

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2011

Mayor Samuelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Bob Waterman, Rene Neff, Hal Seligson; Fran Abel and Doug Allderdice. Also present were Director of Finance/City Clerk, Debbie Mahler; Planner Jeff Arango, DRB members and several members of the public. The flag salute was led by Council Member Seligson.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda as amended. A Langley Garden project report was added in the Mayor's report. Motion - Waterman, 2nd - Seligson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2011; regular & workshop
- b. Council Workshop Minutes 4/5/11, 5/16/11 & 7/5/11.
- c. Claims Warrants Nos. 28276, 28330-28331, e-file 9/27/11 & 28332-28347 in the amount of \$23,735.95
- d. Approval of Agenda

MAYOR'S REPORT

Kay Lagerquist and Cathy Waymire Rooks reported that the Langley Garden Project has now joined Main Street and they are planning to plant 5,000 bulbs in the city. They are looking for 25 people to donate \$25.00 to fund the project. They asked for the Council to help get the merchants on board with the project. October 15th at 10 AM, the first work party for planting starts. The next planting party will be October 22nd.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery has a new mower and the old one has been refurbished for backup. The new Cemetery Brochure is almost ready to be published. A group of citizens is considering buying a block of green graves. Bob Waterman attended a COG meeting and an RTPO meeting in the Mayor's place. There were several economic presentations at the COG meeting; one by the Island County EDC on retail sales tax trends within the county. A significant number of Boeing employees are expected to retire in the next five years. Skagit County is trying to find ways to attract the younger people that will be replacing those employees. Island County needs to do something to capture that growth also. At the RTPO meeting he learned that very little tax dollars in the county's street fund go to maintenance. Most goes to pay debt and new projects. They are worried that the highway and other roads are deteriorating and there are no funds to maintain it.

Hal Seligson reported that the ad hoc committee on personnel policies has done a draft revision of some portions of the city's personnel policies. They categorized issues into those that need to be done immediately, those that can be made in the near future and those that need broad policy discussion. Hal also mentioned that in our municipal code there is a policy process committee procedure (LMC2.06.220b) that calls for a process for introduction of legislation to the council. Hal finds this process is not really used, is cumbersome and not working. He would like to amend that ordinance.

Fran Abel reported that the Langley Second Street Market, was a joint project with Main Street, Chamber and the city. A survey of attendees showed that 62% of people attending were from Langley, many from other areas of the south end and some from far away. Overall, the market was very popular with those attending. Business reviews were mixed, some said it hurt their business, some said it helped.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Jeff Arango reported that the Shoreline Advisory committee has been meeting since late August and will be holding meetings until November. Recommendations will be made then and the PAB will hold public hearings on the proposed amended plan. The planning department is working to resize the urban growth boundary. The new hearing examiner is coming to meet council at the next meeting. Larry and Jeff had a meeting with Island Transit regarding having Sunday service into Langley and moving some bus stops.

Debbie Mahler reported on sales taxes which have improved slightly over last year and hotel/motel taxes which have increased dramatically.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments regarding matters not on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To confirm the Mayor's appointment of Neil Colburn to the Civil Service Commission. Motion – Seligson, 2nd – Waterman. Motion carried with all in favor.

Joint meeting with the Design Review Board. Four members of the Board were present: Bob Dalton, Ron Kaspiron, Cathy Waymire-Rooks and Paul Sarkas. Jeff Arango reported that the Board has reviewed eleven applications so far this year, are working on new design guidelines and a build out analysis. Bob Dalton reported that Jeff has been very helpful and effective working with the Board. The DRB would like to see more enforcement or better code provisions in place. They stated that they make decisions on paint colors, signs, etc. and then find that the building is painted a different color than they approved or the sign is a different size than what was approved. Ron Kaspiron

thinks the role of the DRB and how they interact with the Planning Advisory Board needs to be more defined and reformed. Paul Sarkis feels the DRB gets things at the end of the line after permits have been issued and feels they need to be introduced earlier in the project. Cathy Waymire-Rooks agreed. Bob Waterman stated that the Historic Preservation Commission is very interested in maintaining the character, look and feel of Langley and are very interested in code work and design guidelines and want to work together with DRB and Mainstreet's design committee. The role, limits and authority of the Board needs better definition in code. Hal Seligson asked for more joint meetings with the Council and the various Boards and Commissions, at least several times per year.

Interlocal Agreement with the Port of South Whidbey. Jeff Arango briefed the Council with a summary of the city's current interlocal agreement with the Port and its status. A joint meeting will be held with the Port Commission on Wednesday, October 5th at 3 PM.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm. Motion – Waterman, 2nd – Neff. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk