

Langley Council Meeting

November 3, 2008

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, Special Assistant to the Mayor Kathleen Landel and Director of Finance/City Clerk Debbie Mahler. The flag salute was led by Council Member Waterman.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2008
- b. Claims Warrants Nos. 24483-24507 in the amount of \$19,024.13
- c. Approval of the Agenda

MAYOR'S REPORT

- a. Mayor Samuelson read a *Proclamation of Appreciation for Dr. Whittemore* for his service to the community.
- b. *Porch Light Campaign/Lovely Langley Lavender Work Party appreciation.* Mayor Samuelson and Linda Irvine gave out “key to the City” pins to all the participants in the Porch Light Campaign that delivered CFL bulbs door to door. The Mayor and Cary Peterson gave out the pins to the members of the lavender work party who trimmed and weeded all of the City’s lavender.
- c. *Langley Marina/Port* - Dane Anderson introduced the Port’s new harbormaster. Mayor Samuelson thanked Rene Neff for all her work on the Port ballot campaign.
- d. *Langley Clinic Joint Commission* met this morning. They are actively working with the hospital to keep the clinic open and get doctors in place there.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. Planning – Larry Cort reported that the Mapping Langley 2030 took place last week. 58 people participated and a lot of creative thinking took place. Eleven maps were created for future land use and zoning. PAB is working on a new subdivision ordinance; they have a draft and are working on design standards. A subcommittee of the PAB is working on a tree preservation ordinance and making good progress.
- b. Public Works – Challis Stringer reported that on Saturday, the pots on First Street were revamped with daffodils and other bulbs. The trees from

the First Street pots are being nurtured and will be replanted in Langley. Challis has interviewed for the utility supervisor and laborer; had excellent applicants and will choose the best candidate and save the city about \$30,000 next year without the contract for sewer services. She is looking at recycling and bike racks for 1st street.

- c. Finance/Clerk – Debbie Mahler reported that the budget will be in final form, except for any changes to be made in the numbers, before the next meeting. She will give a budget presentation at the public hearing scheduled for that meeting.
- d. Building Department – Bob Snyder reported that we have had 32 building permits this year totaling 4.5 million. Last year we had 75 permits valued at \$29 million. Average 7-10 new residential permits per year, many remodels and some commercial. Trending towards smaller homes this year.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Robert Gilman reported that Wednesday at LMC a potluck will be held sustainable Whidbey.... 5:30-8 Nov. 5th (LCF events)
- b. Rene Neff reported that Parks and Open Space Commission has been meeting every two weeks and they have canvassed all the open space and parks in Langley and trails. The Commission is looking at what we need, how we can use what we have, etc. Next meeting the Whidbey Camano land trust is coming to talk about tools for preservation and Larry Kwarsick will speak about funding. The City held a dedication for the ash garden at the Langley Woodman Cemetery last Sunday. It was very successful and a nice ceremony.
- c. Russell Sparkman reported he and the Mayor have been working on an economic development council. They have identified several members and are trying to get a first meeting started. Looking at long term efforts and funding for helping and creating economic development in Langley.
- d. Bob Waterman just returned from three weeks in Italy. Langley is now a certified local government for historic preservation purposes. The Historic Preservation Commission will meet this month, they have 3 places nominated for the historic register – the Cemetery, City Hall, and the historic museum.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Fred Lundahl, Chamber President, announced Sherry Mays has been hired as new executive director of the Chamber. Fred also reported that county hotel/motel taxes are down. Sharen Heath asked for a summary of Bob Snyder's building department report to be put on the website. Sharen was part of a large group from the Comp Plan Group that worked on parks and open space for a long time, including a summary of what we have, a list of tools for conservation and level of service needs. She thinks the new Parks and Open Space Commission needs to use what they produced previously. Rene Neff explained that the new commission is using all of that, they are just doing their own

survey of the existing to get the new members up to speed. Eric Levine read a statement from several people stating that they felt the Mapping 2030 left out some important guidelines.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: To bring to a first reading, an Ordinance establishing an adjusted salary for the Mayor for the term ending December 31, 2011. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Waterman. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

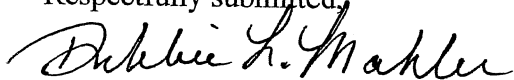
Old Fire Hall Proposals – the City received four proposals for lease of the old fire station. Larry Cort produced a spreadsheet and summary of the proposals. Fire House Center of Fine Arts, Langley (Arts education center); Chocolate Flower Farm (retail, wholesale sales and mail order fulfillment); South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District (education purposes); Russell Sparkman – Langley multimedia development center and Langley Development Corporation () Council discussed all the proposals and Langley's needs. Several of the proponents spoke regarding their proposals.

Staff Report on Mapping Langley 2030 & Moratorium status – The City has had a moratorium on subdivision in 3 zoning districts for almost a year and one half. We have made great strides in code revision, subdivision code is drafted, the 2030 meeting has taken place to help with future land use distribution, etc, but the work is not complete. Staff recommends that the moratorium be carried forward in some form. Staff will study what areas could be selectively lifted that would not cause a change in character if subdivision was allowed.

2009 Budget- Debbie Mahler presented the preliminary budget and explained that it is a 20% decrease from the current 2008 budget. Debbie passed out graphs of major revenues and explained that so far, Langley's major revenues are still up. The projections for the 2009 budget are less than what is expected this year due to the decline in the economy.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM. Motion - Waterman, 2nd – Recupero. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk

PASSED by the City Council and approved by the Mayor at a regular meeting held this ___ day of November, 2008.