Langley City Council Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2014

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

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended. The agenda was amended to waive the two reading requirement for the bond ordinance. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Allen. Motion was approved.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda. Motion - Gill, 2nd - Allen. Motion was approved with all in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 12/16/13
b. Approval of claims warrants Nos. 31265, 31331, EWFT12/3 and 12/13, 31353-31385 in the amount of $31,508.87
c. Confirmation of the Mayor’s appointment of Aaron Simpson to a regular position on the PAB
d. Confirmation of the Mayor’s appointment of Paul Goldfinger as alternate PAB member
e. Confirmation of the Mayor’s appointment of Marty Baert to the Library Board

RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION

Mayor McCarthy introduced our new public works director, Stan Berryman. Mr. Berryman has moved here from Bolder, Colorado. He has many years experience as a public works director and other municipal work in Colorado and Oregon.

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

A schedule of Board and Commission report dates for 2014 was distributed to Council. Vicky Welfare, Librarian reported that they are offering Microsoft academy on the Sno-Isle website now. Classes will be available at the Library on Jan 17th at 10 am to learn tips and tricks for using Kindle e-readers to download books, a class on Saturday, January 18th at 10 am on how to write your own personal story. Preschool times are Thursdays at 10 am.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Maureen Cooke spoke concerning amplified music at Mo’s Pub. The permitted events created no complaints for noise and no problems. Maureen asked that the amplified music ordinance be amended to allow some kind of amplification and proposed no parking on Second Street at all after a certain time in the evening. Jeff Arango had a proposed amendment to that ordinance which he distributed to Council.
This issue will come back to council at a later date. Fred Lundal stated that he has also witnessed that there is no problem with noise inside Mo’s, but that the people outside can create a lot of noise when they are leaving.

Fred Lundal, speaking on behalf of the Orca Network, stated that the Langley Whale Center has signed a lease on the building. Main Street has given $5,000 in startup costs. They are working on displays, etc. a large whale bone will be over the entrance The network donated a picture to City Hall. It shows a whale clearly above the surface of the water in front of shocked onlookers on the beach. It was taken here in Langley. The City is doing research on how best to help fund the Whale Center – whether it be through tourism funding or economic development monies.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor McCarthy reported that we have a request from the League of Women Voters to join them for a legislators meeting on January 11 @ 9:30 am. Mayor McCarthy will attend the meeting and will take the city’s list of legislative priorities. Ethics Commission training for supervisors will begin in a few weeks. The Police Guild has submitted a demand to bargain over some issues with the Ethics Ordinance. The Mayor will meet with their representative next week. A Council retreat is scheduled for this Wednesday, ten till two. Staff will be present until lunch, then council will set priorities. Island events Center group is meeting tomorrow, which the mayor will attend. The fair is trying to reinvent itself to use the property all year long. They are working with an experienced independent consultant to become an events coordinating agency. Mayor McCarthy went to a recognition event for Jim Porter to honor him for 30 years of service on the parks board. Frank rose is present tonight, a sculptor who shared ideas with the city about forming an arts commission. A great marketing meeting was held on December 19th with Golden Lassoe, a marketing firm. They will be coming back to share observations and recommendations. Mayor McCarthy also reported that he met with Russell Sparkman from the Center for New Media, to discuss social media training for city merchants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Draft Legislative priority issues for 2014. Mayor McCarthy distributed the draft list of legislative priorities and received feedback from the council members.

MOTION: To adopt the current list of draft legislative priorities as the City’s final legislative priorities. Motion – Sundberg, 2nd – Gill. Motion was passed with all in favor.

A Legislative meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters is scheduled for January 11th at 9:30 am at the Oak Harbor Golf and Country Club.

Draft agenda for Council Workshop/Retreat on January 8, 2014. Mayor McCarthy distributed a draft agenda for the workshop that will take place this Wednesday to discuss priorities for 2014. The agenda was approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To waive the two reading requirement and adopt Ordinance No. 997 relating to contracting indebtedness; providing for the issuance, sale and delivery of $420,700 principal amount of a limited tax general obligation bond to
provide funds for the Second Street Project and to pay the costs of issuance and sale of the bond; fixing certain terms and covenants of the bond; and providing for other matters. Motion - Neff, 2nd – Allen. Motion carried with Council member Jerome abstaining from the vote. Marc Greenough of Foster Pepper, the City’s Bond Counsel was present.

MOTION: To appoint Rene Neff as Mayor Pro-Tem for a two year term. Motion - Sundberg, 2nd - Allen. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery Board is meeting towards the end of the month. Jim Sundberg serves as the informal rep between the Port and the City. There will be a meeting this week for their plans for improvements at the Possession Point boat launch. This is like a pilot program and they will gather data for use in improving the other boat launches they own. The hope to finish the current improvements to the Langley harbor by February in time for the whale parade kickoff. Margot reported that she is thrilled to be on the council. She has recently learned that she will be moving out of state, will have to leave the council probably in June. This is bittersweet for her as she loves this community.

Agreements on organizational representation distribution among council members – Jim Sundberg has been the representative to Sustainable Whidbey coalition – Mayor will take over that role. Hal Seligson represented City at EDC – Margot will take on that meeting. Thomas Gill is interested in Island Transit, but works during their meetings.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm. Motion - Gill, 2nd – Allen. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk