

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

May 2, 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 were Deputy City Clerk, Annette Andrews-Lux; Director of Planning Larry Kwarsick; Planner Jeff Arango and about 26 members of the public. The flag salute was led by Council Member Abel.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda. Motion - Waterman , 2nd - Gilman. Motion carried unanimously after questions from Councilman Waterman regarding the final agenda item were asked and answered.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2011.
- b. Council Workshop Minutes April 19, 2011.
- c. Claims Warrants Nos. 27799-27817 in the amount of \$ 14,454.46
- d. Approval of Agenda

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. *Ric Prael Proclamation.* Read by Mayor Samuelson. This proclamation was signed and given to the family of Ric Prael at a memorial gathering on May 1, 2011.

b. *May Workshops.* Reviewed list of upcoming workshops.

c. *Tourism Funding* This discussion addressed the proposed use of some of the miscellaneous funds that have been earmarked by council for the Main Street project. The proposal is that some monies be donated to the Chamber for an upcoming event that will serve several of the Main Street goals. Sherry Jennings of the Chamber presented some information on this upcoming event-“Fun and Fashion Langley Style”, envisioned as a regular twice a year event. Monies would be used toward PR expenses to advertize the initial upcoming event. Sherry also gave a brief report on the recent positive notice given to Langley by Evening Magazine, which will be part of a program to be aired this evening .

Paul asked for feedback from council members regarding this request, and they offered very positive comments. It was clarified that this was a partial use of the funds and that there would still be additional funds available for use by the Main Street project.

When asked if he was comfortable with this use of the funds, Fred Lundhal asked if he could consult the Main St. board at their upcoming meeting and get back to Paul..

COUNCIL REPORTS

Robert Gilman reported that things are moving along with the code cleanup committee. He is hoping to have a report by next meeting. He shared that he will be part of a panel at an upcoming Open Gov West conference.

Fran Abel reported that the Tourist Committee will be meeting on Thursday. She attended the first Finance Committee of the year last week. Highlights from the information shared at the meeting included noted reductions in salary/benefits expenses, increased excise tax income, a small increase of building permits revenue and increased lawyer fees due to Langley Passage issues. Business license renewals have been delayed to June, thus affecting first quarter revenue. The committee is also looking at the unmandated services of passport acceptance and the Cemetery and conducting a cost/benefit analysis. There are no budget red flags at this time, however June will be a significant budget indicator month.

Rene Neff reported that she is going to the upcoming Main Street conference. She also attended the Utility Committee meeting. The Water Comprehensive Plan is being worked through and she noted the areas that the PW staff has been working on. She wanted to highlight that our Public Works Dept has received two recent awards: from the Dept of Ecology, for the work at the WWT plant, and from the Dept. of Health, for exemplary compliance. She also noted the significant level of cross-training that the PW staff has achieved. Kudos to the Public Works department! Rene also mentioned that she has been working with Fran Abel regarding the start of a new market in Langley to supplement the Bayview market which cannot accommodate all the vendor requests it receives.

Bob Waterman reported this is Historic preservation Month and plans are being made to display historic photos around town. On Tuesday, May 17th at Music for the Eyes he will give a talk on the history of the Langley downtown area. He also proposed a possible "Bocce Ball" league, with various groups taking advantage of the new bocce ball court at Useless Bay coffee.

Hal Seligson reported that his committee continues to work towards the goal adequate public access to records, including an online repository. He addressed the issue of proposed compensation for the next mayor, including part-time/full time status, and asked if this should be addressed prior to the election to make it part of the information that voters have access to in their decision-making. Current code requires that a base salary is in place unless there was a presented work plan that would indicate an increase. This work plan would normally be presented after election. Some council members would like to see this as an agenda item for further discussion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mary Elizabeth Rosenberg suggested that a new agenda item might include clarity about whether the next mayor would be full time or part-time mayor. She also made comments about being criticized at an earlier date by a council member for “advertising” on the Langley City Forum and commented on remarks this evening from a council member “advertizing” a new Langley market.

Ursula Roosen-Runge asked for information regarding salary for council members to be added into the discussion. Robert Gilman clarified that the conversation would include a look at other cities and how their salaries relate to mayor salaries. She also stated that she does not support a change to the current structure.

Gail Fleming wanted to clarify the difference between the Langley City Forum and its purpose and the current setting of a council meeting where Rene addresses an upcoming market.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad Hoc Committee reports

1. Bob Waterman-Sustaining the Character of Langley. He gave a power point presentation that summarized the findings of his committee and presented the tasks at hand.

Council affirmed that this is a worthy goal to continue to pursue. Bob presented the council with questions of planning options that are available, how the task will be defined and who will carry the task forward. Decision was made to present the options to the Planning Staff to review for their recommendations on how to move forward.

2. Rene Neff- Parking Committee

The committee is comprised of a group who has addressed parking issues in the downtown area for the last couple of years. She asked for council discussion on specific proposals presented to the council.

- a. Proposal to extend the current hours for regulated parking from current hours of 8am-6pm, with a 4 hour limit, to extend to 10 pm.
- b. The request to add to the current parking ordinance address the 4 hour block parking that “moving your vehicle to another space does not disqualify you from warranting a ticket”, in order to beef up the law for the police to be able to ticket those who ignore the block regulation.

- c. Proposal to change the violation fee from a flat \$25 to keeping the first offense at \$25, second offense raised to \$75, third offense to \$125. The idea would be to focus on dissuading repeat offenders.
- d. Change the 15 minute parking spaces regulation from 5 to 7 days a week enforcement.
- e. Business license applications would include this information on new penalty rates and on designated parking spaces for employees. New rates would need to be distributed in other ways as well.

Citizen comments:

Ursula Roosen-Rung cautioned about an enforcement method approach to the parking issue. She said we should encourage employers' responsibility to require employees to park in specific places. She cautions about the effects of an extension of regulated hours to 10:00 pm.

Vance of Fossek Farm encouraged the council to walk around to see how long it takes to walk and visit all the shops in Langley to know if 4 hours was adequate length of time for parking

Leeann Finley is concerned about the perceived friendliness of Langley. She suggested providing a map of free, all day parking spaces.

Thomas Gill suggested a compromise of bringing the time frame back to 8:00 pm, instead of 10:00 pm. Additional long term parking information could be made available on parking signs.

Marianne Edain raised the issue of the possible redesign of 1st and 2nd Street, how this might affect parking and encouraged including ways to be more pedestrian friendly (such as a local shuttle bus.)

Anne Waterman has not had trouble parking when she comes into Langley and wonders how many others have.

Steve Buff sees this as an enforcement issue and says that it is difficult to expect shop owners to take this on.

Mayor Samuelson closed the discussion and asked the Parking Committee to take all these comments and concerns into consideration to determine how to move this issue forward.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To adopt a resolution to remand code revisions to the Planning Advisory Board. Motion was made by Rene Neff, 2nd by Hal Seligson. Questions and comments were offered by council members to Larry and were responded to. Motion carried with all in favor.

MOTION: To authorize the Planning Staff to prepare an ordinance establishing the Hearings Examiner System. Motion made by Bob Waterman , 2nd offered by Rene Neff. Discussion occurred around financial implications of this decision. Motion passed without opposition.

Form of government discussion was pursued among council members. Some expressed strong reservations about a change in form, but others spoke more strongly about the timing of this proposal being what is most difficult.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Motion- Bob Waterman , 2nd by Rene Neff . Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Andrews-Lux, Deputy Clerk