

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2009

Mayor Samuelson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were City Council Members, Robert Gilman, Jim Recupero, Rene Neff, and Russell Sparkman. Bob Waterman was ill. 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 Councilman Sparkman.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion – Recupero, 2nd – Gilman. Motion passed with all in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2009
- b. Claims Warrants in the amount of \$18,736.87
- c. Approval of Agenda

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Samuelson spent three days at the legislature two weeks ago during the AWC conference. He spent time with all three of our legislators and told them how the economy is affecting Langley and discussed our needs. Meet with other Mayor's and the Governor also spoke. The Mayor hosted a community meeting last Saturday with Representative Norma Smith – 2 Commissioners, 2 Ferry spokesman, and aides from Senator Haugen's office. About 3-400 people attended.

2009 Draft annual plan was distributed to Council. Business license fee relief for those having trouble paying was discussed.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Jim Recupero reported that he is a part of the Utility Committee and they will soon be bringing forth a new Storm-water Plan. Rene will miss the Parks and Open Space Committee meeting this month. They are working diligently. The Cemetery Board met last week and is working on columbarium's and green burials. Russell Sparkman reported that the Mayor's Council on Economic Health has been defining priorities and will share those with council soon. They have been actively with Chamber and planning to do a "Uniquely Whidbey" fair at the Fairgrounds; Grant Anderson, Linda Irvine, and Lynn Williford have been interviewing merchants about business trends.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Larry Cort, Director of Planning, reported that the Mayor signed the final transfer documents with the Port this morning. PAB is working on zoning and subdivision codes and mapping, sustainability, etc. Staff is working on a unified code where all zoning, land use and environmental codes are together. A sub-committee of the PAB is still working on the Tree Ordinance, and identifying heritage trees. Shoreline owners meetings are back on track and a survey on First Street and conceptual design is almost complete.

Debbie Mahler, Director of Finance/Clerk, reported that the City has its new financial and payroll software installed and training was conducted last week. The city will run both the old and new program for the month of March and make sure that everything is balancing correctly. Marlyne and Debbie also attended training in Marysville last week on state financial reporting that was put on by the Washington Finance Officers and the Auditor's Office. It was very informative.

Challis Stringer, Director of Public Works reported that there has been some concern over the Anthes street design with the curve in the road. When the improvement project was begun years ago there were many public meetings on the design. The engineer's original design of the street straightened the road, but there was a lot of public opposition to it and after several public meetings on design, the curve was put back in.

Randy and Challis visited composting facilities last week, and are applying for a grant to improve our compost facility. They are also looking at changing our water system from liquid chlorine to chlorine gas or tablets, which is much safer. At the next meeting, there will be a discussion on the Storm-water Comprehensive Plan. The information will be placed on the City website for review. Bluff trimming on Cascade and First Street is complete. Bryan passed his water test and was certified. Challis is working on complete cross training on the water system and sewer plant, running sanders, snow plows etc. for the entire public works crew.

CITIZEN COMMENTS *

Wayne Bode stated that he is very happy with the bluff trimming and thinks it looks great. Wayne asked if the City was going to be able to sweep and remove the sand that was put on the streets from the snow. Vicky Welfare, Langley Librarian invited all to participate in "Whidbey Reads."

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: To confirm the Mayor's appointment of Rene Neff to the Island County Economic Development Council Board.
Motion - Gilman, 2nd - Recupero. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

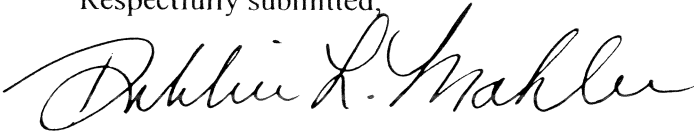
Old Fire Hall proposals. Larry Cort reported that we have received a number of proposals for use of the old fire hall. Dakota Stone would like to open the Langley Firehouse Gym. She works with high risk kids, helps to redirect them. She is a professional boxer and Certified Personal Trainer. She would hold structured classes, after school programs and open gym times.

Kim Tiller of Whidbey Island Soap has had a retail shop in Langley for the last seven years. Business is really growing and she would like to bring their workshop into the city to make their products, and also to expand their tea line. She would like a long term lease and would also hold classes on soap making, tea, etc.

Emi Morgan would like to host a year-round marketplace for locally grown and produced goods. She proposes to have a farmer's marketplace; a 2nd street commons with an interactive landscape of edible plants, artwork and seating; expand into the north side alley during the summer; possible have a commercial kitchen for rental and classes; and to rent the back portion of the fire hall to a local product manufacturer.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Recupero. Motion carried.

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
this ___ day of April, 2009.