Langley City Council Minutes
July 21, 2014

Mayor McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. Present were Council Members Thomas Gill, Bruce Allen, Robin Black, Jim Sundberg and Rene Neff. Also present were City Planning Director Jeff Arango, Public Works Director Stan Berryman, Police Chief Dave Marks, and Director of Finance/Clerk Debbie Mahler.

MOTION: To approve the Agenda. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Gill. Motion carried. Presentation of the Salish Sea Video was postponed.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda. Motion - Gill, 2nd - Neff. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA
a. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes 6-16-14
b. Approval of claims warrants Nos. 3194, EFT 6/2/14 and 6/3/14, 32040-32080 in the amount of $103,693.22 and Nos. 32108-32132 in the amount of $42,407.23
c. Approval of payroll warrants Nos. 31974-31997 (6/15/14) in the amount of $47,100.60 and Nos. 31916-31942 & direct deposit (6/30/14) in the amount of $50,650.38.
d. Liquor Licenses – The Braeburn, renewal; Useless Bay Wines, winery
e. Proclamation - Mayor McCarthy read a proclamation proclaiming the fourth day of July to forever be known as Island Shakespeare Festival Day.

PRESENTATIONS
Carolyn Tamler reported that a survey was conducted by about 24 businesses in Langley this May. Ms. Tamler gave a presentation on the results, what was learned and how perhaps the information can be used to further help business.

RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION
a. Design and completion of Second Street – Approximately 200-300 people came to the Second Street dedication where the architects, designers and construction people were honored. Jeff Arango, City Planner was the project manager. Mayor McCarthy awarded Jeff a certificate for his work on the project. Jeff going to a conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina where he will speak about the project from September 1 – 3. Main Street is contributing to his airfare.

b. Wastewater Treatment Plant – The City’s treatment plant has won numerous awards from the State, for their treatment and testing of water/wasterwater. The plant once again achieved full compliance with
state regulations with no violations. The plant also received this award in 2013 and the last 3 years in a row from the Department of Ecology.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
Sara B wants to open a restaurant and move her retail business (Wander on Whidbey) up to the Old Living Green building. She would like the city to rezone that area from neighborhood business to commercial. Jeff Arango stated that this is something he has been looking at doing for some time.

MOTION: To direct Jeff to include this rezone in the proposed land use codes that Jeff will be bringing to Council in the next month. Motion – Neff, 2nd – Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS
Planning – Jeff Arango reported that there are proposed Code amendments coming in the near future on design review, trees and land use. He is working on a proposal to allow food trucks in Langley. This will be conceptually presented at the next meeting. The first Arts Commission meeting went very well, and they are working on a Request for Proposals for the two pedestals on Second Street. Jeff gave a short presentation on the City’s new website. Data is being migrated to new site and it should be online in five to six weeks.

Eric Richman of Flat Rock, Pam and Paul Schell owners of the Inn at Langley gave a presentation on a conceptual elevator that would allow access from the harbor area to Cascade Avenue. This would make certain uses viable on the properties down there, if they people can park elsewhere. The Inn bought the Drake house. The bridge and elevator would be big enough to carry carts for boaters and would provide access to Cascade at about 4th Street. Schell presented the concept. The City has a $500,000 grant. Schell and partners would cover any further costs. A restaurant (Langley Dock Café) focusing on local seafood will be built on Wharf Street and also have boating supplies and the Inn at Langley Marina suites. Mr. Schell answered questions from the council. Some of next steps are to document data on ongoing operating costs and maintenance.

Public Works – Stan Berryman reported the Library painting is almost complete. New City Hall sign was put up recently. Langley Park – contracted with Danna & Byron Moffett to clean up Langley Park, and are contracting with the State to purchase a backhoe that has been needed for some time. We are also contracting with Pace engineering to do an update to the Sewer Comp Plan. PSE has done a review of energy use in city hall and will give us a report. Three post office street lights have been fixed.

Police – Dave Marks thanked Choochokum staff. He stated that it was a flawless event this year. His department is preparing for the fair which is earlier than it used to be. CPR training was completed by officers and public works. The PD’s Facebook page has been very helpful. Suspects have been found through Facebook posts. He is
adding info for businesses to the Facebook page and asking businesses to inform the PD when alarm lines are cut. His department has been watching the loading zone and writing infractions for violations.

Finance – Debbie Mahler passed out revenue graphs, monthly and mid-year financial reports. Debbie reported that revenues are on the upswing and expenditures this year have been under budget so far.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor McCarthy reported that a business development seminar on Small Business Loans was sparsely attended. Information is available to all who are interested. The Second Street dedication went very well. It was very well attended. The next monthly job sector luncheon is next Tuesday – Civic groups and organizations such as Chamber, Rotary, Lions Club, etc. The new Substance abuse committee is meeting after the Council of Governments meeting each month, and all are welcome to attend. The economic development plan is right on course; we are half way through it. Networking luncheons are working very well. Mid-year employee evaluations have been completed.

Mayor McCarthy has had ongoing communications with Mr. Francisco over First Street development. He is hoping a development can be put together that is more consistent with the theme and scale of Langley. The Mayor has also kept in communication with the Kleiner’s over the Doghouse and he has put those communications in writing for the Council along with the Keiner’s comments. He would like to schedule a retreat or workshop on budget planning for 2015. This is where the Council can review this year’s accomplishments, set goals and themes for focus, and budget assumptions for next year. This was set for Wednesday, August 20th from 9 AM to 11 AM. During Choochokum, the Post Office blocked the entrance to 3rd Street from the PO parking lot. A meeting with the Postmaster was held a few days later. They had concerns over the safety of their drivers loading their vehicles there. He understood the need to keep that open for citizens to use, with perhaps signage warnings for safety. Gardens at the post office are to be maintained soon.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Water issue – The City had a request from a low income citizen whose home burned down and is being rebuilt, for assistance with her large water bill that has accrued during this time. As the City code reads that water rates are charged when a water right is given, even if water is not being used, there seems to be no legal way to reduce the bill. Council asked that the city check with legal counsel on suspending rates for natural or catastrophic disasters.

Coal Train – Councilman Sundberg is concerned about shipping impacts and the possibility of spills. Other environmental issues affect the mainland more than us. Train routes have had a lot of bluff slide issues also, so there is the possibility of coal
spills from trains also. There will be a presentation on the issue from the Salish Sea video in a month or so. Council will wait and see how the public feels about the issue before deciding whether to take action.

Robin Black is joining Leadership Snohomish County. Merchants Survey – Mayor McCarthy suggested that instead of another survey, maybe have successful merchants talk with other merchants about what is working for them. Another social media workshop may help. Local bank financing class is coming up from EDC, another one is planned on business insurance. Social media may be more helpful.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed ordinance revising Emergency preparedness ordinance. Requesting change from Mayor chairing committee to Police Chief chairing.

**MOTION:** To waive the first reading and adopt an ordinance amending Langley Municipal Code Section 4.01.060 Disaster Response Committee. Motion – Allen, 2nd – Neff. Motion carried with all in favor.

Six Year STIP – Stan Berryman outlined the projects in the six year street improvement plan and what years each project is scheduled for. A public hearing will be held on this issue at the next regular meeting.

**MOTION:** To bring to a first reading, a resolution adopting the 2015 – 2020 Six Year Street Improvement Plan. Motion – Neff, 2nd – Sundberg. Thomas Gill suggested a few minor changes which will be incorporated into the plan. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Jim Sundberg reported that some of the connection services for Island Transit with the mainland have been cut because of cuts in state funding.

Meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk