

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2011

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2011
- b. Claims Warrants Nos. in the amount of \$45,567.47
- c. Payroll Warrants # 27882-27903 (5/16/11) in the amount of \$38,351.05 and # 27905-27926 (05/31/11) in the amount of \$42,477.59
- d. Approval of Agenda.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. *Chamber Report.* Sherry Jennings reported that this coming Wednesday is the Merchant Walkabout. Forty flower baskets went up in downtown Langley. Donations of \$75 per basket are still being sought. The Second Street Market is opening on June 24th. Chamber is very happy to be working with the Market. Langley Loop signs should be up in the next three weeks. Choochokam is coming up soon, and the Chamber is busy getting ready. The entertainment is all set up. Volunteer opportunities are available thru Chamber to cover the Visitor Information Center for five days. The South Whidbey Trade Fair will be September 17th & 18th and will be at Bayview Center this year. Another Fun and Fashion Langley Style event will be held this fall.

b. *Port Report.* Commissioner Chris Jerome reported that the Army Corp of Engineers has said it may be six to twenty-four months till permits are issued for the harbor. One of the grants applied for by the Port was not awarded. The Port is planning to take the 400 ft. float and break it down into two or three pieces and form a protected breakwater that can be used. They may be able to get a permit this year for that work because it doesn't require pilings.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Eric Levine said that Mainstreet is planning a Historic Langley celebration on August 27th and thanked Bob Waterman for allowing the group to use the City's historic photos for their display.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To confirm the Mayor's re-appointment of Shirley Owen to an additional term on the Library Board. Motion - Waterman, 2nd - Gilman. Motion carried with all in favor.

MOTION: To approve the Annexation Agreement with Sno-Isle Library District and authorize the Mayor to sign it. Motion - Gilman, 2nd - Neff. The motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Samuelson expressed his thanks to the community for their overwhelming passage of the vote to annex. Jonalyn Wolf-Ivory, Sno-Isle Executive Director stated that this is the final piece to make the annexation complete. Sno-Isle only has one city left contracting and they are paying close attention to our annexation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Position Discussion. Fran Abel stated that she respected much of the work that Councilmember Gilman has done and considered him her mentor on the Council, but that Councilmember Gilman is no longer acting in the best interests of the city as Mayor Pro-tem and by law the Council is allowed to remove him from that position. Rene Neff agreed and stated that her confidence has been eroded by Councilman Gilman's public declarations of problems with the Mayor and his not bringing a public change of government discussion to the Council, but instead, working silently with a group to form a petition without the Council's knowledge. Bob Waterman also said that he would have appreciated a council discussion first, and feels the way the petition was done was inappropriate. Councilman Seligson nominated Bob Waterman to serve as pro-tem for the remainder of his term. Robert Gilman said if a majority of Council is not comfortable with him in that position, he is willing to step down.

MOTION: To appoint Bob Waterman as the Mayor Pro-tem for the remainder of his term. Motion – Seligson, 2nd – Neff. Motion carried unanimously.

Comp Plan Concerns. Rene Neff said she has concerns that sub-area planning, land use budgeting and transfer of development rights are too complicated and onerous and

expensive for a city our size and thinks they would not be utilized. She asked that the planning department report back to Council on the cost, legality, etc. of those issues. Rene also asked that page 8, in the Executive Summary of the Comp Plan, the section regarding studying Council/Manager form of government be stricken from plan. Bob Waterman agrees that phase II of the zoning plan has potential, but is complex for a city our size and does not have community support and thinks that revising it through the comp plan is a good idea. Consensus was to proceed on removing these issues from the plan.

OLD BUSINESS

a. *Parking Committee Report.* Rene Neff asked for feedback on her committee report at the last meeting. She reported that Challis researched the cost of changing signs, (\$313.00 not including installation) Costs of parking enforcement were discussed and whether the 4 hour parking period should be extended. It is now four hour parking between 8 am and 6 pm; extending to 8 PM was considered and the council decided they didn't want to expand the hours covered by the parking restrictions, or raise fines at this time. Council members said they preferred the city to step up efforts to educate people about where long-term parking options exist in town.

The next step will be clarifying the city code that parking for more than four hours on a downtown street is not allowed, with the hope that future enforcement efforts will be spent on repeat offenders. Currently, some people move their vehicle to a different spot on the same street after four hours. The code could state that the four hour limit is on a street, not a particular space.

Thomas Gill spoke in favor of changing the four hour parking till 8 pm. Vance Tillman feels that if you come into town for dinner and a movie you may pass the four hour limit and that would drive away customers. Chris Jerome said as long as they park in an area that is not limited to four hour parking, it wouldn't be a problem. The four hour limit is only in certain areas. Rene and Chief Heston are visiting every merchant on Second Street with a letter asking merchants to ask employees to park in the extended hour parking areas and giving them maps that show all parking areas. The Council liked the police department's emphasis on warnings and education and enforcement for repeat violations. The council will talk about an ordinance that would tighten up the parking rules at a future meeting.

b. *Personnel Committee Report.* Hal Seligson provided a draft version of a revision to the city's policy on layoffs and has gotten feedback from Councilman Gilman. Debbie will pass that feedback on to the rest of the Council for a discussion of the issue at the next meeting.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:47 PM. Motion -
Waterman, 2nd – Seligson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk