

Langley City Council Meeting

January 5, 2009

Mayor Samuelson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Jim Recupero, Robert Gilman, Rene Neff, Bob Waterman and Russell Sparkman. Also present were Director of Planning Larry Cort, Director of Public Works Challis Stringer and Director of Finance/City Clerk Debbie Mahler. The flag salute was led by Rene Neff.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion - Waterman, 2nd - Sparkman. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2008
- b. Claims Warrants in the amount of \$84,773.99
- c. Approval of Agenda
- d. Approval of Consultant Contracts
 - i. Kathleen Landel
 - ii. Bob Snyder
 - iii. Linda Irvine
 - iv. Lynn Sterbenz
 - v. Ryan Goodman

MAYOR'S REPORT

Langley Clinic/Joint Commission – Will be meeting again next week. Hal Seligson will be joining the group at that meeting. The Hospital is looking for another mid-level employee to work with Ann Lower at the Clinic.

Emergency Management – Lynn Sterbenz reported on the initiation of emergency preparedness procedures in the last two weeks. Weather alerts were sent out by email to shelter teams, volunteers and city staff. Lynn maintained daily correspondence with shelter volunteers until the 30th of December when the weather improved. She added emergency weather information and emergency planning information on the City's web page. Lynn also posted information to the Langley Community Forum website. About 50 flyers were posted around town and information about emergency preparedness procedures was published in the South Whidbey Record. Road conditions, plowing updates, etc. will be added to future publications.

Resource Conservation – Linda Irvine gave a presentation on the projects done and energy savings made in Langley in 2008. The City facilities reduced electric usage by 5% in 2008 and saved \$3,400. The energy savings at the City and the Porch light campaign had the effect of taking five homes off the power grid in Langley.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Debbie Mahler reported that sales tax and hotel/motel tax for the year 2008 came in over budget. The streamlined sales tax initiative has helped the city – the Department of Revenue estimated that the City gained \$13,500 in sales tax during the third quarter due to the streamlined sales tax initiative. Debbie also reported that a small budget amendment for 2008 will be necessary and a public hearing will be held at the next meeting. The new financial software should be installed and staff trained later this month. The Auditor's office has decided to come in the fall and do the 2007 & 2008 audit at the same time, which will save the city money. After that, we will go back to an annual schedule.

Challis Stringer reported that our contract with Water and Wastewater expired and the City has two new employees to run the sewer system. The new employees are Randy Perry and Robert Durr who she introduced. Both of these people formerly worked for Water and Wastewater Services and are very familiar with our plant.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Robert Gilman reported that although many community members have asked council members to engage in discussions on the Community Forum website, there are three state law areas restraining what council members can do. The Open Public Meetings Act requires whenever council or a decision making body meets; it must be in a public forum. When 2 or more council members get together and speak about city business it is considered a meeting. So if any members participate in discussions on city issues in a public forum, it must be advertised as a public meeting. The Public Records Act requires that the city keep details of written and electronic records of city business. Langley Community Forum is not a city forum. Also, the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine which applies mostly to land use applications, requires that council members must behave the way a judge would behave. Because they may sit in a quasi-judicial mode, they cannot discuss matters while an application is pending. State and federal legislators do not have the same constraints as local officials do.

Jim Recupero congratulated the public works crew for their hard and dedicated work clearing roads during the snow storms. Jim had conversations with some community members who thought the public works crew should have been plowing and cleaning streets 24/7 who did not realize how hard the small crew was working. He wondered if it would be possible to contract with the county for extra plowing. Jim told stories of his neighborhood where certain residents helped to get neighbors to any place they needed to go and one resident who called all neighbors to see if they needed anything and then delivered groceries by sled.

Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery Board will be meeting later this month. Parks and Open Space Committee meet earlier in December and will meet again next week. They have one more field trip planned. They are now working on priorities.

Russell Sparkman reported that the Economic Development Committee will be meeting next Monday. Bob Waterman reported that the old part of the Cemetery, the City Hall and the Museum are on the register of historic places. Megan Duvall from the State is coming to speak to the Historic Preservation Commission. The Library Board is fully behind the grant proposal the city is submitting focused on making the library the home focus for Neighbor to Neighbor emergency planning.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments from the audience at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: To bring to a first reading, an Ordinance repealing Ordinance Nos. 840, 856, 859 & 908 and Chapter 14.01 of the Langley Municipal Code regarding boat harbor and moorage regulations. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Recupero. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance No. 917 amending Ord 744 and Langley Municipal Code Chapter 13.01 regarding the water system. Motion – Waterman, 2nd – Neff. Motion passed without opposition.

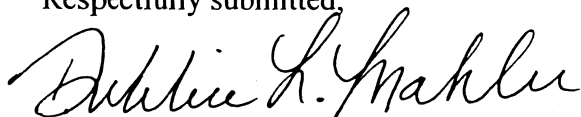
DISCUSSION ITEMS

Langley's Water & Sewer Systems presentation – Robin Adams, a utility consultant, extensively studied the City's water and sewer systems and finances and produced a report and recommendations for the City. Robin gave a power-point presentation on his report.

Don Jewett stated that he feels the outside water rate charge is unfair and needs to be rectified.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM. Motion - Waterman, 2nd - Recupero. Motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Langley and Approved by the Mayor at an open public meeting held January __, 2009.