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City of Langley

Council Meeting September 7, 2010

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2010
- b. Claims Warrants 26807, 26868-26870, 26898-26921 in the amount of \$52,423.82
- c. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** To approve the consent agenda. Motion – Gilman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Neff. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery Board meeting will be held the third week of this month. Lynn Hayes donated time and plants in the entry arbor garden to the ash garden. Rene will be attending the Economic Development Committee meeting next week. Russell Sparkman reported the Mayor’s Commission on Economic Health will meet tomorrow. They will be looking at the cultural element of Bainbridge’s comp plan and seeing how it applies to Langley.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Larry Cort reported that this month will end the contract with Mimi Sheridan, consultant hired to do a historic preservation inventory and enter it into a state database. He will be submitting grant reimbursement requests for her hours. She will also be doing a nomination form to place the Langley Middle School (original high school) on the register. Two well attended public meetings on historic preservation were held. The Langley Passage; a proposed twenty lot preliminary plat that has been working its way through the PAB for several years, will be coming to the Council for a closed record hearing at the next meeting. There are five appeals of PAB recommendation.....

Debbie Mahler gave financial reports for July 2010 and answered questions from the City Council. Debbie also passed out graphs of major revenues and history. She reported that some revenues are still coming in quite low; sales tax, hotel/motel tax, real estate excise tax and building revenues are down and legal expenses are way over budget. All funds

have a positive balance, but the budget will need to be monitored closely for the rest of the year.

Challis Stringer reported that the Public Works department has completed the change over of the water chlorination system from gas to tablet. A sanitary survey by the Department of Health was completed this week and a report will be issued soon. Public Works is getting ready for winter and getting the snow removal equipment cleaned and ready.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Tiny Tillman stated that in the July 6, 2010 minutes, Fran Abel gave a report from the Parks & Open Space Committee and referred to the Fossek Farm as "Fossek open space." She reminded the Council that her family's farm is not public open space and asked that it please be referred to as the Fossek farm.

Tucker Stevens reported that on September 18<sup>th</sup> the annual Soap Box Derby will be held. He invited anyone interested to help make trophies for the race. Tucker also reported that the Langley Community Club has donated and put in a new adult swing set at Generation Park.

Paul Schell, a Langley resident and former Mayor of Seattle stated that we are in tough economic times in Langley and Langley is still saying "yes we can". He is disappointed in the articles printed in the South Whidbey Record regarding the Mayor. Mr. Schell said he knows the Mayor's job is a 24/7 job and he thinks people should rally around the Mayor and help him do the job with less resources. Kathleen Waters thought the journalism in the Record was very courageous. She stated that many people are very fearful to give their opinions to the city council and that there is a tremendous fear from property owners. Ms. Water's said that in a three hour council workshop two weeks ago, no public comment was allowed, even though a large property owner was promised by the Mayor that there would be. She hopes that residents understand that language is a tool of free democracy. Mayor Samuelson said that he had committed to Vance Tillman to allow public comment, but the council needed the time to work through the issues on their own.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION:** To adopt Resolution No. 725 Setting 6 Year Water Conservation Goals. Motion - Neff, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Abel.  
Rene Neff motioned to amend the goals from 1% to 2%, with a second by Fran Abel. Both motions carried with Councilmember Gilman abstaining.

**MOTION:** To create a Council Process Committee with Fran Abel and Robert Gilman as its initial members for the purpose of researching rules and procedures for the Council and reporting the results of this research to the Council.

Motion - Sparkman, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Neff. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** To take from the table Ordinance No. 948 repealing Ordinances 912 & 937 and setting compensation & benefits for the Mayor. Motion - Sparkman, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Neff. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Samuelson recused himself from the discussion. Robert Gilman went through the research he and Fran Abel did on this issue.

**MOTION:** To adopt Ordinance 948 as amended, repealing Ordinances 912 & 937 and setting compensation & benefits for the Mayor. Motion - Gilman, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Neff. Motion carried with all in favor.

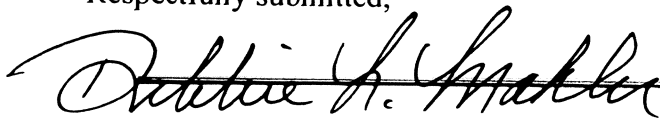
**MOTION:** To bring to a first reading, an ordinance amending Ordinance 911 concerning a process for setting the salary and benefits of the Mayor. Motion - Neff, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Abel. **MOTION:** To amend the motion to bring to a first reading, waive the two reading requirement and adopt Ordinance No. 949 amending Ordinance 911. Motion - Neff, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Abel. Motions were approved as amended with all in favor.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

*Budget Goals and Policies.* The Council discussed the Mission Statement/Budget Goals and Policies and how they are applied. One of the financial policies listed is to only approve capital projects in the budget that are in the six year Capital Improvement Plan in Comp Plan. The CIP must be amended so that all needed projects can be included in the budget. Staff is working on that. Mayor Samuelson asked council members to email any notes or input on these goals to him.

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Motion -Neff, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Abel. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk