

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2009

Mayor Samuelson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Robert Gilman, Rene Neff, Bob Waterman, and Russell Sparkman. Jim Recuperero was absent. Also present were Special Assistant to the Mayor, Kathleen Landel; Director of Public Works, Challis Stringer; City Engineer, Ryan Goodman; and Director of Finance/City Clerk, Debbie Mahler. The flag salute was led by Council Member Rene Neff.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda. Motion - Waterman, 2nd - Neff. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2009
- b. Claims Warrants in the amount of \$37,561.16
- c. Payroll Warrants No. 8452 - 88476 (03/13/09) in the amount of \$47,053.41 and Nos. 6337, 8480 – 8505 (03/31/09) in the amount of \$49,129.37.
- d. Approval of Agenda

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Samuelson read the “Big Read 2009” Proclamation and presented it to Vicky Welfare, Langley Librarian. Linda Irvine, City Resource Conservation Manager reported that PSE’s Green Power Challenge is beginning this week. They are trying to get 600 new sign-ups Island wide for PSE’s green power purchasing program. The City will be purchasing green power for city hall. Kathleen Landel reported that the Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) program kickoff was held on Saturday with a potluck at the old fire hall during the Welcome the Whales celebration. This year, the city does not have a funding source for the action grants, but we are encouraging neighborhood programs that center on emergency preparedness and energy conservation. A City team will be available to go out to neighborhood gatherings and help them with their projects.

The Mayor is still working on getting a pharmacy in Langley in some form, and is working with the Economic Development Commission for some assistance. Sherry Mays of the Chamber reported that they have donations for 45 flower baskets for City streets. The Welcome the Whales was very successful, lots of people in town, much activity. Uniquely Whidbey Trade fair coming up May 30th and 31st at the Fairgrounds. This will become an annual event.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments from the audience at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: To Confirm the Mayor's reappointment of John Norby and Dick Sutton and the appointment of Jan Tepper to the Civil Service Board. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Waterman. Motion carried unanimously.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

Old Fire Hall proposals - WOW – Tom Lindsay, Mully Mullaly, and Lynn Williford gave a presentation on their concept of the Wonder of Water, an interactive water museum they would like to have in the fire hall building. Sue Symons, Joe Menth and Tom Trimbath gave a presentation on a proposed community art facility with classes, gallery, and retail sales.

Storm-water plan – Proposed comprehensive plan was introduced five weeks ago and has been discussed at council several times. It will be discussed at a public hearing at the next council meeting. The plan includes capital projects needed in the near and long term future. Challis will lead the council members and other interested parties on tours of the areas with capital projects in the plan to better understand the existing conditions and what improvements are needed.

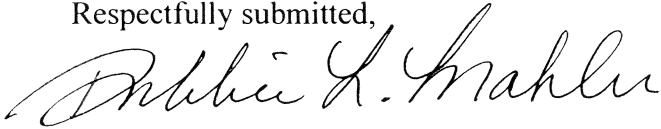
Discussion on changes in the rate ensued for some time. The City has not raised the rates for storm-water in over fourteen years. Because of that, the storm drainage services have been subsidized by street revenues, keeping street projects from being accomplished. The rates would have to be raised from \$2.90 per month to \$13.50 just to keep the present services funded without doing any capital improvements. If the capital improvements were done, the rate would need to be about \$22.00. The Council realizes that rates need to increase, but would like to phase the increase in over time so that it is not such a hit to the community's budget.

Ed Parr stated that he feels that increases are needed, but we must tighten our belts and encourage more services and business within the city to increase the economic health. Ed also asked why the city has placed a moratorium on sub-division if Langley needs to grow to improve its economic health. Councilman Gilman and Mayor Samuelson explained that the moratorium was placed to give the city time to make all the changes needed in the zoning codes. Mayor Samuelson also pointed out that there are over a hundred home sites being developed in the city, but because of the economy, many are not selling. The moratorium is in a portion of the city only and only on sub-division temporarily.

Dave Gore stated that he has seen many changes in the Council and the way it operates. The Council has become much more professional and open and inclusive to the public in the last year and a half in his opinion.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:33 PM. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Waterman. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie L. Mahler".

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/Clerk