

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
August 24, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

The meeting of the La Conner Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Wohleb.

Present: Councilmembers Leaver, Stokes and Chamberlain.

Also present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede and Public Works Director Lease.

This was a Hybrid Meeting, In-person and by Zoom, however the audio on Zoom was not fully functional and clear for the participants to follow.

Councilmember Wohleb was never appointed as the Mayor Pro Tem for the second half of the year.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Councilmember Wohleb as Mayor Pro Tem through December 2021. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 4/0.

Administrator Thomas explained the Mayor would not be attending the meeting, but also announced the resignation of Councilmember Brunisholz effective immediately. He served thirteen years as a Councilmember. Administrator Thomas explained we have 90 days to select a replacement, if not, the County Commissioners will take over and make the selection. Advertising for the position will start as soon as possible. Because there is no mandate on the selection process, he will provide Council with a few options from other jurisdictions as well as what the Town did in previous years.

Public Comments:

Resident Rick Dole spoke on behalf of a few restaurants. They are requesting better notification on hydrant flushing. Finance Director DeGoede referred them to the website to sign up for “Notify Me”, to receive notices by email.

Resident Ivan Carlson discussed citizens’ concerns regarding the crosswalk at the corner of Caledonia and Maple. They would like to see better signage such as a button activated sign. Councilmember Stokes stated there is going to be additional signage installed. Also, the new reader board sign will be installed close to that crosswalk.

Resident Matt May requested reconsideration of the implementation of the noise ordinance for the use of Maple Hall. He would like New Year’s Eve to be an exception with an extension of the music to midnight and extended time for cleanup.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of August 10, 2021

Accounts Payable:	Checks 24349- 24379	\$128,470.04
	<u>Electronic Pmts. – 201729 Excise Tax</u>	<u>\$7,651.77</u>
	Total Accounts Payable	\$136,121.81
Payroll of August 20, 2021	Checks 5436 - 5441	\$1,807.80
	Payroll Auto Tax Payment #201728	\$5,668.98
	<u>Payroll Auto Deposit</u>	<u>\$17,225.53</u>
	Total Payroll	\$24,702.31

Councilmember Leaver moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 4/0.

Administrator’s Report:

Administrator Thomas explained the budget process will be a bit different this year due to discussions and allocations of the PFR funding. Another issue to resolve is the policing for the Town. There will be a series of special meetings for these topics.

Committee Reports:

Art's Committee – Councilmember Leaver noted the planning of Art's Alive is in process. First on First is ramping down now with a possible public arts project.

Ordinance 1202 – Amendment of Chapters 5.05 and 5.10

Administrator Thomas explained these changes bring us in compliance with the State Requirements for the integration of our Business Licenses. The rates have been changed to meet their format. The rates will follow in a resolution at the next meeting. By setting them by resolution, we will save on the fees for codification.

Councilmember moved to approve Ordinance 1202 amending Chapters 5.05 and 5.10 of the Town of La Conner Municipal Code. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor Pro Tem Wohleb stated the following agreement with Landed Gentry will be referred to as Maple Field LLC.

Agreement – Maple Field LLC:

Public Works Director Lease explained this sets their responsibility for the development costs of the upcoming project.

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Infrastructure Agreement with Maple Field LLC. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 4/0.

Agreement – Empower Retirement Fund:

Administrator Thomas explained this agreement is similar to the previous agreement from Mass Mutual. They were bought out and are now called Empower.

Councilmember Chamberlain moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Agreement with Empower. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 4/0.

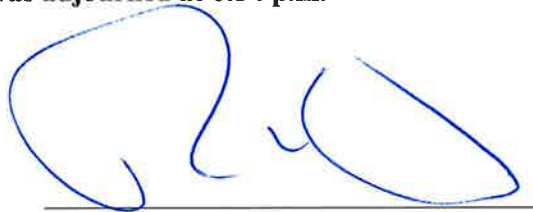
Mayor Roundtable:

Councilmember Stokes expressed his concern on the possibility of the compost containing PFA. If there is a problem, there should be signage advising not to use on vegetable gardens.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor