

## *Town of La Conner*

Town Council Special Meeting  
September 26, 2023, 5:00 p.m.  
Upper Maple Center, 104 Commercial Street  
And by Zoom

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Present: Councilmembers Carlson, Dole, Chamberlain and Wohleb  
Also Present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease, Planner Davolio and Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Reinstra.

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**This meeting was held electronically on Zoom. Information to join was posted at Town Hall and on the Town Website.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hayes for the 2024 Budget Discussions focusing on the Fire Department and Public Works.

**Councilmember Dole moved to excuse Councilmember Taylor. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wohleb. Motion carried 4/0.**

**Councilmember Taylor joined the meeting at 5:04 p.m.**

### **Fire Department:**

Fire Chief Reinstra explained some of the expenses questioned, such as:

- Four handheld radios at \$3,000 to \$4,000 each
- Safety Vests for \$1,400
- Bunker Gear at \$3,000 each

After Council review, no changes were made. Finance Director DeGoede noted the budget did not include the Fire Boat, the Fire Hall roof and HVAC system. These will be addressed during the General Fund discussions.

### **Public Works:**


Public Works Director Lease presented his budgets for Parks, Facilities, Streets, Water and Drainage. Items discussed were:

- **Parks** – Items removed from the budget were the Boat Ramp \$240,000, Maple Park \$10,000 and the Fish Slide \$5,000. The Waterfront Park Pavilion will be rolled over to 2024.
- **Facilities** – Will receive Hotel Motel funds for shared costs of the Maple Hall HVAC System \$90,000, bathroom upgrades \$12,000 and the Audio/Sound System \$20,000. REET 1 will cover the remainder of the HVAC System in the amount of \$110,000 and added \$10,866 from Hotel Motel for the elevator maintenance. The Garden Club Exterior Paint with a cost of \$52,000 still needs to be funded in some way.
- **Streets** – It was the consensus of the Council to remove the \$12,000 Speed Cushions to improve the fund balance. Public Works Director Lease stated this fund needs a tax revenue as he is not able to keep up with the costs of asphalt maintenance. Administrator Thomas suggested forming a Transportation District. We could impose a .01 sales tax with Council approval. However, we could collect up to .03% by voter approval. It was decided to initiate the .01% for next year and work towards the voting process for an increase .02%.

- **Water** – Discussions focused on the Skagit Beach Water Main Project. Administrator Thomas explained we are looking at a Levy Lid Lift, to collect a portion of the cost from the residents the waterline services. This will probably be the next project to tackle with an estimated cost of \$3,200,000.
- **Drainage** – The Washington/Whatcom Improvements was reduced from \$650,000 to \$100,000, focusing on targeted areas of concern. Administrator Thomas noted we will probably go for a LID for this project as well. Also, now that Flood Control will be a part of the Drainage Fund, the Drainage Budget will reflect separate expense lines for each.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 5:48 p.m.

  
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Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

  
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Ramon Hayes, Mayor