Langley City Council Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2013

Mayor Pro-tem Seligson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Rene Neff, Jim Sundberg, Doug Allderdice, and Bruce Allen. Also present were Finance Director/Clerk, Debbie Mahler; Director of Public Works, Challis Stringer; and Planning Director, Jeff Arango. The flag salute was led by Hal Seligson. The Consent agenda was approved after several questions from Council members. The agenda was approved with the addition of an amplified music application and confirmation of an appointment to the Design Review Board and appointment of a volunteer to the Tourism Committee, and discussion of mayoral selection.

a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 1/22/13
b. Approval of claims warrants in the amount of $42,980.31
c. Liquor Licenses
   1. Knights of Columbus/Saint Hubert’s – special occasion license

Bob Waterman, former Councilmember, Chair of the Historical Preservation Commission and author of the new book on Langley history, gave a fascinating presentation on Langley’s history and its incorporation as a town 100 years ago this month.

Mayor Pro-Tem Seligson read a proclamation proclaiming 2013 to be a year of celebration of the incorporation of Langley.

LIBRARY REPORT

Vicky Welfare thanked Challis and public works for their immediate response to the libraries furnace problems. A presentation on “walking, drinking and eating across Scotland” and a drawing program are coming up soon. On Friday, March 1, a program on getting started with social media will be held, and on Mar 15th there will be a Women of Langley history session with Frances Wood.

CITIZEN COMMENTS *

There were no comments at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed amendments to the City’s Whistleblower policies. Councilman Seligson proposed an amendment to the policies to make them clearer and to assure that the Council is advised of any report of improper governmental action. Jim Sundberg stated that this will make sure that the City’s rules and practice on this issue are as good as or better than the state’s law. This also clarifies what happens if the Chief executive officer is involved in the complaint. Rene feels the specificity is much more complete.
MOTION: To accept the policy as written. Motion – Allen, 2nd – Neff. Motion carried unanimously.

_Ethical Conduct Commission proposal._ Hal Seligson proposed the establishment of a commission to study the existing codes of ethical conduct, to seek citizen guidance, hold public meetings and provide Council with a report of their findings, including a draft revised code of ethical conduct.

MOTION: To establish an Ethical Conduct Commission with No more than seven members. Motion – Seligson, 2nd – Allen. Motion was approved.

Bruce Allen is in favor of having a commission of staff, citizens and council. Rene feels this commission along with the full council should have training on ethics. Hal would like the commission be made up of citizens with staff support. The city will advertise for volunteers to apply to the commission. Sharon Emerson suggested that someone at the city is involved with the commission. Bob Thurman asked if there would be any guidelines or rules set up for the commission. Council agreed with a staff person should be involved in the committee. Bob Waterman suggested the city hold a workshop on ethics. Debbie will check on ethics training from the AWC and there are also local people who give ethics workshops. Debbie Mahler will be the staff assigned to the commission.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To confirm the Mayor Pro-Tem’s appointment of Pam Owen as chair of the Library Board. Motion - Sundberg, 2nd - Neff. Motion carried with all in favor.

MOTION: To confirm the Mayor Pro-Tem’s reappointment of Bob Dalton to the Design Review Board. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Neff. Motion was passed unanimously.

MOTION: To confirm the appointment of Bruce Allen to the County-wide Tourism Committee. Motion - Sundberg, 2nd - Neff.
MOTION: To approve the application for amplified music at Mo’s Pub on March 16th from 8 PM to 11 PM. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Sundberg. The application was approved with all in favor.

MOTION: To waive the first reading, and adopt an ordinance regarding water charges and billings. Motion - Allen, 2nd - Sundberg. Motion was approved unanimously.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Hal Seligson reported that the staffs of the city and the port are in deep discussions regarding the lighting requirements for the harbor breakwater. On the 19th of this month at the next regular meeting, the selection of interim mayor will take place. The city attorney will be in attendance at that meeting. Council discussed the type of questioning for applicants and whether they should have prepared questions. Jim Sundberg suggested several questions to be asked and Debbie Mahler will look at what questions were prepared for council candidates in the past.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery Board met last week. They talked about cleaning and sprucing up the graves of pioneers, and the possibility of having historical tours for the centennial. Jim Sundberg attended the tourism committee’s last meeting. The Cascade Loop steering committee (Langley Loop is a sub-loop of) has an excellent web page: WhidbeyCamanolIslands.com. It has great videos and highlights activities, calendars of artistic and cultural events on the Island. Bruce Allen reported that the HUB is now open four days a week. They are shooting for five days later this year and are still working on getting surplus vehicles from parks and rec.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Challis Stringer reported that the first street water project is progressing well. Residents and business owners are very happy with the notification process. New service lines are going down to the lift station. The project is still on schedule. Flushing of the water lines will begin tomorrow, and continue on Wednesday and Thursday.
The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/Clerk