

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

June 1, 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 attended digitally. 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 - Allen, 2nd - Neff. Motion carried.

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 5/18/15
- b. Approval of claims warrants Nos. 33192, 33257, EFT 5/4/15, 33282-33302 in the amount of \$60,384.02

RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION

Mayor McCarthy presented Jim Porter and Eric Richmond with Mayor's Excellence Awards for the remodel of the Porter Building. Jim owns the Porter Building and Porter Insurance, Eric Richmond did the design work on the remodel. Facility enhancement, color choices and design on the building.

Utility Clerk/Deputy Clerk Cheryl Knighton was awarded a "Meeting the Exceptional Challenge Award" for her work in the building department files. With the hiring of a contractor and the transition, the city recently discovered some data recording and reporting that had been missed. Cheryl took the initiative and did the research necessary to compile all the data, complete the reports and institute procedures for the department.

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

Chamber of Commerce – Michaleen McGarry, new Chamber Director reported that Mystery Weekend had an increase of 41% attendance over last year. The visitor's center has had 2,596 visitors for the year. The Kiosk was damaged by a vehicle and has been completely fixed. They have two new board members, including Councilwoman Robin Black. The SeaTac Shuttle vehicle wrappers look beautiful and show Island scenery. Chamber website is finally near completion; will be on line in a week or two.

Library Report – Vicky Welfare, Librarian reported that library will hold an open house on June 17th for Robin Obata's retirement. They now have an opening, which can will be closed June 8th for part-time work. Summer reading is now in session for kids. Monday June 8, will be a book discussion – The Books We Love, Halfway Favorites. On June 11th they will hold a Meet the Author – Glen Jolley and his book "Almost There", and on the 18th author Alan Ament and his book "Learning to Float." On the 20th there will be a program "using Their Powers for Good" for Geeks and Gaymers and Michelle Schmidke will speak on her recent trip horse trekking in Mongolia on the 22nd.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

John Norby stated that he removed over 125 tires out of the Langley wellhead property over a year ago. There are still additional tires (at least 200) there that the city has not removed. He feels that it creates a mosquito problem and pollutes the aquifer and has created other possible health obstacles. John feels soil samples need to be taken and tested. He is very upset that nothing further has been done. Stan Berryman reported that the dumped tires are downstream from the City water supply and soils have been tested and the water is continuously tested.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McCarthy reported that he attended Island County League of Women's Voters - Mayors' Dinner – 5-21-15. It was a very good meeting with many Langley citizens in attendance. Mayor McCarthy had a meeting regarding audio and video equipment consolidation in council chambers last week. This will be the last piece in the spruce up of the council chambers. The Council of Governments meeting on 5-27-15 received a proposal from Freeland for a grant to study incorporation. No final decision has been made yet. The Mayor also attended the Regional Transportation Planning Organization meeting that same day.

The (ILIO) Island Local Integrating Organization works on Salmon preservation and removal of shoreline armoring. Tim Callison is our representative on the board. The Law and Justice Council Meeting for May was cancelled. At the Island County Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition on the 27th, Chief Marks attended as did Marshal Norrie from Coupeville. They reported that there is a visible difference in drug trafficking since the coalition started and neighborhood meetings were held. The HEAT team, a swat type of police force was formed in response to the drug related crimes and now property crimes are down throughout the County.

On 6-30-15 the Quarterly Economic Development Workshop will take place at the Methodist Church. It will have an arts focus. Frank Rose, Chairman of the Arts Commission has been organizing it. We are expecting 50-100 people to attend. The next workshop will be on 9-29-15. The theme for it is "Incubating New Businesses" with presenters from "Grow Washington" and the Mayor of Sultan will be present. Mayor McCarthy made two Business visits last month – Through the Reading Glass and Topsy Gourmet. The business owners said it is sometime difficult to draw people off of 2nd Street into the businesses located in the village.

Mid-year Employee Evaluations will be done in June. They are done regularly twice per year. Annual ethics and harassment trainings are complete. We have monthly trainings scheduled. The next training for supervisors and staff will be substance abuse prevention. The next Island Transit Board Meeting is June 8, 2015 at 9:30am. Bruce Allen will attend in Jim Sundberg's place.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance No. 1014 amending Langley Municipal Code Section 10.13.030 regulating the length of overnight camping stays. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Gill. Motion was not voted on.

MOTION: To table the ordinance until further research on the issue such as how to address temporary housing. Motion – Neff, 2nd – Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

Angie Moser of the SW Port District, and Melene, Facility manager of fairgrounds spoke about the ongoing problem of homeless living at the Fairgrounds. It is a very difficult situation. They want to help these people, but the campgrounds are designed for transient use. South Whidbey Park has closed camping at the park and that is increasing the use at the Fairgrounds. Curt Gordon, Port Commissioner thanked Chief Marks for the help he has given the Fair Campgrounds. They now have a new camp host living there full time in an RV.

NEW BUSINESS

Stan Berryman PW Director explained that the owner of the Star Store has been working on designs to remodel the entrance to the store on Second Street over the past year. Some of the existing structures are on the right-of-way. To provide room for the improvements, Gene Felton is requesting an equal land exchange with the City. The process would be to vacate a portion of the right-of-way on McLeod Alley and then make a swap of the land. A resolution setting a date for a public hearing to consider the vacation is a first step.

MOTION: To waive the first reading and pass a resolution setting a date for a public hearing for July 6, 2015 to consider the vacation of a portion of an alley abutting the Star Store between First Street and Second Street in Block 12 of the Plat of Langley. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Gill. Motion was approved with all in favor.

Planning Director, Michael Davolio explained that we currently require an annual business license and we have a temporary business license that is good for one week. We have nothing in the code to address seasonal or part-time businesses. Therefore, we are asking the Council to amend the licensing code to add a Seasonal business license good for a 90 day period and to extend the temporary business license to ten days to encompass two possible weekends.

MOTION: To waive the first reading, and pass Ordinance 1015 amending Ordinance Nos. 745, 938, and 977 and Langley Municipal Code Chapter 5.04 regarding Business Licenses. Motion - Gill, 2nd - Neff. Motion passed without opposition.

MOTION: To waive the first reading, and pass a Resolution No. amending the Municipal Code Fee Schedule with regard to business license fees. Motion - Gill, 2nd - Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Thomas Gill reported that the Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition meeting was very eye opening and informative. Very positive changes have happened since the Coalition was formed. Jim Sundberg has been out of commission due to a medical problem but has been keeping up with Island Transit issues by email. The Legislature is trying to force fare charging. The catch 22 with charging fares, is that they are very expensive to set up on a small system with a large range. The fare collection also adds time to the routes. They are currently supported by sales tax. Island Transit will not serve off Island routes after August 1. The temporary executive director is going to be made permanent. The Board is still discussing changing and adding to routes. Robin Black went to her first Chamber Board meeting. She stated that it is

a very strong board, and she is excited to be a part of that. Her first Housing Authority meeting is next week. Robin asked if the city could give a list to people of what is required to open a business in Langley and what steps need to be taken. Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery Board discussed an issue at the last meeting about Al Anderson Road. The pavement stops at the Cemetery and the rest of it is private. The use of the road has changed and will be used more once the upper Langley development is put in. Much of the traffic and use is for the Cemetery. Question of whether it should remain a private road or a public road. Costs for maintenance of the roads is very different if a public road and not private; different standards. Island Shakespeare Festival is moving the performance tent to the elementary school field on Maxwellton Road. Rene stated that it is a very nice site with plenty of parking at the school.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session at 7:18 PM for approximately 30 minutes to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale. Motion passed.

To adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular meeting at 7:45 PM.

MOTION: To charge the Community Planner to obtain at least two independent evaluations and the merits of dividing the Firehouse property and bring these findings back to the Council in executive session on June 15th. Motion – Allen, 2nd – Neff. Motion was approved with all in favor.

Chas Glass representing Mr. McVay stated that he gathered comparable values from other sales in the city and has found that they differ greatly from assessed value.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Finance Director/Clerk