

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2015

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

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Neff. Motion passed. Main Street report and a Library report were added.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Allen. The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 12/15/14
- b. Approval of Claims Warrants # 32617-32618, EFT 12/2/14 & 12/29/14, wire transfer 12/4/14, 32703-32728 in the amount of \$145,926.92
- c. Liquor License – Gori’s Gournex
- d. Confirmation of the Mayor’s appointment of Michael Davolio as Planning Director

RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION

Mayor McCarthy introduced Michael Davolio, the City’s new Planning Director. Mr. Davolio has a volume of private and governmental experience in both Washington and other states and areas of the world.

Chief Marks explained that the city received some heart defibrillators about three years ago. Officer Liggett responded to a call of someone unconscious. He was able to use the defibrillator and save the person’s life. Chief Marks congratulated Officer Liggett and presented him with a Mayor’s Excellence Award and Mayor McCarthy presented him with a City pin.

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

Janet Ploof reported that Main Street has four committees, 2 of which work with the City Planning and Public Works department. The Economic Revitalization Committee runs the shuttle, started the 2nd St Market and does reporting to the State. They are also working on the food trucks issue. The Design Committee keeps our historic character and cleans up the streets and parks; is in charge of landscaping, pots on 1st Street and the bump outs on 1st, 2nd and Anthes and all the hanging baskets. Membership Committee is in charge of membership and finances and budget. The Promotion committee organized the Sea float scramble, shopping incentives, events, historic plaque project, and the Whale Watching boat fund raiser. There are about 20-30 Main Street associations in the state. They have also worked on Seawall Park lighting, initiated clean-up at Langley Park, the Soup Box derby, a walking map of city gardens, the Arts Alive program, PAWs 5K run, planted the city hall garden, Deck the Doors contest and various other projects.

Vicky Welfare, Librarian reported that the Library and its staff are very happy about the grant to upgrade the heating system at the library. Vicky reported on some new programs the library is holding this month: a class on social media strategies this Thursday, downloading e-books to kindle class on Friday, Diana and Kelly Lindsey will speak on the 22nd about their book, "Something More than Hope". There will be a seriously funny, film and philosophy discussion on the 30th, and on the 31st of January, a meet the author of "My Mother is crazier than your Mother".

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Will Collins of Fourth Street wanted to appreciate our Police Department for riding bikes whenever possible which reduces carbon emissions, promotes a healthy lifestyle and makes the officers more a part of the community. He mentioned that the prior Police Chief (Heston) used to attend the senior lunches at Brookhaven, which was very nice. Will is concerned that Langley should not accept surplus military equipment because it looks militant and unfriendly. Sharon Emerson stated that without Jeff Arango working for the city, the website has not been as well maintained. She suggested that there be more cross training within staff on updating the website. She also volunteered to help.

Tim Callision gave a presentation on singing roads. He showed a video of the singing road in Tijeras, New Mexico. There are only five singing roads in existence. There is another in Lancaster, California and three in other countries. The roads make music as they are driven over and are quite a tourist attraction.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McCarthy invited all council members to attend an event at the Naval Air Station at the Officer's Club called the Island Community Leaders briefing on January 29th. The Mayor posted maps from our hazard mitigation planning process and asked that community members fill out an online survey regarding hazard mitigation. We are updating our 2008 plan. A team from the city will be attending the next mitigation planning meeting on Tuesday the 13th of January in Coupeville. When the plan update is complete, the draft will be available for 30 days for public comment and possible revision before the Council adopts it. A group of small cities struggling with sewer issues has formed a coalition (Sewer Funding Coalition) that is attempting to improve available financing and grants for sewer improvement. He would like to join the coalition which has membership dues of \$500 per year. The Mayor would also like to discuss incentives for citizens to hook up to sewers.

We have had an inquiry from our tenant at the old fire hall to purchase the building. Once an appraisal of value has been made, the city can discuss that issue. On January 7th, the PAB will have the County Planning department join their meeting to discuss the updates of the Comp Plans. The Upper Langley Development application is going to the hearing examiner for approval. Input was gathered from council and staff regarding the neighborhood issues with Mo's Pub. The Mayor received 50 different suggestions. He would welcome input from citizens to also to give us ideas. A warming center has been requested at the Langley Methodist Church. The church has approved it, planning will look at the issue. Mayor McCarthy has been asked to be a part of briefing finalists for the director of Whidbey General Hospital position. The Whale Center has done very well since it opened and will give Council a report and may ask for further financial assistance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sidewalk snow and ice removal. City has public works staff on duty six days a week. There was only one staff member on duty on November 29th the day it snowed and it takes two people to mount the plow and sander on the truck. We were unprepared and unable to remove snow until late in the day. We were able

to get the County to sand roads for us. At the last meeting there were questions from some members of the public about snow removal on sidewalks. Stan Berryman has proposed a notice go out to merchants explaining the laws on sidewalk snow removal, their responsibilities and that deicer will be available for purchase at City Hall

COUNCIL REPORTS

Jim Sundberg stated that he is happy to welcome our new planning director and appreciates Jack Lynch helping to make the transition. There is an Interim Director on the job at Island Transit while the search for a permanent director takes place. Jim is our representative to the Transit Board and Mayor McCarthy is the alternate. Robin Black stated that the rabbit overpopulation problem on 3rd and 4th street has caused \$4,000 in damage at just four homes. Mayor McCarthy will check with Fish & Wildlife about the problem. Bruce Allen is attending a youth mentoring class in Olympia on Wednesday. Rene Neff sold her business to a young artist, she will stay on as manager. Rene stated that she is excited to talk to the new Planning Director regarding parklets on First Street. The merchants think it may be a good way to get shoppers down First Street pass Anthes Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Clerk/Finance Director