

## Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2011

Mayor Samuelson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Robert Gilman, Rene Neff, Fran Abel, Bob Waterman and Hal Seligson. Director of Finance/City Clerk, Debbie Mahler was absent. Volunteer, Thomas Gill filled in for Debbie. The flag salute was led by Council Member Waterman.

**MOTION:** To approve the Consent Agenda. Motion - Waterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Neff. Motion carried unanimously after questions from Council members regarding several warrants were asked and answered.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2011.
- b. Claims Warrants Nos. 27489-27521, 27394, 27460-27463, e-file 1/25 in the amount of \$41,852.49
- c. Approval of Agenda

### MAYOR'S REPORT

- a. *Big Brothers/Big Sisters Proclamation.* Mayor Samuelson recognized the Big Brothers/Big Sisters and proclaimed the City's deep appreciation to the Mentors of the program.
- b. Nancy Rowan reported that the Langley Community Garden received a grant of \$345 from the Whidbey Island Garden Tour to purchase worm bins and worms. On Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, from 10 AM to 12ish, a work party will be held to clean up all the planting beds and planters in downtown and spruce up Langley. Nancy is also collecting donations for planting new plants. Mike's place will be serving hot chocolate and coffee to all the people working. Over 200 primroses will be planted.
- c. *Main Street Program.* Fred Lundahl reported that an organizational meeting was held a couple weeks ago and an interim board of directors was set up. There has been a lot of interest and people stepping forward to help revitalize the city. Next steps will be to set up a 501c3 and an application made to the state to become a startup Mainstreet organization.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Robert Gilman reported that Island Transit's Board has been discussing how to build a new facility. They have used the same facility since they started up. They now have 145 employees and one bathroom and they also have two maintenance bays for 200 vehicles. Grants to build a new facility are no longer available. Their staff is looking into different options for borrowing money or other funding options. Robert will be attending the Association of Washington Cities legislative action conference in Olympia.

Fran Abel thanked Challis for quickly fixing the badly done tree pruning that someone did behind the library and taking care of all the branches and trimmings from that. Hal Seligson added that Challis is doing an incredible job with public works.

Rene Neff reported that she has stepped down from the position she has held for two years on the board of the EDC and that she will be a member of the Mayor's Commission on Economic Health and is hoping to stay on the Cemetery Board, but may not be able to if meeting dates are changed.

Bob Waterman reported that the Historic Preservation Commission would like to bring to the City's attention and idea of the city considering forming some sort of an historic preservation district for the downtown area. Bob gave a presentation on that idea. One of the Commission's goals is to preserve the historic character of downtown Langley. The Comp Plan also has a goal of preserving the historic character of the city. The possibility of setting up Conservation Districts and other options were discussed.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Marianne Edain of WEAN said she received a complaint from a Langley resident today that in the trail area around a chain link fence near the Highlands for 30-40 feet and into the woods that someone has butchered the trees and left debris all over. Jim Sundberg said he walks that area often and that overhanging alders and blackberries have been cut back. Mayor Samuelson will have Challis check on it.

Chris Jerome encouraged someone on the Council to get engaged in the EDC now that Rene Neff has stepped down. Ross Chapin stated that he has written a book regarding pocket neighborhoods, small efficient housing, density, etc. which he presented at a Smart Growth Conference where it was very well received. It will be out in Moonraker Books shortly. He encouraged the city to hire a planner with more holistic based experience with smart growth codes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** To authorize the Mayor to sign a supplemental agreement with Cane Engineering for work on the CMA Park & Ride project. Motion – Waterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Neff.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** To adopt Resolution No. 728 authorizing the establishment of a health reimbursement arrangement/voluntary employees' beneficiary association ("HRA VEBA") plan. Motion - Neff, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Seligson.  
Motion passed with all in favor.

**MOTION:** To adopt Ordinance No. 955 relating to law enforcement and adding a new Chapter 2.18 to LMC providing a general description of the duties and functions of the police department and the appointment and duties for the position of police chief. Motion – Waterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Seligson. Questions arose as to changes in the document since the first reading and because the clerk was not present to discuss the issue, no vote was taken.

*Council Committees discussion.* Robert Gilman explained that the Langley Municipal Code gives the Council broad latitude in setting up Ad Hoc committees. Council sponsors of Ad Hoc committees would become the chair of the committee; write up the scope of the proposed committee which would be for a specific purpose and time. They would be focused on research and gathering information which would then come back to Council for consideration. Robert suggested a “Code Clean-up Committee” that would go through the Municipal Code and find such things as typographical errors, language changes needed, etc. Hal Seligson commented that the way most people access the municipal code is through the city’s website. The version of the code that is on the website is out of date and not the most current version of the code. Hal suggested finding a way to convert the document into a digital form that can be searched. Thomas Gill is in the process of doing that now. Robert Gilman also has some ideas for doing that. Some talk ensued of having a possible Council standing committee regarding the code.

**MOTION:** To adopt the procedures set forth in the memo from Council members Gilman and Abel on establishing ad hoc committees. Motion – Neff, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Waterman. Motion was unanimously passed.

**MOTION:** To establish an ad hoc Code Clean-up Committee based on the scope and description supplied to Council by Robert Gilman. Motion – Gilman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Neff. Motion carried with all in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Consultant hiring practices.* Hal Seligson made some suggestions for a unified practices and procedures for consultant hiring. State law sets out procedures for selecting consultants for engineering and architectural services. Hal has suggested a similar procedure for all consultant hiring other than emergency purposes.

**MOTION:** To bring to a first reading a Resolution amending the Municipal Code Fee Schedule regarding Cemetery use fees. Motion – Neff, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Waterman. Motion passed without opposition.

**MOTION:** To confirm the Mayor's re-appointment of Marilyn Helsel to the Cemetery Board. Motion – Gilman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Neff. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** To confirm the Mayor's re-appointment of James Tully to the Library Board. Motion – Waterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Neff. Motion carried with all in favor.

**MOTION:** To confirm the Mayor's appointment of Gail Fleming to the Planning Advisory Board. Motion – Waterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Neff. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm. Motion – Waterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Neff. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk