

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2015

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

MOTION: To approve the agenda. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Neff. Motion passed.

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 2/17/15
- b. Approval of claims warrants in the amount of \$112,268.65
- c. Liquor License – Topsy Gourmet

RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION

- a. Mayor McCarthy reported that he made a 5 year pin presentation to Rob Durr who has worked for the city actually 6 years, but preferred to receive his pin privately than in a meeting.

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

- a. Civil Service Board Report – no activity since hiring of new officer
- b. Library Report – Vicky Welfare reminded everyone of the change in Library hours coming in May. 10 – 6 every day and till 8 on 2 days a week. The Library is closed on Sundays. There will be a “Boys in the Boat” book discussion on March 13th and on the 14th a session on self-publishing. Two more programs are coming up – sharing stories of WWII round table discussion Friday April 3 at 10 AM. Tom Trimbaugh will discuss his experiences going from middle class to millionaire and back to broke.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Will Collins shared a story about a plugged drain at a home his wife owns. He had the drain fixed many years ago and recently had problems with it again. He called the same contractor and found he had retired and his son taken over the business. The cost more than doubled over the years. He thinks this is a good example why we need a professional salary for Mayor in this day and age. A young person with a family cannot afford to serve the city without adequate compensation.

Monica Guzman stated that in January she received a call from the PW Director asking questions about how many people live in her home, if she had a B & B, etc. A week later she received a utility bill from the city for \$665. She came to city hall to find out why. She was told that the city had not been billing her for her sewer for several years and that is what the bill was for. She was very upset about the way it was handled. She was not told the city had made a mistake and there would be additional charges. She talked with the Mayor and thought something was going to be done about the bill. She went on vacation for a month and came home to the water being shut off because she had not paid. She had to pay the bill with an additional penalty to have the water turned back on. She feels the city did not deal with this in a good

manner. She is not asking for a reduction in the bill, she is asking for accountability from the city. She is very unhappy with the way the situation was handled. The City found about seven billings where sewer was not being charged. Mayor went to the City Attorney and asked if he had the power to waive those billings. The law does not allow the city to write off the debt, as it is a "gift of public funds" under the state constitution.

Sharon Emerson read a written statement regarding a funicular between the waterfront and downtown in Danna Point, CA where they experienced maintenance and budget problems with it. That statement is attached hereto.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McCarthy reported that Ethics Training was completed in February 2015 for supervisors. Michael Davolio also did ethics training for the WA Planning Association and has been asked to do training for Island County Planning. Supervisors are doing ethics training with their employees.

On February 19th the Mayor attended Lucas Adkins' graduation from the Law Enforcement Academy with Councilmen Allen and Gill. He was very impressed with the Law and Justice Academy. Lucas did an exemplary job in his time there.

Planning for the March 31st Quarterly Economic Development Workshop and Luncheon is underway. It will be entitled "Highway to Revenue" at City Hall, all are welcome. Will start at 10:30 AM and last until Noon.

The Mayor has contacted Kim Hoelting regarding having council room tables made. He is working on a budget for it. Also, we are looking at replacing the fiberglass chairs in the Council Chambers with low cost folding chairs. The tables currently in use are sagging badly and the audience chairs are old and uncomfortable.

Langley Vision for the Future 2-26-15 workshop was very successful. Accelerated Innovation training was provided by Tim Callison was very helpful. There have been ongoing discussions with a Girl Scout Troop regarding a rabbit control project. They are interested in pursuing a bronze award for the girls and presenting a plan to control the rabbit population in Langley.

Mayor McCarthy has proofread two additional sections of the Inter-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County Consultant. It will soon go to FEMA for review and then come back for public comment. There has been some news from the Sewer Coalition and AWC Legislative Meetings on rates for sewer. Langley is charging much less than cities putting in new treatment plants. He is hopeful that we might get some funding for improving our treatment plant, and line extensions that need to be done.

A citizen commented about the Clipper ship visits and requested we get data from Coupeville on the impact of the Clipper visits there on commerce. Coupeville does not have data available about the impact of Clipper visits. Langley will be paying for additional transportation to and from the marina when the Clipper visits happen here.

Meetings report from 2-25-15 – RTPO (approved resurface of Cascade in 2016); Law and Justice Committee had a presentation on a law and justice special tax levy; Substance Abuse Coalition had interesting data from the county coroner regarding deaths from substance abuse. There is an Apple maps issue, they have Langley on Hat Island. The Mayor has given his concerns to Apple. If we get a response, he will show them there are other areas that need correction. Mayor McCarthy went to Olympia and made a presentation to an Employee relations and management network on building quality organizations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Revision of SW Parks MOU

MOTION: To approve the amended MOU. Some additional minor language changes have been made at the request of the Port after the City approved the MOU. Motion – Allen, 2nd – Sundberg. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. RFP for Sale of Firehouse building – if the City chooses to sell, the first step is to declare the property as surplus, then issue the RFP with the right to refuse any and all bids.

MOTION: To accept the RFP as written – Allen, 2nd – Neff. Motion carried with no opposition.

- c. RFP for Food Vendor Trucks – for vendors to use the two spots on public property.

MOTION: To approve the RFP for mobile food vendor's on public property. M- Allen, 2nd – Neff. Motion to restrict all mobile food trucks use during Choochokum weekend. Motion – Neff, 2nd – Allen. Motion failed with Sundberg and Gill against the restriction. Motion to restrict only the public spaces during Choochokum. Motion – Gill, 2nd – Sundberg. Motion carried with Allen against. The original motion was then voted on and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Ordinance amending Mayor's Salary

MOTION: To bring to a first reading an Ordinance amending LMC 2.60.015 and Ordinance 959 Regarding the Salary of the Mayor and setting it at \$55,000 annually. Motion - Sundberg, 2nd - Allen. Motion carried with all in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that she has been working on “Women on Whidbey” a fundraiser for WICA. She is also working on Island Shakespeare events. Bruce Allen enjoyed the graduation at the Police Academy. He rode to the graduation with Chief Marks. The car they were in was barely missed by someone who ran a red light and caused an accident. Chief Marks detained the person until the Auburn Police arrived on scene. First meeting of the year for Choochokum was held last week. Bruce is now head of the organization. HUB kids have asked to sell bait and ice at the marina and are awaiting approval from the Port District. Councilman Sundberg had no report. Thomas Gill was deeply impressed by the graduation ceremony at the L & J Academy. He reported that the last Drug Abuse Coalition meeting was very productive. Tomorrow night at 5:30 at City Hall is the quarterly Library Board meeting. Councilman Gill

reported that he has been trying to deal with Apple Maps for two years, trying to correct problems with the maps regarding Langley. He is hoping for a response from Apple.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Clerk/Director of Finance