

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2011

Mayor Samuelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Robert Gilman, Rene Neff, Fran Abel, Bob Waterman and Hal Seligson. Also present was Director of Finance/City Clerk, Debbie Mahler and approximately twelve members of the public. The flag salute was led by Council Member Gilman.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – March 21 & 22, 2011.
- b. Claims Warrants Nos. 27622-27623, EFT 3/9/11 & 3/28/11, 27710-27729 in the amount of \$36,986.31
- c. Approval of Agenda

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. *2011 Organizational structure & historical trends.* Mayor Samuelson gave a memo to the Council detailing the historical personnel trends. City staffing levels and contracted services have been reduced with city staff taking over previously contracted services. The current organizational structure is the leanest the city has had in the last nine years.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Robert Gilman reported that Vance Tillman has been added to the code clean-up committee. He is pleased with the way things are moving along. Fran Abel reported that she has had her first briefing on the Tourism Committee. Rene reported that the Cemetery Board is working on a new brochure with new information on green burials and fee schedule, etc. and are working out issues from the first green burials. The Parking Committee had a first meeting, focusing on Second Street issues first. They will bring recommendations to the next meeting. Rene attended the Utility committee which included an overview of the projects done by the utility department over the year. She reported that the State Department Of Health had commented that our utility rates for water are too low and we may not qualify for grant funding if they remain as they are.

Bob Waterman asked if there would be continuing workshops on Tuesdays. Mayor Samuelson stated that two more workshops are scheduled in the coming weeks. Bob reported that the Ad hoc committee on sustaining Langley's character, has gathered a lot of information and are discussing how to define a neighborhood and what it is that should

be preserved. They will report back to Council after their next meeting. Hal Seligson reported that he is getting good feedback from citizen members of the committee on personnel policies. The Economic Development Commission is meeting this week in Greenbank and he will be attending.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Debbie Mahler passed out the current sales tax graph and the monthly revenue and expense reports for the month of February, 2011. Sales tax is just slightly higher than at this time last year, but \$19,000 less than this time in 2009. 2008 was the city's highest sales tax year and at the end of March was approximately \$6,300 higher than this year. Debbie explained that a short term interfund loan of \$25,000 was used to supplement the General fund leaving it with an ending balance of \$15,146. She expects to be able to repay the loan by May. Real estate excise tax is very low, the city has not received any in February or March reflecting the slow real estate market. Building permits still remain low also. Debbie also presented the schedule for Finance Committee meetings and the calendar for the 2012 budget. Comprehensive quarterly financial reports will be given to Council at the second meeting of the month following the end of each quarter.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Rhonda Salerno would like to see the city go forward with a food ordinance or something proactive on local production such as an ad hoc committee. She also asked why there was no meeting of the Planning Advisory Board in March or April? Rhonda also feels that enforcement is a problem in the city and that policies for enforcement on land use must be tougher. She felt that it is very frustrating and that it is important to map wetlands within the city. She also feels the city needs an education campaign on dealing with wetlands; people are destroying them without knowing it. Rhonda also stated that there is a slide on Edgecliff about to take out the road. Marianne Edain of WEAN said Rhonda is working on wetland cases that have gone unenforced. Marianne is working on an issue with Jeff Arango who has said that because no wetland has been delineated on this property, nothing can be done. Marianne feels that the critical areas ordinance needs enforcement. She said all county permits say that if a wetland is discovered, action and must stop. Robin Adams agrees enforcement concerning wetlands is an issue in the city.

John Norby reported that a member of the civil service commission has suffered a devastating stroke and the city may need to find out if he is still able to serve on the board. Kathleen Waters wrote to the city regarding the finance committee and is concerned about any committee that has two council members on it and is not open to the public. She stated that she is interested in transparency in all financial matters.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm. Motion –
Waterman, 2nd – Gilman. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk