribal Sewer Rates:

Administrator Thomas stated the new rate for 2022 is 0.04919. After discussion, Council requested to see the 2021 rates for comparison and approval at the next meeting.

Resident Dan O'Donnell commented on the wage portion in the matrix of the Tribal sewer rate.

Partial Waiver for Motion of Reconsideration Fees:

Planner Davolio explained there have been four Motions of Reconsideration on the Center Street Project. The code is clear on the fees for a Motion of Reconsideration, which the hearing examiners fee is charged to the applicant. However, the code is not clear on fees for the respondent to a Motion of Reconsideration submitted to the hearing examiner. There have been 26 responses and he is not sure how this will bill out to the Town. After discussion, it was decided to waive the fees for the responses to the Motions of Reconsideration, but to update the code for clarity.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to waive the fees for the responses to the Motions of Reconsideration regarding the Center Street Project. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 5/0.

Agreement – Amend UPCS for SRV Construction:

Agreement – Amend UPCS for C. Johnson Construction:

Public Works Director Lease stated these are the same on-call, after-hour emergency agreements from last year. They need to be extended for another year.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve to the Amended UPCS Agreements with SRV Construction and C. Johnson Construction. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carlson. Motion carried 5/0.

Agreement – Northwest Parking Equipment Company (pay station maintenance):

Public Works Director Lease explained the choices of the annual maintenance agreements for the pay stations and recommended the Elite at an annual \$900 per unit for a total of \$4,500.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Northwest Parking Equipment Agreement Elite at \$900 per unit. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution 606 – Recognition of the La Conner Volunteer Firefighters:

Mayor Hayes read the Resolution Recognizing the La Conner Fire Department for their dedication and volunteered time at the Fourth of July Event.

Councilmember Dole moved to approve Resolution 606 in recognition of the La Conner Volunteer Fire Department Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution 607 – RCO Grant Authorization:

Administrator Thomas explained this is required to be submitted along with the grant application for the Maple Park Project. It authorizes the Mayor and himself to sign the grant application and the agreement, when it comes due, on behalf of the Town. He clarified the agreement would still come before Council for approval.

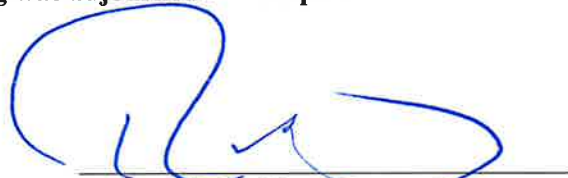
Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve Resolution 607 for the Maple Park Project Grant. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Mayor and Council noted the Fourth of July Event was excellent. The Town was packed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor