

City of Langley

Council Meeting February 1, 2010

Mayor Samuelson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Robert Gilman, Jim Recupero, Rene Neff, Bob Waterman and Russell Sparkman. Also present was Larry Cort, Director of Planning; Challis Stringer, Director of Public Works; and Debbie Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk. The flag salute was lead by Bob Waterman.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda. Motion – Waterman, 2nd – Recupero. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2010
- b. Claims Warrants 26006-26008, 26076-26078 26105-26122 in the amount of \$32,122.65
- c. Approval of Agenda

MAYOR'S REPORT

- a. Langley Library – Vicky Welfare, Librarian reported that a Teen writing workshop will be held at 7 PM Friday, April where they will have a poetry slam, and have snacks. This year's Whidbey Reads will feature the book All Roads Lead Me back to You starting later in February.
- b. Port of South Whidbey – Chris Jerome, Port Commissioner reported that the harbor brought in \$158,000 in revenue for 2009, twice what they had budgeted. They recently had a workshop on Port Finances, and setting long term goals. An administrative costs workshop will be held next week on bonds. Marina permit is in process. Meetings of the Port Commission are going to be changed from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. Mr. Jerome is setting up a meeting with Island Transit to see how transit service can enhance the marina.
- c. Chamber – Sherry Mays reported there was a sign meeting last week and it was very encouraging. There will be a sign directing people to Langley on Highway 525, but not necessarily at Campbell Road. Index also does not share highway frontage like Langley. Another meeting will be held in a week and one half. A Banner is to be installed on the Kiosk at Ken's Corner directing people to "Historic Langley". The kiosk will be open for the beginning of the Olympics. Hiring of a new coordinator for the Island County Tourism agency is in process. Mystery Weekend is coming soon; lodgings are booking up.

- d. Response to Citizen Comments – Kim Tiller read a statement regarding the issues she brought up at the last meeting re Highway signage, increase in business fees, and tourism funds. The increase in business license fees, the fees and taxes charged on businesses in other jurisdictions were discussed. Communication regarding changes to fees was also discussed. Mary Elizabeth read a letter from a merchant regarding the increase in the license fee. Council consensus is to make the due date for the business license fee July 1st when it is easier for merchants to pay.

Mayor Samuelson explained that the way the Tourism budget is distributed has been in place for many years. The City's Finance Committee is now looking at the tourism budget line by line and seeing if any changes in distribution need to be made. The finance committee's recommendations will go to the Mayor's Council on Economic Health and then will be referred to the City Council. Councilman Sparkman spoke to the work that the Mayor's Council on Economic Health has been working on to diversify and improve the economic health of the city. The Port is planning a major dive event to draw people to Langley.

Rene Neff explained the Langley PR Initiative. A group of merchants got together and raised funds to hire a promotional agency to draw tourists. The scope of the contract will depend on the amount of funds raised.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Robert Gilman, who is a Board Member of the Association of Washington Cities, reported that the AWC held a legislative conference in Olympia in January which he attended. The Legislature is being lobbied to increase city flexibility in funding, and ways to get more storm-water funding to cover mandated programs.

Rene Neff reported that she attended an EDC meeting. Bob Waterman reported that the Historic Preservation Commission will have a vacancy in March and the Library Board has a vacancy now.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Debbie Mahler reported that her office has been very busy closing out the financial system for 2009 and beginning the annual reports to the state. She has been setting up the new storm-water fund and its chart of accounts in the financial software system and doing quarterly tax reports. She reported that January sales tax was \$10,000 lower than this time last year. January receipts are for sales that took place in November.

Challis Stringer reported that a water conservation kit is available to city residents and leak detection tablets for toilets for free. They will be available at the front desk at City Hall.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bob Trenchard said he thinks the Langley Community Forum was a good way to communicate and would like to have the City replace it with another avenue for citizens.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: To Authorize Mayor Samuelson to sign a contract with Sheridan Consulting Group for historic preservation services – to perform an intensive survey and inventory of historic properties in the amount of \$15,000. Motion - Waterman, 2nd – Recupero. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: To confirm the Mayor’s re-appointment of Bob Dalton and Faith Bushby to the Design Review Board. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Sparkman. Motion passed without opposition.

MOTION: To bring to a first reading, a Resolution amending the Municipal Code Fee Schedule regarding grave plots. Motion - Recupero, 2nd - Waterman. Motion was approved with all in favor.

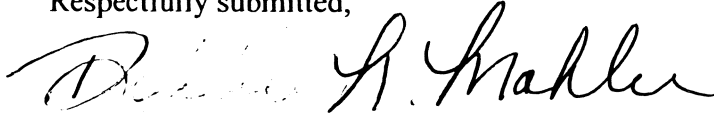
MOTION: To bring to a first reading, an Ordinance amending Ords 523, 716, 802 & 898 and Langley Municipal Code 2.52 regarding the City Cemetery. Motion - Sparkman, 2nd - Waterman. Motion unanimously passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. *Zoning Code Amendments.* Larry Cort reported that a public outreach effort regarding the changes has been started. Letters have been mailed to residents; meetings, both group and individual will be set up and several public hearings. The proposed code has gone to the State for their approval. A workshop will be held at the Catholic Church is set up for February 11th. A new web page was put on line to explain the code. Three responses have been received from the development/construction community with their comments on the code, several more are expected. Larry went through each section and explained the changes.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:00 PM. Motion –
Waterman, 2nd – Recupero. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie L. Mahler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk