

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2014

Mayor Fred McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Jim Sundberg, Thomas Gill, Rene Neff, Margot Jerome and Bruce Allen. Also present were Clerk/Treasurer, Debbie Mahler; and Public Works Director, Stan Berryman. The flag salute was led by Mayor McCarthy. The Consent agenda was approved after several questions from Council members.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended.
Motion – Allen, 2nd – Jerome. Motion was passed without opposition.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 3/17/14.
- b. Approval of claims warrants in the amount of \$195,531.77.
- c. Appointment of Bruce Allen to Historical Preservation Committee

MOTION: To approve the Consent agenda.
Motion, - Allen, 2nd - Neff. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION

Mayor McCarthy awarded a City Beautification award to Micki and Paul Sarkis for the remodel and improvement of the Village Pizzeria and making the building and grounds a pleasurable place within the city.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Carolyn Tamler spoke regarding the needs of businesses to know where their customers come from and their needs. She has developed a very short survey for customers to fill out. A pilot program will begin soon for a month to find out what information can be gathered and how helpful it can be. So far, 24 businesses have agreed to try the program. Results will be tabulated and summarized. If good information is gathered, the program may be done again in the summer.

Vicky Welfare, Librarian wanted to thank Jeff Arango and Stan Berryman for all their help with the small problems that have arisen because of the 2nd Street project.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McCarthy reported on the Sand Shrimping Committee and the responses/analyses being prepared to respond to the February 26th communications from the Department of Natural Resources. Responses should be sent out on the tenth of the month and copies will be provided to council members. He gave a report on the March 25 luncheon with the Food and Beverages business owners, there was a good turnout of about 20 people

and was very successful. April will be focused on Real Estate businesses. The Mayor attended the Island Events Center meeting on April 2, at the North Whidbey Middle School which had a 90% attendance from South Whidbey. There was a good exchange of ideas and people were happy to get more information. Island County Economic Development Council will be meeting with the Event Center Committee at the end of the month. June 6th and 7th is Remembering D Day and he has invited Whidbey Veterans Center and Legion to be involved in activities. There will be an aviation heritage exhibit at Paine Field on June 7th. He mentioned the Social Media Workshop that was held was well attended and very successful. It dealt with Facebook training. There will be a business Seminar – “Amazing Sno-Isle Library Resources” for business owners on May 6th at City Hall. Website Optimization Contract – Center for New Media decided to focus mainly on the Chambers website and the connections between their site, the Main Street website and Langley’s. Whale Watching Tour/Whale Center for business owners was very successful. Saw several Orca’s on that trip. An Emergency Preparedness Meeting is coming up on the 16th from 3-5 pm which will feature Island County Emergency Management, Island County Red Cross and PSE here at City Hall. Ethics Committee Workshop will be held Wednesday morning from 10-12. The issue is whether or not a standing Ethics Board is needed. Police Chief selection process is moving forward with the Civil Service Board. The Board is meeting on April 14th. There are four candidates. The officer position has had the written and physical testing and will have interviews soon. April 26th Sheriff’s office is encouraging people to turn in unwanted prescription drugs. The drugs can result in problems if they get into the wrong hands or to animals, etc. when thrown in the trash.

MOTION: To accept Margot Jerome’s resignation from the Council at the end of May. Motion – Neff, 2nd – Gill. Motion was reluctantly approved unanimously with Margot abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARING – Street Vacation Request by the Doghouse

The public hearing was cancelled. The owners of the Doghouse rescinded their request for street vacation.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Main Street Association Agreement for Services

MOTION: to approve the agreement between the City and Main Street Association for landscaping services on the Second Street project. This approves a \$20,000 expenditure from the City for the 2nd Street project and also addresses the continued maintenance of public gardens by Main Street. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Neff. Motion passed without opposition.

b. Growth Management Act Grant Application

MOTION: To approve the application for State Growth Management Act Motion – Neff, 2nd – Allen. Motion passed without opposition.

- c. Island County Waste Management Risk Management Plan – resolution to be presented for adoption at the April 21st Council meeting.
- d. Water rate for Community Garden. The Community Garden has asked for a special water rate. They have asked for an agricultural rate. The City would need to look at what users this would apply to. Mr. Karo and Ms. Anderson spoke for the Community Garden. Mr. Karo said that he has been farming for over 27 years. Many small farmers have been forced out of business by government regulations and subsidies to large farming corporations. The Garden only uses water about three months of the year. They do not use the sewer system and the water they use does go back into the ground water system. Margot Jerome stated that community agriculture is very important and contributes to the rural feel of Langley. Rene Neff feels that the community greatly values the farming lands that surround Langley. The Gardens pay the higher rate for high water usage. Jeff and Stan will look into the legalities of a rate classification for agricultural activities and bring back a recommendation to Council that would apply to all agricultural activities within the city.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery Board had a meeting last week and Marilyn Strong, the president of the Board has resigned. Councilman Sundberg reported that the EDC is showing an economic recovery on the Island from tax based sources. Island Transit's new maintenance facility is beautiful will have a community opening ceremony soon. Margot Jerome will skype in on the next meeting as she will be out of town. She reported that the Goosefoot Association is looking at the feasibility of a co-packing facility for South Whidbey and also a cold storage facility. Bruce Allen and she attended an annual Economic Development meeting which was outstanding. Front porch economic development is about how we use what we already have. She is meeting with the speaker from that meeting on Monday about this issue. Bruce Allen attended the Tourism Committee meeting which was held here in Langley for the first time. He shared Sherry Wyatt's report with Council, done monthly. KOMO 4 is now showing the Committee's tourism commercial daily. The HUB is doing outstanding. They have 30-35 kids attending daily. Rene Neff stated that several merchants on 1st Street have contacted her about employees parking on First Street and want to know if there is something that can be done to get employees to park in the designated parking lots and leave the street open for customers. Another parking study on street parking will be done by Jeff once Second Street is complete. Signage will be put in the Methodist Church parking lot which is available for public parking and rarely used.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Mahler, Clerk/Treasurer