

Jacquelyne Bettencort<sup>1</sup>  
P.O. Box 345  
La Conner, Washington 98257

July 12, 2023

Mayor Ramon Hayes  
Administrator Scott Thomas  
Town Council Members

Re: Special Town Council Meeting - July 13, 2023  
Talmon Infrastructure Improvement (DE) Agreement

To Whom It May Concern:

I noticed on the La Conner Weekly News that Mayor Ramon Hayes has scheduled a Special Town Council Meeting for July 13, 2023 at 10:45 a.m. to approve the Talmon Infrastructure Improvement (DE) Agreement.

Please find below for the record my objections to this specially called meeting:

1. Despite the July 11, 2023 agenda reflecting this issue as "Unfinished Business", I do not see anywhere in the agendas available on the Town of La Conner website that this issue has been previously discussed. Thus, placing it under the "Unfinished Business" categorization improperly informs residents that it is merely an unresolved issue instead of one that may require their attention. See the attached<sup>2,3</sup>.

This is important for several reasons:

- a. The meeting minutes from July 11, 2023 have not yet been posted for review by residents who were unable to attend.
- b. Residents deserve the opportunity to review this document and the minutes to ensure the Town has made appropriate arrangements to

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<sup>1</sup> Fka Linda Clark

<sup>2</sup> For example, the Agenda dated 2/14/23 specifically notifies residents of the "New Business" concerning the DE Agreement concerning the Snapdragon Flats development.

<sup>3</sup> The Application for this project is dated November 2, 2021. The Staff Report is dated March 10, 2022. Thus, I reviewed the posted Agendas dating March 22, 2022 through July 11, 2023.

make sure the surrounding homes, businesses, etc. have been properly protected with insurance policies, bonds, etc. and that the Town has not chosen to waive the requirement for these protections in favor of the Developer.

- c. **To inform residents that they will be paying for infrastructure improvements for a project the majority of whom vehemently oppose for a minimum of a ten-year period. And the Town and its residents will likely be paying to maintain and for the impact on the current infrastructure, etc. for likely longer than ten years.**<sup>4</sup>
- d. To ensure that the cost assessed by the Town to the Developer is reasonable and anticipates any unforeseen costs that may be absorbed by the Town should the Developer fail to comply with current code, etc.

A shortage of time prevents me from providing a more thorough investigation of this issue.

However, these objections should be reason enough to cancel tomorrow's hastily scheduled meeting to give residents a fair opportunity to review how the Town is spending its tax dollars, despite strong objections to the project involved.

Lastly, the fact that the Town has agreed to allow the Atkinsons to name this the "Talmon" project despite Linda Talman's efforts to quash it is in extreme poor taste.

Best regards,

Jacquelyne Bettencort (fka Linda Clark)

cc: Editor - La Conner Weekly News

P.S. please excuse any typographical or grammatical issues as I am hurrying to send this before close of business today.

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<sup>4</sup> There are articles available that show small towns RARELY benefit from development and that residents often pay a larger share for the profits made by the developers.



| <u>Date</u>                      | <u>Agenda Item</u>  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| March 22, 2022                   | None  |
| April 12, 2022                   | None  |
| April 26, 2022                   | None  |
| May 10, 2022                     | None  |
| May 24, 2022                     | None  |
| June 28, 2022                    | None  |
| July 12, 2022                    | None  |
| July 26, 2022                    | None  |
| August 9, 2022                   | None  |
| August 23, 2022                  | None  |
| September 13, 2022               | Unfinished Business - Center Street Project   |
| September 27, 2022               | Unfinished Business - Center Street Discussion  |
| October 11, 2022                 | Unfinished Business - Center Street Project   |
| November 8, 2022                 | Unfinished Business - Center Street Project - Discussion  |
| November 22, 2022                | None  |
| December 13, 2022                | Unfinished Business - Center Street Project - Discussion  |
| January 10, 2023                 | Unfinished Business - Center Street Project - Discussion  |
| January 24, 2023 - June 27, 2023 | Same as January 10, 2023  |
| July 11, 2023                    | Unfinished Business - Center Street Project - Discussion; Agreement - Talmon Infrastructure Improvement (306 Center Street) |

- I did not include Special Meetings, but did not see this item on any of these agendas.