Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2012

Mayor Kwarsick called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Hal Seligson, Doug Allderdice, Rene Neff, Jim Sundberg and Bruce Allen. Also present was Director of Finance/City Clerk, Debbie Mahler, Planner Jeff Arango, PW Utility Supervisor Randi Perry and Director of Public Works, Challis Stringer. The flag salute was led by Mayor Kwarsick.

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved after Councilmember Seligson asked several questions about the vouchers.

CONSENT AGENDA

b. Claims Warrants Nos. 28820-28822, e-file 2/23, 28907-28923 in the amount of $73,615.92

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments by members of the public at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Shirley Owen, President of the Langley Library Board, and Carol Ryan, President of the Friends of the Library presented Robert (Will) Melish, the recommended candidate for the City’s nominee to the AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship and explained the application and recommendation process. The Friends of the Library are also awarding the candidate an additional $500 scholarship.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Helen Price Johnson, along with Doug Kelly, Keith Higman, Jo Wood, and Joe Laxson of Island County Environmental Health Department were present. They have evaluated the health of many of the watersheds on the Island and ground water and surface water quality. Their department is also implementing a septic system inspection program in all of Island County. That is being done on a risk based system. Septic owners in the county can check their own conventional gravity septic systems with some on line training from the health department. Conventional gravity systems are required to have an inspection every three years. Non-standard systems must be inspected annually. Mr. Higman and his staff answered questions of the city Council and Mayor regarding water quality and safety.
MOTION: To waive the two reading requirement, and adopt Ordinance No. 970 relating to bicycle and pedestrian facilities along transportation facilities; re City building and constructions code standards contained in Title 15.01 of the Langley Municipal Code and adding a definition for Complete Street. Motion - Sundberg, 2nd - Allen. Motion passed with all in favor.

MOTION: To waive the two reading requirement, and adopt Resolution No. 740 on the subject of participating in the Washington Main Street Tax Credit Program to provide funding for the Langley Main Street Association. Motion - Neff, 2nd - Allen. Motion was adopted without opposition.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Kwarsick thanked Council Member Seligson for acting as Deputy Mayor in his absence. Our franchise agreement with Comcast Cable expired some years ago and Mayor Kwarsick has been in contact with Comcast and a new franchise agreement is being drafted and will soon be ready for Council’s review and adoption. Jeff Arango reported that on March 22nd at 6:30, the first Langley Hearings Examiner hearing will take place. We have had discussions with the Port on partnering on grant applications for funding. Jeff will bring back a proposal and costs for funding a consultant to do a grant application for marina expansion. Mayor Kwarsick also thanked Jeff for his presentation to the Council of Governments (COG) on the funicular application. COG makes recommendations to the regional transportation board for funding. Jeff is also working with Bob Snyder for an RCO grant application for the funicular.

Larry expressed his appreciation to Chief Heston and our two officers for their work during the recent school lockdown and the way they reacted to the problem. The Mayor has been pursuing opportunities for a potential medical clinic in Langley. Jeff contacted MRSC about how the city could partner with medical providers to make this happen. Their answer was yes, it is possible. Further research this issue will be conducted and to see what can happen.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Neff reported that the Cemetery Board met and has been working on how to set up an area in the cemetery where the backhoe can mix compost and soil. Cary Petersen is going to donate downed alders to form a barrier for that area. Jim Sundberg reported that the County-wide Tourism Board had a featured presenter that was Russell Sparkman who
is maintaining their website for Tourism promotion. Web page will have a series of featured videos on well known photographers and their wildlife photography on the Island. The site has a map showing where wildlife viewing is in the Islands. Next feature will be on agricultural tourism. Bruce Allen reported that the HUB is open on Wednesdays and the attendance is increasing each week. The kids get a warm meal and have a lot of fun. Debbie reported on the AT&T Mobility lawsuit settlement negotiations.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2012 Draft Comprehensive Water Plan. Challis Stringer presented the Council with a draft of the 6 year Comp Plan. Challis gave a PowerPoint presentation of the plan and what is contained in each chapter. The Department of Health gets a draft copy to review which may take up to six months, a public hearing will be held for the community to comment. The city can adopt the plan contingent on changes to be made by the State Health department incorporated.

Lease amendment for Fire House Glass. The proposed amendment does not increase the term of the agreement, but changes the leased area. The Glass studio had been leasing the studio space, office space and all the common space (kitchen, restrooms and entrances/exits). When there were two tenants in the building that created some problems. This amendment would reduce the leased space to the glass studio and create a common space for all tenants.

MOTION: To approve the lease amendment. Motion – Neff, 2nd – Allen. Motion carried.

City Attorney Recommendation. City staff, (Mayor, Challis, Jeff, Chief Heston, Debbie) two Council Members, District Attorney Greg Banks reviewed the proposals and narrowed the list down to three top firms. Interviews were conducted with those three firms. The committee unanimously recommended Mike Kenyon of Kenyon, Disend Law Firm. Mayor Kwarsick called Mr. Kenyon and he is preparing a contract and hopes to be at our next meeting. Mayor has also written to our present attorney and notified him of the termination of his contract.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Director of Finance/City Clerk