Langley City Council Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2013

Mayor Fred McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were Council Members Neff, Allen, Seligson, Sundberg and Allderdice. Also present was Director of Planning, Jeff Arango; Police Chief, Randy Heston and Director of Finance/City Clerk Debbie Mahler. The flag salute was led by Mayor McCarthy.

**MOTION:** To approve the agenda as amended. The Library report was added, and two citizen speakers – John Lacewell and Sari Gilman were also added. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Sundberg. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** To approve the consent agenda after questions on vouchers were asked and answered. Motion – Seligson, 2nd – Sundberg. Motion carried.

a. Council Minutes of 6-17-13
b. Approval of claims warrants Nos. 29799, 30624-30625, 30690, E-file 6/20/13, 30716-30744 in the amount of $49,496.04 (July 1, 2013) and Nos. 30745-30778 in the amount of $12,733.44
c. Approval of payroll warrants Nos. 30626-30648 and direct deposit (6/15/13) $47,861.48 and Nos. 30691--30715 & direct deposit (6/30/13) $47,932.98.
d. Liquor License renewals – Braeburn, Useless Bay Wines.

**LIBRARY REPORTS**

Vicky Welfare reported that there have been many children turning out for the summer programs at the Library. Friday, July 19th at 11AM there will be a program with the “bug guy”. Clue Langley, a history search, starts Saturday. The Library Board has vacancies. They meet quarterly.

**CEMETERY BOARD**

Marilyn Strong, President of the Cemetery Board reported that the new updated Cemetery brochures are now available. The Board meets monthly and many of the members also do a lot of work at the cemetery doing maintenance and upkeep. Green burials, often have home funeral services. For that reason, the board recommends that all people using the green burial method consult with home funeral consultant, Lucinda Herring. Budget changes have paid off, raising grave prices, garbage service and mowing contracted out instead of being done by public works, has saved money. Friends of the Cemetery has held work parties, fund raisers, etc. to support the Cemetery. Also, the volunteers from the Friends rebuilt the Cemetery’s garbage huts. The Board has one new board member, Judith Adams. There is an additional applicant that lives here only part time, who has decided to volunteer in other ways at the Cemetery. Marilyn would like to
step down as president in one more year. Creation of a columbarium is on the back burner for now.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kirk John Lacewell lives across the street from the house that burned down on Anthes Avenue. He believes the place is a mess and a hazard. Mayor McCarthy was in touch with the property owner. The negotiations with the insurance adjusters are almost complete and they expect demolition and rebuilding to begin very soon. Sari Gilman lives in Suzanne Court for the last 28 years. She is beginning a partnership between Leadership Snohomish County and Island County. Leadership Snohomish County was started to recognize long term volunteers and train them on community stewardship. Sari is the director and has been for the last seven years. They teach economic development, visit schools, network and make connections. Sari wants to partner and build a pipeline to identify and train community leaders and network and form partnerships in Island County. She needs three Island representatives. There is a cost of 2,100. Classes start in September. Margot Jerome, George Henny, and a Main Street member would like to join.

STAFF REPORTS

Jeff Arango gave a slide presentation that was given at the bluff seminar on May 29th.

Debbie Mahler reported that the 2011/2012 audit started this morning. The auditor’s will be doing a federal grant audit in addition to the financial and compliance audits. Debbie also reported that the financial reports for June are not quite ready yet. The June report is much more in depth, as it is a mid-year review before the next year’s budget begins. The report should be ready later this week.

Chief Heston reported that Officer Marks is off duty on medical leave and probably will not be back on duty until October. The department is using more overtime and officers are not able to use much vacation during this time to make sure we have coverage. There were no complaints about noise at Mo’s during Choochokum. Emergency training was conducted with Fire District 3 with table top discussions. There will be another emergency management meeting on August 21st and a fall live simulation.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Fred McCarthy thanked Councilmembers Allderdice and Allen for meeting with him today regarding the RFP for legal services. We have had no response to our request for proposals. They went over the responses from the last time and decided which legal firms to send the RFP directly. The City will extend the deadline for responses to August 24th. Debbie contacted our present attorney and asked him to stay on until we have contracted with another firm. He very graciously accepted. We have ten applications for Public Works Director. One from inside city staff and eight from the public. Today was the deadline for applications. Mayor McCarthy met with the Public Works Director for another city who gave feedback on the hiring process. There
will be two interview teams for the selection process. One would be the department directors and another including the PW Director that is advising the Mayor, Janet Ploof of Main Street and Councilmember Neff. The applicants will be screened down to 3-4 finalists and then the interview process will begin.

Debbie has done some research on councilmanic bonds, met with a bond underwriter who has given proposals for different bond amounts, terms and interest rates. For the 2nd Street project, the plan was originally to bond for the City’s share of the construction which was estimated to be about $645,000. That amount has dropped to $500,000. Repairs to the Boy & Dog stairs could cost up to $250,000. At this point, don’t know if a total rebuild is required or just major repairs. It is possible that the stair project could be rolled into the bonding.

Mayor McCarthy presented a list of budget priorities he would like to work on. He has been attending the Island County Fair Strategic planning meetings. Helen Price Johnson is chairing a core of people to find a way to fund that process. The Mayor also attended the Law & Justice public hearing regarding a bond levy for law & justice funding which he supports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1st Street Waterline Project follow-up. There is one issue the city is still dealing with involving a landowner who does not feel the repair is up to par. The contractor wants to get it fixed now, because we are holding the contract retainage until the restoration is complete. The business turned the construction workers away last week because of the disruption to the business that would be created by the jackhammer work. The Mayor is working on a settlement of the issue.

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance No. 991 amending the City’s Comprehensive Plan by amending the executive summary, economic development element, land use element, housing element, capital facilities element, and the shoreline element. Motion - Seligson, 2nd - Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the Noble Creek Appraisal contract with McCauley & Associates in the amount of $6,300. Motion - Neff, 2nd – Seligson. Motion was approved without dissent. Half of the cost will be covered by our County grant funding and the other half will be paid for by the property owner selling the property to us.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for solid waste advisory committee representative. Island County has asked for a Langley representative on the committee. They meet only a couple times a year. Mayor
McCarthy will be the interim representative until we have a Public Works Director appointed who can then take over.

2014 Budget preparation. Debbie explained that the budget process for next year is beginning. The Council can begin to gather their priorities and discuss projects and programs they would like to have in the budget. Debbie will give a mid-year report on the current budget and where we are budget wise for this year. Each department will prepare a budget report outlining the responsibilities, program costs and issues in their respective departments. Numbers will come later in the year as the discussions progress.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that Island Shakespeare Festival was able to raise enough money to purchase the tent and a stage. Should be ready and put up by August 27th. Jim Sundberg reported that the Port is doing a master plan for the marina next year and will cooperate with the city on this. The Sustainable Whidbey Coalition met earlier today to promote energy efficiency programs. They will have a booth at the Friday Market to promote the Green Seal program. Hal Seligson asked about the new Police officer working with the schools. Chief Heston reported that he just completed the equivalency academy. The Chief has been meeting with school principals to draw up a contract on duties for a resource officer. Hal also asked when the City municipal code would be on-line. Debbie replied that Code Publishing is hoping to have our municipal code online by the end of this week.

Bruce Allen reported that the HUB is closed until the school year reopens. 141 kids were served last year. Next fall the HUB will open five days a week. They operated five parking lots during Choochokum to raise money. Choochokum had 102 vendors, Saturday was a good day for the vendors; Sunday was not. Bruce is thinking the event was too close to the 4th of July. It will be held the following week next year. Choochokum is now a stand-alone 501c3, separated from the Chamber. The magazine “Tasting Room” featured Langley and local island wineries recently. The Inn at Langley is going to host a County-wide Tourism Committee meeting next year.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Motion - Seligson, 2nd - Sundberg. Motion carried unopposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk