

## Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

March 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. Also present were Director of Finance/City Clerk, Debbie Mahler; Acting Police Chief, Randy Heston; and Planner Larry Kwarsick and about ten members of the public. The flag salute was led by Council Member Gilman.

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

### CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2011.
- b. Claims Warrants Nos. 27522, 27598-27621 in the amount of \$37,007.61
- c. Approval of Agenda

### NEW BUSINESS

**MOTION:** To confirm the Mayor's appointment of Monica Guzman to the Library Board. Motion - Waterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Gilman. Motion was unanimously confirmed.

Larry Kwarsick announced the hiring of Jeff Arango as the City's new Community Planner. Jeff has just completed his Master's Degree in planning and has a lot of experience. He will be working on the Second Street project, the Wharf Street project and working jointly with Larry on any development projects that come in.

**MOTION:** To authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with ESA Adolfson in the amount of \$13,300 to complete Shoreline inventory, analysis and characterization report for the Shoreline Master Program update. Motion - Gilman, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Waterman. Motion carried with all in favor.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

a. *Bob Herzberg Proclamation.* Mayor Samuelson read his proclamation recognizing Chief Bob Herzberg and his retirement. He proclaimed March, 2011 as Chief Bob Herzberg Month in Langley. A swearing in ceremony for Acting Chief Randy Heston and a goodbye to Chief Bob took place at City Hall last Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

b. *Council workshops and special meetings.* Mayor Samuelson passed out a schedule of workshop meetings to be held in the coming weeks on specific issues.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Robert Gilman reported that he will be meeting with the Mayor and Debbie this week to start working on the Code Clean-up Committee. He has talked with the City Attorney about how this work should proceed. Robert also reported that he had been contacted by a dog owner who didn't feel they should pay for a dog license because the ordinance is not enforced. He wanted to know how and if the licensing ordinance was enforced. Debbie reported that it is hard to enforce, but that the city contacts former licensed owners, puts a notice at the City Hall front desk about licenses and announces the due date on the city utility bills. Chief Heston reported that he does enforce the ordinance and that when he finds a dog running loose, he hunts down the owner and warns them and that if they do not comply, tickets are issued. Debbie also mentioned that lost dogs are often brought to city hall and if they have a tag, it is a very simple process to notify the owner. If they are not licensed, it is much harder to return the animal to its home.

Fran Abel reported that she has done some research on the MRSC's help desk service. The program costs \$100 per year and MRSC provides software to the City to track questions and complaints from the community and provides follow-up reports. Fran recommends that we have a demonstration and put the issue on a near future agenda. Rene Neff reported that she will stay on the Cemetery Board as the meeting date has been changed to a day that she can attend. She intends to start an ad hoc parking committee in the near future and will bring the issue before council soon.

Bob Waterman reported that he has recruited six of the seven required members for the Sustaining the Character of Downtown Langley ad hoc committee. They may have their first meeting in the next week and will take 60 days to gather information. March is Historic preservation month – need ideas of what to do to promote historic preservation in Langley. Hal Seligson reported that he would like to add an exemption to the policy he has suggested on a consultant hiring process before it is adopted that would address issues like the hiring of a short term consultant where the city can piggy back with other agencies like the County for the same services. Hal also said that he has made some his proposed Committee on Finance & Personnel made some minor refinements in the design of his proposed finance and personnel committee and set some priorities. He has had discussions with members of the community about membership. He wants to openly begin recruitment of candidates for the committee very soon. A workshop will be scheduled in the near future to further discuss this committee with the full council. Hal has also joined the Economic Development Council as a board member. He will be attending a meeting in Coupeville March 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Department Reports**

Debbie Mahler gave financial reports for the month of January. She stated that while the general fund began the year with a much higher than expected balance, the once per year expenses like liability and property insurance had to be paid in January causing a shortage of \$1,900 in the general fund. She is hoping that revenues pick up soon and this

will be short term. She will look into taking a very short term inter-fund loan to cover the shortage.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Kathleen Waters asked for a remedy to the situation re council email/Debbie. The Council's email address at city hall goes to Debbie who then has to forward it on to Council members. This becomes a problem if Debbie is not in, and the Council members have a delay in getting correspondence. Thomas Gill, the city's volunteer IT manager stated that he had a solution that he would put in place. Kathleen also asked about the process of revising the city's UGA boundaries. She would like a report on the process.

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm. Motion – Waterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gilman. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk