

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes October 19, 2015

Mayor McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Thomas Gill, Jim Sundberg, Robin Black, Bruce Allen and Rene Neff. Also present were Stan Berryman, Public Works Director; Michael Davolio, Planning Director; Dave Marks, Chief of Police and Debbie Mahler, Clerk/Finance Director. Mayor McCarthy led the flag salute.

MOTION: To approve the agenda. Motion - Gill, 2nd - Allen. Motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda. Motion – Allen, 2nd – Neff. The consent agenda was approved with all in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 10-05-15
- b. Approval of claims warrants Nos. 33800-33841 in the amount of \$67,848.56
- c. Approval of payroll warrants Nos. 33669-33689 (9/15/15) in the amount of \$40,290.32 and Nos. 33719-33743 (9/30/15) in the amount of \$82,389.34

RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION

Denise and Michelle LaRue, and their Mother, Virginia (posthumously) all long time business owners in Langley were recognized for their contributions to the City. Both sisters retired this year. Sue Frause wrote and read a piece that she wrote for a magazine in 2006. Mayor McCarthy presented the sisters with plaques and city award pins. A pin and plaque were also awarded in their mother, Virginia's name. A short break was taken to celebrate and have cake. Council members and audience members each expressed their appreciation. The meeting temporarily recessed at 5:48 PM for ten minutes to have cake. The meeting reconvened at 6 PM.

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

Civil Service – not present, Chief Marks reported on the new member and that the city has advertised for police positions.

Cemetery Board – Christine Epstein reported The Board has organized volunteer cleanup days, recruiting people to help clean up the landscaping. The last cleanup was in April of this year and the next one will be this week, October 24th, at 10 am. Cary Peterson has created a website at <https://langleywoodmencemetery.wordpress.com/> and has posted current information (such as the work day) as well as history, policies, and places for information about Green Burials. The Annual Luminaria/Day of the Dead event will be happening again this year on Sunday, November 1st. Once again Cary Peterson and friends will place Luminaria along the main pathway into the Cemetery. It is a moving and beautiful event and helps local residents feel more connection to the Cemetery.

The Cemetery Board has been discussing a fund raiser with Gary Smith of Mukilteo Coffee. He will make several coffee blends to benefit the Cemetery - Wake the Dead, Roast in Peace, and Graveyard Grind...

Main Street members were not present. Stan Berryman reported that an intern did a new planting plan for the rain garden, and our engineering firm added a few materials.

Arts Commission – Frank Rose, Chair of the Commission stated that Michelle LaRue is inventorying all art in Langley, some public and some privately owned. She will put together a walking tour when complete. Frank presented a draft six year \$900,000 plan for art in Langley. Seawall Park is the center of the plan. Complex plan, would like the Council’s endorsement to move ahead with the management plan. Frank answered Council questions. Rene expressed her appreciation to the Arts Commission. There is an opening on the Arts Commission for an additional member.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sharon Emerson commented that the Comp plan lists values of the city that are not reflected in the budget. She feels that instead of increasing Main Street funding, the City should put up solar panels or some other project. She also feels the City should fund other performing arts entities besides WICA. Debbie stated that tourism funding is by contract and the non-profits we contract with must be able to prove that they are attracting tourists from over 50 miles away.

PUBLIC HEARING – General Fund Revenue for 2016 – Mayor McCarthy opened the hearing at 6:25 PM. Debbie Mahler gave a power point presentation on tax revenues in the general fund. Debbie answered questions from Council and audience members. The hearing was closed at 6:45 pm.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Planning – Michael Davolio reported that he sent a reminder to the Kleiners that we are ready and waiting for their application on the Doghouse. He attended a meeting on affordable housing and will be traveling to Baltimore for the national AIP exam meeting. Michael met with Main Street about vacant commercial buildings in town. His intern found some cities that have an ordinance calling for vacant buildings to be well kept, something in the windows, etc. He is taking this information to the Planning Advisory Board and will hopefully bring back an ordinance. There is a planning short course being offered in Coupeville. Michael stated that it will include great information for elected officials and planning boards. He has taught the course in the past. If people can’t attend the meeting, some of the materials can be downloaded on line. Our Intern looked at the 2013 parking study and updated it. Michael presented a copy to council, will make a presentation on Wednesday to PAB. Rene asked for parking study presentation to council as well.

Public Works – Stan Berryman reported that trees have been an issue this year. There has been much tree damage that has been evaluated by an arborist. Cabling is being done on a large tree by Catholic Church that has been damaged. Northview detention pond vegetation has been cleaned out and the pond is drying. Drain will be cleaned out so that it functions well. The Dept. of Health had backflow concerns at the pump house; the crew is making changes to address those. There has been severe plum tree damage at the entrance to the City from the PSE trimming. We are looking for ways to improve their health.

Police Department – Chief Marks reported his department helped Island County respond to two separate shootings in Freeland within two hours. Both suspects were arrested and there were no injuries. Officer Black was supposed to go to the equivalency academy this week, but had to be away for legal proceedings. He will be attending the next one. The department got new AED batteries, and are looking at contracting with a local doctor to oversee the AED program.

Finance – Debbie Mahler distributed revenue and expenditure reports for the month of September. She also distributed revenue graphs. Debbie reported that she will be on vacation after Tuesday until next Monday, as she has a son getting married this coming weekend. The State auditors will be here on Monday, October 26th to begin the audit for 2013 and 2014. Debbie and Cheryl attended a very interesting and helpful conference last week in Leavenworth.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McCarthy reported that a community Rabbit Meeting was held on October 6th. Many ideas were shared and there were excellent speakers. A follow up Rabbit Committee Meeting will be held on 10-27-15 at 10:00 am, here at City Hall. The City's responsibility will be mostly informational. The Ethics Board still has an opening for an alternate. A fairgrounds visioning planning meeting was held on 10-6-15 and another one is scheduled tomorrow night at the Fairgrounds.

The supervisors have completed the fifth and final annual training with an EEO and Disability Accommodation Module and Personnel File Recording. Island County Law and Justice Council moved their meeting back one week to October 21st. The jail special report is finished and the Mayor will report on it soon. There is an Island County Substance Abuse Prevention Committee meeting tomorrow. The Langley emergency procedures plan with a chain of command in it has been given to every department in red binders. Mayor McCarthy updated the Council strategic priorities list.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Council Members discussed their prioritization of budget items for 2016. Mayor McCarthy will put the prioritized lists into one format and will bring it back to council for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To bring to a first reading, an Ordinance fixing the amount of Ad Valorem taxes to be collected in 2016. Motion - Sundberg, 2nd - Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

UGA/City limit – The Mayor and Michael Davolio met with county staff regarding this issue. The idea is to shrink the UGA limits to city limits, except for the 3 properties in the current UGA with a sewer line over them and hook up rights for sewer. One of those properties has subdivided and has rights to hook-up by deed, so there are now four properties. If property is not in the UGA, those properties cannot hookup to sewer and it would be a taking of property rights that would have to be compensated. Michael will be working with county staff to look at those properties in the Joint Planning Area on a one by one basis and determine which are available for further urban growth and which are best left in rural.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Jim Sundberg reported that Island Transit Board meets this Friday and will be discussing their 2016 budget. The budget in good shape, will continue to generate ongoing surplus for capital investment in bus replacement as needed. Robin Black reported that a joint meeting with the Port is planned on November 24th at City Hall at 2 PM. Port is working on getting beach access for the public, Mukilteo parking survey, and fairgrounds due diligence. The Port's golf cart made 60 trips to the business district from the harbor, and 200 people were transported this summer. They are letting contract for improvements to floating dock for larger ships, cruise, etc. Chamber did a presentation for 2% funds from the county. They will receive a 24,000 grant. Chamber is also updating the walking map and working on a future job fair. Rene Neff reported that the cemetery board met and worked on a brochure for green burials and home funerals which should be ready soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk