

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
August 22, 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 and Finance Director DeGoede.

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 discussed her concerns of potential fire hazards of the Center Street project, Maple Avenue development and Snapdragon Hill development due to lack of access for Fire Trucks and ladder height limits.

Resident Linda Talman questioned overflow parking of Channel Cove on the Jensen Property. Administrator Thomas explained it was the other way around, if there was a community garden or other use at the Jensen Property, Channel Cove would not have the excess parking to accommodate it. She also felt the Town should not have music at Gilkey Square on the Sunday during Swinomish Days.

Resident Molly Rice feels there needs to be better communication on cooling locations for people that don't have computer access. People who need them don't know where they are or hours of availability.

Lisa Verstegh noted the Tribe held a dinner on Swinomish Days that was open to all. She would like a reciprocal dinner hosted by the Town and or Shelter Bay.

Resident Marilyn Thostenson noted the homes in the new developments have sprinkler systems.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the August 8, 2023 Council Meeting.

Accounts Payable:	Checks	26328 - 26365	\$212,536.25
	Electronic Pmts.	<u>2018139 Excise Tax</u>	<u>\$9,604.52</u>
		Total Accounts Payable	\$222,140.77

Payroll of August 20, 2023:	Checks 5763 - 5769	\$3,938.39
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #2018140	\$7,862.25
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$23,278.86</u>
	Total Payroll	\$35,079.50

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

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Thomas discussed the upcoming Tom Robbins Day celebration, to include a parade starting at the Port at 1:00 p.m. Also, the Hotel Motel applications are available for funding requests.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes acknowledged Town employees.

Council Committee Reports:

Emergency Management Commission: Councilmember Dole reported there will be a meeting on September 1, 2023, with the Upper Skagit Tribe representative to discuss the placement of ecology blocks on their property for flood prevention. Also, the ordering of the needed equipment for flood preparation has run into issues. The forklift cost has increased by \$5,000 with a delivery timeframe of 6 to 24 months, leaving the option to lease one at \$2,400 a month for this season. The Public Works Director is working on renting a sandbagger machine, but also looking

into purchasing prefilled sandbags. The priority with the Commission is working on a strategic plan and to be included in the County Comprehensive Plan.

Administrator Thomas explained his memo on the flood options. There was a survey on the low points in Town. One is the South end off Caledonia and the boat launch. Here we are looking at placing ecology blocks as long as the Upper Skagit Tribe is in agreement to include their property. The North end of Town is looking at a sandbag wall of about 3 feet in height. The wall would probably include private property. October is the start of high tides. It was suggested to have a visual document for the public to understand the plans. Also discussed was the budget and the increase of costs.

Agreement – K Engineers Inc.:

Administrator Thomas explained this is for the electrical engineering on the Fire Hall for the HVAC upgrades.

Councilmember Wohleb moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Agreement with K Engineers Inc. for the Fire Hall HVAC upgrades. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dole. Motion carried 5/0.

Agreement – K Engineers Inc.:

Administrator Thomas explained this is for the electrical engineering on the Maple Hall for the HVAC upgrades.


Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Agreement with K Engineers Inc. for the Maple Hall HVAC upgrades. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 5/0.

Mayor Roundtable:

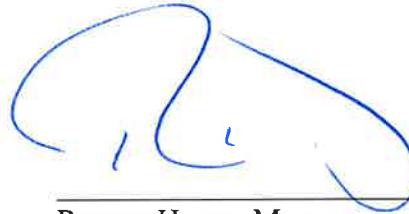
Discussions included:

- Removing the old real estate and newspaper boxes in Town and possibly legislate where they can be placed. Councilmember Taylor has reached out to one of the vendors, but has not received a response back.
- Changing First Street to one-way due to safety issues.
- The Moore Clark Building. Administrator Thomas shared the three-year-old cost estimate of \$757,000 for the completion of First Street, without the flood wall included.
- The recent fire at Nasty Jacks. The Fire Department had six responders and had it controlled quickly.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:48 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor