Langley City Council Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2012

Mayor Kwarsick called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Hal Seligson, Jim Sundberg, Bruce Allen and Rene Neff. Councilmember Doug Allderdice was out of town and his absence was excused. Also present were Finance Director/Clerk, Debbie Mahler; Director of Public Works, Challis Stringer; and Police Chief Heston. The flag salute was led by Mayor Kwarsick.

CONSENT AGENDA

b. Claims Warrants Nos. 29685, 29745, 29748-29750, & e-file 10/26 in the amount of $53,477.03

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Callahan McVay invited all to a party at Main Street’s new office at 5:30 on Wednesday.

PUBLIC HEARING – Revenue Sources and preliminary budget for 2013

Mayor Kwarsick opened the public hearing at 5:42 PM. Debbie Mahler did a power-point presentation on the budget and the main revenues of the general fund. Debbie also explained that the proposed property tax levy is an increase of 1% over last year’s levy. The County Assessor’s office has not published assessed value for the districts yet. The levy rate per thousand of assessed value will go up a few cents if property values decreased and down a few cents if the values increased.

The budgeted infrastructure improvements and the funding mechanisms for those improvements were discussed. Cost of living increases for employees, tourism funding and other aspects of the budget were discussed for some time. Robin Adams asked several questions about the funding of infrastructure improvements and how they would be repaid.

The hearing was closed at 6:09 PM and the regular meeting reconvened.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To bring to a first reading, an ordinance fixing the amount of Ad Valorem Taxes to be levied by the City of Langley for collection in the year 2013. Motion - Sundberg, 2nd - Allen. Motion carried with all in favor.
MOTION: To bring to a first reading, a resolution amending the Municipal Code Fee Schedule with revisions to water and sewer rates in 2013. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Allen. Motion passed with all in favor.

MOTION: To waive the first reading and approve a resolution amending the City Vehicle Usage Policy. Motion - Seligson, 2nd - Sundberg. Motion was unanimously approved.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Kwarsick reported that the Whidbey Island Fair is the first in the State to be listed in the State Historic Barn Register. We have applied for a rural mobility grant for Sunday transportation service and a parking facility in Mukilteo. The Mayor and Challis are going to Mukilteo next week to meet with the City, Island Transit and Port to discuss the issue. Challis was approached by the Whidbey-SeaTac Shuttle about providing the Sunday service. We will be exploring all possibilities.

Debbie Mahler reported that she has talked with our financial software company and they will be able to add a line to our utility billing that allows resident’s to send in a contribution to hunger programs for the City to donate to. She also requested and they consented to do some additional training for Debbie and her staff on some of the features that our programs can do.

Challis and Mayor Kwarsick are looking at solar energy opportunities. We would need about five acres of solar panels to make enough electricity to run the Sewer Treatment plant. They are looking at other roof top locations, etc. and pursuing other funding sources. The City could enlist other investors. The Mayor is continuing to look for further grant funding with the Fair Board to fund the RV Park at the fairgrounds. He is also looking into the possibility of using surplus city property for affordable housing programs, with modular housing.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that Main Street “Deck the Door” contest is beginning next week. The South Whidbey Record is offering a prize for the best door. The business that wins gets a free ad and a story about it. Main Street is also giving a prize. Jim Sundberg reported that the Island County Joint Tourism Committee meets monthly. He is very impressed with their work promoting tourism. The have many on-line videos about vacations here and things to do while visiting.
The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/Clerk