Mayor Fred McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Rene Neff, Jim Sundberg, Hal Seligson, Bruce Allen and Thomas Gill. Also present were Jeff Arango, Director of Planning; Dave Marks, Acting Police Chief; and Debbie Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk. The flag salute was led by Mayor McCarthy. The Clerk swore in Thomas Gill who took his oath of office and was seated at the Council table.

**MOTION**: To approve the agenda as amended. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Allen. Motion was approved.

**MOTION**: To approve the consent agenda with one minor correction to the minutes. Motion - Seligson, 2nd - Allen. Motion was approved with all in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 11/18/13  
b. Approval of claims warrants in the amount of $21,011.53  
c. Confirmation of the Mayor’s appointment of Stan Berryman, Public Works Director

**RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION**

Mayor McCarthy thanked Maria Cablao for her work as the city’s Public Works Director and wished her success in her future endeavors. He stated that in the short time she was with the city, she had lots of accomplishments and was very supportive of her staff.

**LIBRARY REPORT**

Librarian Vicky Welfare reported that they have been getting cost estimates to remodel the staff room at the Library. The improvements would be funded by the Friends of the Library. The Library has some fun programs this month. “Let it Snow” is a program on the 23rd where they will be making snow globes. On the 30th they will present Alley Oop – Riddles and tricky tales. On Saturday December 28th there will be a workshop for ages 16 and up on “Creating Intentions.” On January 3rd there will be a program entitled “Symptoms as a Metaphor – Every Illness tells a Story.”

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Fred Lundahl reported that he is on the Board of Directors of the Orca Network. They have been working on a way to market the City as a whale destination. They would like to establish a “Langley Whale Interpretative Center.” Their goal is to partner with the City, MainStreet, the Port and possibly other entities to open a Whale Center by March 1st of 2014. It would be open three to four days per week and be free to the public.
MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor McCarthy reported that the Shrimping Advocacy Committee has sent a letter to the Commissioner of Public Lands requesting a moratorium on commercial harvesting of shrimp in Saratoga Passage. He also reported that an electrical analysis of the old fire hall building has been completed. The City has received some complaints about the new sidewalk on First Street being slippery when it is cold out. He is looking into how to fix that situation. One of the steps at the Boy and Dog Park broke over Thanksgiving weekend. Our police department blocked off the steps until public works can get it fixed.

Mayor McCarthy reported that the Council’s budget workshop went very well and some changes were made to the preliminary budget. The Council of Governments had a presentation from the Senior Services of Island County. He stated that Oak Harbor gives the Senior Services $18,000 per year. He and Mayor Conard of Coupeville have discussed participating also. A joint presentation to both cities will be set up in the future, probably in February or March. Planner Jeff Arango has done some preliminary research on establishing an Arts Commission. The Ethics Commission has a training module put together for possibly sometime in January. The Mayor and several council members will be attending a training workshop in Arlington this coming Saturday sponsored by the Association of Washington Cities.

CONTINUED 2014 BUDGET HEARING

Mayor McCarthy opened the public hearing at 6:10 PM. Debbie Mahler reported that the changes requested by the Council at their budget workshop have been incorporated into the budget. Brian Willows of Cedar Circle commented that Langley has a very large budget for a small city. He feels the city is spending too much, and that even grant revenue is money that comes from taxpayers. Debbie Mahler explained that the General Fund budget is approximately $1.7 million and that the overall budget contains many infrastructure projects. Mr. Willows questioned the need for a funicular from the wharf to downtown. He feels there is not enough traffic to make it necessary. Jeff Arango explained that the funicular is planned to coincide with the expansion of the marina which will greatly increase the volume to traffic. Mr. Willows feels the Port is doing an awful job of managing the marina. He stated that they have raised rates of 50% and that it is the most expensive of all neighboring marinas for moorage.

Susan Ishakawa asked if a public restroom on First Street is included in the budget. Mayor McCarthy stated that the budget does include painting and improving the existing public restrooms and that if easements or right-of-way transfers are requested for development on First Street, the city may ask for the providing of restrooms in return. Susan stated that even porta potties would be helpful. There were no further questions and the hearing was closed at 6:36 PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION: To bring to a first reading, an ordinance adopting the 2014 Budget. Motion – Sundberg, 2nd – Allen. Motion was unanimously approved.
MOTION: To approve the Contract with SRV Construction for the Second Street project in the amount of $1,905,022. Motion – Neff, 2nd – Allen. Motion carried without opposition.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution No. 758 Amending the Municipal Code Fee Schedule. Motion – Neff, 2nd – Allen. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Arango did some preliminary research on establishing an Arts Commission in the City and presented those results to the City Council. He gave examples of commissions in other cities and the differences in functions that those cities established.

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance No. 944 repealing and replacing LMC 1.24 with a new Chapter entitled “Ethical Conduct.” Motion – Seligson, 2nd – Gill. The ordinance was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery Board will be meeting tomorrow. Jim Sundberg will be attending the Library Board meeting next Thursday. They have two new members and are interviewing a possible third new member. Bruce Allen will be attending the County-wide Tourism Committee meeting next Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk