

Town of La Conner
Town Council Meeting
September 14, 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 and Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Davolio, WWTP Operator Wynn and Sgt. Willard of the Sheriff's Department.

Public Comments:

Resident Rick Dole questioned the Vision Agreement in the packet. Finance Director DeGoede explained it was for the extraction of the Town business licenses for the merge with the State.

Resident Dan O'Donnell asked if any testing for PFA has been done in sewer. WWTP Operator Wynn responded it is not a requirement, but water utilities are required to do it.

Russell Chandler of Skagit Cellars in La Conner discussed the summer event La Conner Live. He requested a one-time exemption of the 10 p.m. noise ordinance for Maple Hall to celebrate New Year's Eve.

Resident Matt May also spoke in support of the New Year's Eve noise ordinance exemption to allow the event time to 12:30 a.m. and extended cleaning time to 2:00 a.m.

Finance Director DeGoede explained there will be a revised code ordinance addressing the facility use, which would be a good time to incorporate the exemption as well.

Resident Kai Ottesen, on behalf of Jules Riske, asked for an amendment in both the 8/10 and 8/24 Council meeting minutes. The minutes indicate the meetings were made available in person, by phone or Zoom. It was suggested to amend the minutes to state the remote options were provided, however, technical difficulties made the meetings inaccessible to remote attendees. Finance Director DeGoede stated the August 24th minutes will be approved tonight so it could be passed with the change. The August 10th minutes were already approved at the last meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of August 24, 2021

Accounts Payable:	24380 – 24431	\$110,341.13
Auto Payments	201733 CC Processing Fees	\$131.40
	201734 Parking Meter Fees	\$302.14
	Total September 14, 2021 Claims	\$110,774.67

Payroll of September 5, 2021	Checks	5442 - 5450	\$19,069.88
Auto Payments:	DCP	#201730	\$2,241.00
	PERS	#201731	\$8,245.73
	PR Taxes	#201732	\$6,093.99
	Payroll Auto Deposit		\$19,245.45
	Total Payroll		\$54,896.05

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the requested change to the minutes. Motion seconded by Councilmember Chamberlain. Motion carried 4/0.

Chamber Report:

Administrator Thomas reviewed the report provided by Chamber Director Carter. She is working with Friends of the Library on the Tiny Tree Trail for the weekend of November 19, 2021. Small decorated trees will be displayed in shops and will be available for purchase. Other upcoming events are the Christmas Tree Lighting (date to be determined) and the Community Open House and Ice Cream Social in February 2022. There was an overview of upcoming marketing and lastly Chamber is looking for new office space.

Revenue and Expenditure Reports:

Mayor Pro Tem noted the revenues are continuing to do well.

Planner's Report:

Planner Davolio shared he is working on end of the year code updates.

Sheriff's Department:

Sheriff Willard reminded everyone to be aware of the kids walking and riding their bikes to school.

Council Committees:

Art's Commission:

Councilmember Leaver noted they are working on the Art's Alive advertising, ordered brochures and a new banner.

Parks Committee:

Councilmember Wohleb reminded everyone the survey for the Maple Park was mailed with the water bills and is accessible on the Town website.

Resolution 538 – Business License Rates:

Administrator Thomas explained this new rate structure for the Town's business licenses is recommended by the Finance Committee, for the State merge. The current structure is based on number of employees. The recommended changes are to change the general license structure to revenue based, and the hotels/B&B rentals by the number of rooms. The non-resident annual fee of \$75.00 will stay the same and both the Cabaret and Peddlers license will be handled in house.

Councilmember Leaver moved to approve the new business license rates and structure as recommended. Motion seconded by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried 4/0.

Council Vacancy Position #1:

Administrator Thomas stated there is no real state law on the replacement of a Council position, except for the time limit of 90 days from the date of resignation, to appoint a replacement. If the Town has not appointed a new replacement, the County Commissioner will do so. Our Town Code specifies the qualifications for a council position are they must be a resident of La Conner and they must be a registered voter. Our code also requires the position must be advertised for at least two weeks. In the packet, there are samples of an application, a question sheet for the applicant and an advertisement for the position. It is up to Council on what they want to utilize for the process.

After discussion, it was decided to require the application with a resume and cover letter. The question sheet will be informational to the applicant on what questions may be asked for the interview. Finance Director DeGoede recommended shortening the advertisement for publishing, referring the applicant to the website or Town Hall for more information and the application packet.


The schedule set by Council was September 22 and 29 for advertising, closing the 15th of October. Interviews will be October 26th and appointment planned for November 9th.

Vision Agreement:

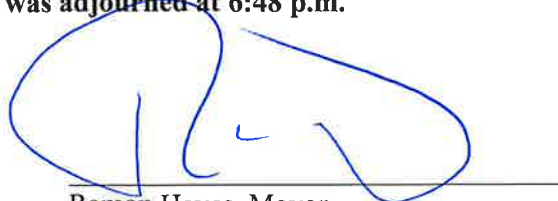
Finance Director DeGoede explained this is for the extraction of the Town Business Licenses for the State merge.

Councilmember Stokes moved approve the Mayor to sign the agreement with Vision. Motion seconded by Councilmember Leaver. Motion carried 4/0.

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



Maria DeGoede, Finance Director



Ramon Hayes, Mayor