

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

August 3, 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; 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 - Allen, 2nd - Black. The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 6/20/15.
- b. Approval of claims warrants Nos. 33397, EFT 7/2/15& 7/28/15, 33499-33519 in the amount of \$24,647.59.

RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION

- a. Mona's Chocolates – Mona Newbauer and her husband, Tony were presented with a Facility Enhancement Award by Mayor McCarthy for their contributions to the city with the remodel of their business location adding welcoming and inviting services to the city.
- b. Wastewater treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award. The City received an award from the Department of Ecology for the fourth year in a row. From more than 300 treatment plants, Langley was one of 127 that achieved complete compliance. Randi Perry and her staff have performed in an exemplary manner.

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

- a. Library Board – Semi Annual Report. Marty Behr, President of the Library Board expressed her gratitude to the Council and Mayor for making the library a priority and for having Councilman Gill attend meetings and keep the board informed. She stated that the people on the board serve with passion. The board meets quarterly, but members take on projects in between their meetings. Recently, they revised the bylaws, painted the exterior of the building, took care of rust on handrails, and redid the trellis. The Board had a budget workshop recently, Thomas Gill supplied a lot of information. In next meeting they will be prioritizing goals. The new landscaping in coordination with the 2nd Street project turned out very well. The Board is collaborating with the Friends of the Langley Library and they are working well together. Stan Berryman took the board on a tour of the building and grounds which was very helpful. The Board expressed their praises to Vicky Welfare and her staff for the wonderful work she does.
- b. Library Report – Vicky Welfare reported the summer reading program is coming to a close on Aug 14th with Insect Safari. There will be a drawing for a Kindle Fire. All Sno-Isle Libraries will be closed the day after Labor Day for in-service training. People have been complaining that there is no short-time drop off parking spot for people who just need to drop off a book or something similar. She asked if the City might look into a 15 minute parking spot adjacent to the library.

CITIZEN COMMENTS *

Doug Slaten, a resident of Northview, explained that the detention pond for Northview is on their property. He has lived there for ten years, and there has been no maintenance on the pond that he knows of. It is the City's responsibility to take care of. Invasive, non-native plants have grown into and cluttered the pond. The plan was to remove the invasive plants and dredge the pond to clean it out. Soil testing has revealed that it is contaminated with mostly diesel fuel. The landfill in the County will not take the dredged soils. Mr. Slaten stated that this pond is home to a lot of wildlife. He would like it taken care of as soon as possible. The pond takes up about a half acre. Stan Berryman explained that they must first re-establish the outfall and dry out the pond somewhat. Then remove the vegetation. Doug thinks it needs to be handled by a company trained to handle contaminated waste. Hal Seligson asked if the RFP contained the data about the contaminated material. Stan Berryman stated that the City did not know at the time, that the material was contaminated. The work was to be done in August or September, but now the City can't dredge because the county landfill won't take it. Pioneer Tree was hired after an RFP received no responses. They plan to drain the water; the contamination is in the soil at the bottom of the pond, not in the water. Once it is dried out, the outfall can be restored and drainage improved along with plant removal. Pioneer Tree has worked on these kinds of projects before.

Charlie Kleiner, owner of the Doghouse stated that Fred McCarthy and Michael Davolio visited him last week about the land swap proposed between the City and the Doghouse property. The Building Official had told them that property under the stairs belonged to city and they asked for a vacation of r-o-w to make that property part of their parcel. The process dragged out for a year, and then the former planner, Jeff said that staff no longer supported the exchange. The City later agreed to a land exchange, Council approved initial process, and the Planner said they should get going on their building permit. Mr. Kleiner stated that they have spent many \$. Now they have been informed that the City Attorney has advised against the land swap. Elevator on side of building, not in favor. Janice Kleiner added that they are very frustrated, have done everything the city has asked them to do, asked to restore the building instead of building a new one. Discussion of the issue ensued for some time.

Frank Rose asked for consideration of funding for public art in the coming budget process. He reported that estimated costs to maintain existing art programs and 2016 programs under consideration will be provided to the City Council for the August 18th budget workshop. This Friday will unveil the first mural to be put on the side of the Firehouse. As a member of the community Frank asked that the Council support bringing art and artists into the City fold.

Sharon Emerson stated that the City needs an Ethics commission. She feels that Council can change the composition of the board to allow the three members we have, change the composition of the proposed board, etc. Hal Seligson agreed with that and asked that the City move forward with an Ethics Board. Rene Neff agrees that the Board should be up and running and we should change the requirements from Langley residents to people outside Langley. Ordinance would have to be amended to change the requirement that board be mostly Langley residents. Councilmember Gill stated that it is a five member board and we now have four members which is a quorum, why not start the board now and amend the ordinance to allow more members from outside city if needed. Amendment to ordinance that would open up membership to joint planning area or Langley zip code was discussed. Mayor McCarthy recommended forming the board with the existing four people and then try to continue getting members to apply. Final consensus was to amend the ordinance to allow an alternative number of members.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McCarthy reported that there is one open position on the Library Board, one on the Arts Commission and one on Planning Board. The FEMA Floodplain Maps meeting will be on August 26th

from 6 to 8 PM in the Coupeville Recreation hall. The City has notified 70 waterfront property owners regarding the meeting. The County has also sent notice to homeowners affected. Carolyn Eslick and Tammy McVeety from “Grow Washington” will be the presenters at the September 29th quarterly economic development workshop. The “Here for You” program has been implemented with a large number of businesses participating. The Post office access issue will be discussed with an Attorney representing post offices in Washington next Tuesday. The Mayor and department heads will meet with our attorney before that meeting. The Postal attorney wanted to close off the lot with a fence and meet in three weeks. Mayor McCarthy moved up the meeting and asked for no closure of the driveway. The Mural unveiling at the old Firehouse building will be at the end of the Friday market at 5 PM. The anniversary of Lolita the whale’s capture is coming up. The Whale Center has asked the Mayor to give a key to the city of Miami Beach (the site of her SeaWorld location) in Lolita’s name.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor McCarthy distributed the Draft agenda for the 2016 budget planning workshop scheduled for 8-18-15 at 1:00 PM to 3PM. He also distributed a draft topics list of mutual interests, a Mayor’s 2016 budget, draft Budget assumptions, draft Mayor’s interests for the 2016 budget, and a draft five month plan of major projects. Sharon Emerson asked that the public be asked for their input and suggestions on the budget. Sharon was informed that the meeting is open to the public and several workshops, public hearings and meetings will be made available for public participation.

MOTION: To waive the two reading requirement and pass Resolution No. 773 declaring certain City real property (Old Firehouse Building) no longer surplus to the needs of the City. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Gill. Motion passed with all in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that the Shakespeare Festival has been tracking where people come from when they attend the performances. On the 23rd and 24th of July, they had people from all over the country and the world attending. About 50% locals and 50% from outside the area. Robin Black expressed her appreciation of the posts on the Design Langley website. Jim Sundberg reported that the Island Transit will receive state funding to keep the inter-county connectors going. Island Transit must still negotiate details with Skagit County on the connectors. Island Transit is running a small surplus in revenues and have paid off short term loans taken out last year. They also have a five year bond they are paying on. Thomas Gill reported that the Substance Abuse Coalition met and had a useful discussion on how we have criminalized abuse of drugs instead of treating it as a social and medical issue. He went on a tour of the sewer treatment plant with operator Randi Perry. He was blown away by the facility and all the work that transpires there. Mr. Gill was very impressed with the zero discharge: i.e. our taking the waste product and turning it into a fertilizer/compost. Mayor McCarthy stated that he will have the City attorney come to next council meeting to talk about the r-o-w vacation/land swap issue. He was totally surprised about how the meetings with the Kleiners were characterized and what they said earlier in the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Finance Director/Clerk