

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
September 10, 2019 – 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 Manville, WWTP Operator Wynn, and Sgt. Willard.

Public Comments:

Resident Rick Dole acknowledged the Sheriff's Department for their efforts in traffic control.

Presentations: TVI Investments

Peter Becker and Harrison Stenberg of TVI discussed their company process of investing and authorized investments for public entities. They specialize in public fund investing and currently have 150 accounts in the State of Washington, which include the Cities of Arlington, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley, Anacortes and Blaine. All of these entities include Government Agency Bonds as a part of their investments, which they recommended for La Conner as well. There was concern of the fluctuating interest for TVI's portion of revenue. Mr. Becker confirmed the agreement can include TVI's commission would not exceed 1.5%. Another concern by Councilmember Brunisholz was the arbitration clause protecting Pro Equities (TVI) from lawsuits. Mr. Becker explained although that is an institutional standard, the investments for public entities are very low risk and that clause really does not pertain to those accounts. Also discussed was how the decision to invest funds was made. They would compare rates on what they can offer verses what local banks are offering. This would insure the Town would know what the rate is prior to the time the funds were invested.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of August 27, 2019.

Accounts Payable:

Checks 22404 - 22436	\$67,326.86
<u>Auto Payments:</u>	
201552 - Parking Meter Fees	\$167.36
201553 - CC Processing Fees	\$100.20
Total Electronic Payments	\$267.56
Total Accounts Payable September 10, 2019	\$67,594.42

Payroll of September 5, 2019:

Checks 5078-5086	\$16,821.77
Voided Checks 4971, 4974, 4980, 4987, 4993, 5000, 5006, 5013, 5019, 5027, 5034, 5042	
Auto Payment DRS - 201549	\$2,291.00
Auto Payment DCP - 201550	\$9,139.57
Auto Payroll Taxes - 201551	\$6,949.71
Payroll Auto Deposits	\$20,554.75
Total Payroll September 5, 2019	\$55,756.80

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

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Hayes noted Sales Tax and Hotel Motel are looking strong.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Thomas noted all Council received an email invite from the State Auditors, to the Entrance Conference on September 18, 2019, at 10am. He requested Council contact himself or Finance Director DeGoede if they are attending, as we need to know if there will be a quorum. If any councilmember can't attend and has a question, Administrator Thomas will follow through with it. Also, he has upcoming meetings with the Sheriffs for the policing agreement on September 24th and a bargaining meeting with the Teamsters on October 1, 2019. With the upcoming 2020 budget process, there will be special meetings scheduled on the 24th of September and the 8th of October at 5pm, before the normal Council meetings.

Mayor Hayes stated staff is in the process of scheduling the Charrette. A preliminary meeting will include a Council Committee, Administrator Thomas, Planner Manville, John Doyle, a possible engineer/climate scientist and himself. Former Administrator Doyle is heading the session to gain overall information needed for the building of the dike. There were discussions on easements needed. Administrator Thomas explained the dike district does have one, but it is not wide enough for the infrastructure and the access road. We do have a square foot cost estimate from Evan Henke, but we need to have an appraisal as well to be eligible for funding and to meet auditing requirements. Mayor Hayes stated we are moving ahead for an appraisal and the preliminary meeting should be in the next few weeks.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayes thanked Sgt. Willard for the traffic control in Town. It was very needed and appreciated. Also, he had the first 2020 Budget discussions with staff and department heads. As usual, it is challenging, but we are working through it.

Planner's Report:

Planner Manville explained the upcoming changes to the Town's code that would help with affordable housing, such as increasing density, size of access dwellings and the required owners living in accessory dwellings. The Planning Commission will dive into this late fall.

Public Works Report:

Public Works Director Lease confirmed the elevator will be done before the end of 2019, but an exact date has not been set. Councilmember Stokes would like to have a ribbon cutting when it is completed. Maybe the Senior Center can provide cookies.

Sheriff's Report:

Sgt. Willard reported on the increase of counterfeit money. They are mostly 50 and 100 dollar bills. He is trying to get the word out if a merchant gets one, call 911 but also try to get the serial number on the bill itself. He also reported they wrote fifteen tickets in Town. Hopefully this will help some of the traffic problems.

Council Committee Reports:

Arts Commission:

Councilmember Leaver asked for the status on the Braves sculpture. Planner Manville stated she has not received the comments from the Parks Commission. Councilmember Wohleb confirmed the Parks Commission did discuss it and had another option of placement of the sculpture on the Southside of Town, rather than moving the Kiosk in Gilkey Square for a two year placement. She will talk with the Parks Commission regarding the information needed for Planner Manville. This sculpture is a fundraiser for the La Conner Braves. Feathers would be purchased and placed on the sculpture. After two years, the school will need to decide on a permanent location.

Parks Commission:

Councilmember Wohleb discussed the possibility of opening the Kirsch Property to a mitigating agreement for agents to do the permitting and mitigation of environmental impacts. Sometimes this is a cheaper solution for contractors. Planner Manville stated she and Administrator Thomas have talked about this as a viable option. The Shoreline Master Plan needs to be updated in the next year and that is something we could add to it.

First Street Parking:

Sgt. Willard confirmed there have been several side mirrors hit and cars scrapped down the side on First Street. It is a small street and difficult for larger vehicles going two directions. Signage does work, but people do become sign blind. Due to the fact that not everyone is good at parallel parking, their distance from the curb takes up more space from the already narrow road. Angle parking is easy for everyone and it maximizes your space.

Parking solutions included keeping First Street two way with diagonal parking on one side, a one way street with diagonal parking on one side and closing First Street from all traffic and parking during certain hours or permanently.

There was concern of heavy traffic in the residential areas if First Street was one way. If it is closed off, a shuttle would be needed, especially to accommodate seniors. There would be no loss of parking by changing it to one side diagonal parking. Councilmember Leaver is in favor of First Street as a one way.

Councilmember Stokes would like it to remain two way and complete First Street to Caledonia, which would loop around to the Town parking lot. He is also for the installation of parking meters that could bring in up to \$10,000 a month in revenue, which would pay for code enforcement and solve the merchant parking issues. Signage for limited time parking would not bring in revenue.

The Mayor also noted the new library plans need to increase parking. Currently there are only eight spaces in the plans. Planner Manville stated they have not talked to her about it yet. It has to be addressed as we can't have a public building with that little parking available.

Mayor Roundtable:

Mayor Hayes would like to pursue the lighting of the bridge. The lights on it now are not expensive and he would like to hire someone to replace the bulbs a few times a year as needed. The problem is the County served a Cease and Desist Order on the last person that was doing it. He wants to meet with the County to discuss the possibility of changing the temporary cables installed when they painted the bridge, to permanent ones, which are used to latch onto for safe access up the bridge.

Finance Director DeGoede stated she has received all the Hotel Motel Applications for 2020. Last year it was the Finance Committee that met with the Mayor to review the applications and then presented recommendations to the Council. All agreed to the same process for the 2020 Hotel Motel distributions.

Ellen Russell, the owner of Razzle Dazzle Gift shop in La Conner, expressed the need and priority for code enforcement to manage the parking. Merchants are parking in front of their shops, apartment dwellers have multiple cars, and boaters leave their cars for several days. Customers are complaining of no parking. She feels parking meters would help the situation. Mayor Hayes stated the reality of parking on First Street by merchants and employees is not something Council can enforce, but the business community itself should enforce.

Ms. Russell also discussed the signage at the access to the charging stations. The sign needs to be moved to the right side. People are not seeing it where it is at now. Also, why not move the charging stations to the parking lot South of Town. People are charging their cars and then leaving them there all day.

Councilmember Brunisholz strongly opposes the metered parking as it will urbanize the Town. He feels we should leave it alone.

Code Enforcement Truck:

Administrator Thomas stated the Code Enforcement truck is old and has had two electrical fires. It is not worth much and we are at the point to surplus it.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor