

Town of La Conner

Town Council Meeting

July 27, 2021 – 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 Brunisholz, Leaver, Stokes, Chamberlain and Wohleb.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Davolio and Assist. Fire Chief Avery.

This meeting was also held remotely

VIA TELEPHONE:

- 1) 1-206-451-6102. It will prompt you to call a second number.
- 2) Dial 1-605-313-4100
- 3) Access Code 791104

Public Comments:

Resident Sandy Stokes discussed community service and commended the Council for all the time and effort they put into decisions.

Resident Rick Dole stated the parking is getting worse in Town. Dirty Biter Park has become a parking area for motorcycles and boats have taken up permanent residency on our docks.

He also read a letter from Resident Peterson requesting other policing options, such as the Swinomish Police to have a voice on what they can offer.

Resident Jim Matthews asked for the status on the information he requested at the last meeting. Mayor Hayes confirmed he is working on it.

Resident Jules Riske was happy to see the Town website now has a posting for Citizens Letters, however, she is requesting the letter writer has an opt out choice of the posting of their letter. She also discussed the Easement Release and the need for clarity.

Resident Maggie Wilder requested the Council take time in clarifying issues to gain trust with the public again. She also feels the language is not clear in the Easement Release Agreement.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of July 13, 2021

Accounts Payable:	Checks 24276 - 24302	\$92,586.24
	Voided Check 24237	
	<u>Electronic Pmts. – 201721 Excise Tax</u>	<u>\$8,080.39</u>
	Total Accounts Payable	\$100,666.63
Payroll of July 20, 2021	Checks 5420 - 5426	\$2,204.52
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201720	\$8,237.53
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$27,433.28</u>
	Total Payroll	\$37,875.33

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

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes shared the Digital History Project is now up and ready. Rachael Cram, of the La Conner High School, completed the project for her graduation community hours requirement. She has hung laminated QR codes on the historical buildings in Town for people to scan with their phones to hear the history.

Agreement – Port of Skagit (Public Works Lease):

Administrator Thomas explained this was tabled at the last meeting, by Council request, to include a mutual release provision in case we find a home for Public Works. This has been added and he recommends Council approval.

Councilmember Brunisholz moved to approve the Lease Agreement with the Port of Skagit for the Public Works Lease. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 5/0.

Agreement – Release of Easement for Maple Park:

Administrator Thomas stated this is just a cleanup agreement that acknowledges the purchase and sale agreement. There were discussions regarding the install of the utilities underground and the liability of toxic spills. Administrator Thomas confirmed the installation of the utilities would not be an issue and toxic spills would be handled by State and possibly Federal Law. At the end of this process, there will be 2,400 square feet of park that will be unobstructed by any private development for public use.

Planner Davolio stated, after review of all the documents submitted, it is his opinion the agreement is consistent with the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Councilmember Leaver moved to approve the Release of Easement Agreement with Land Gentry. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Committee Meetings:

Parks Commission:

Councilmember Wohleb discussed the Maple Park Survey put together by the Citizen's Committee. This is a draft for Council to comment on and then it will go back to the Parks Commission for any edits. It is expected to be sent out with the utility bills, posted on the Town's website and an interactive survey web page late August or early September.

Agreement – DOR Business License Services:

Administrator Thomas explained all Cities and Towns are obligated to join the State Business Licensing Services. Beginning January 1, 2022, the Town's business license renewals and new licenses will be done through the State website. There may be some adjustments to the Business License Fees to meet the States categories.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the DOR Business License Services Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 5/0.

Maple Hall Cooling System:

The Maple Hall Cooling Center was discussed in the Special Meeting workshop.

Ordinance 1201 – State Interim Requirement for the Homeless:

Planner Davolio explained the State Legislature passed a bill requiring communities to address the homeless. However, it is impossible to meet their timeline of completion. This is an interim proposal for 180 days, to give the Town time to look more closely at this issue. This ordinance creates four new definitions for emergency housing, emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. Also, in compliance with State Law, this ordinance states nothing in the housing code shall be interpreted as prohibiting these four new definitions in any zones where residential is permitted.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Ordinance 1201 State Interim Requirements for the Homeless. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 5/0.

Mayor Roundtable:

Councilmember Brunisholz suggested mandating solar panels and electric car charging stations in new home construction. Mayor Hayes explained the State's energy codes now require mechanical rooms in each new family home. He feels this is a step by the State to become more energy efficient.

Councilmember Leaver stated there was a lot of heat generated over two trees removed in Town. He confirmed there was an arborist report and they were permitted to be removed due to issues.

Community Comments Specific to Maple Park:

Tom Kress of Seattle expressed his opinion on the lack of creativity of the decisions made on the purchase and sale of the Hedlin property. He felt there should have been more outreach to the Tribe and Land Trust.

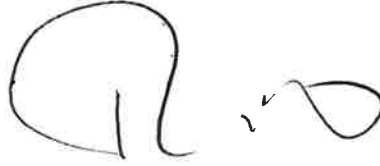
Catey Ritchie suggested a Community Engagement Specialist to maintain public information. Also, she would like to take the time to research the availability and timelines of grants for the development of Maple Park, and wait until the development is completed to see how it looks and how traffic will flow.

Richard De Shon acknowledged Council on their efforts in providing information to the public and does not agree with the opted-out choice for citizens letters.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor