

Langley City Council Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2015

Mayor McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were City Council Members Thomas Gill, Jim Sundberg, and Robin Black. Bruce Allen arrived at 5:40 PM and Rene Neff was absent. Also present were Stan Berryman, Public Works Director; Michael Davolio, Planning Director; Dave Marks, Chief of Police and Debbie Mahler, Clerk/Finance Director. Mayor McCarthy led the flag salute.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended. Motion - Black, 2nd - Gill. Motion passed. Mural approval was moved up before citizen comments.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda. Motion - Sundberg, 2nd – Black. The consent agenda was approved with all in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of council meeting minutes of 6/1/15
- b. Approval of claims warrants Nos. 33329-33371 in the amount of \$34,746.27
- c. Approval of payroll warrants Nos. 33193-33215 (5-15-15) in the amount of \$51,540.28 and Nos. 33258-33281 (5-31-15) in the amount of \$50,844.46.
- d. Liquor Licenses – Braeburn – Spirits/wine/BR restaurant service bar.

Emily Moore is an artist who has submitted a proposal to do a mural which would be mounted on the side of the old fire hall at no cost to the city. If the mural is sold, the city would receive 20% of the profit.

MOTION: To approve the mural of Emily Moore to be mounted on the side of the old fire hall building. Motion – Gill, 2nd – Allen. Motion was unanimously approved.

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

Planning Advisory Board semi- annual report. Sue Walsh, Chairman of the PAB was out of town. Planner Michael Davolio explained the PAB is working on the amendments to the comp plan and will hold a June 24 public hearing on comp plan amendments. Also have worked on zoning code amendments, following up on the charrette and marina access. PAB looking for a temporary solution to access. Board did get an update on Upper Langley and the first building permit applications are beginning. Utilities are beginning construction on the site.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments at this time.

STAFF REPORTS

Michael Davolio reported that his new intern started last week. Doug is a recent graduate from New York. He is working on the comp plan update and updating the 2013 parking study. He will hopefully be here 12 to 16 weeks. There is new signage for Fair Trade Outfitters on Anthes, opening July 4th weekend. A new Micro Brewery is going in the back of that building. They are still waiting for their state permits to be able to open. The Design Review Board is looking at revising regulations for temporary signage in the

downtown. Michael has drafted some regulations for their review and after the DRB has approved them, they will later come to Council. Michael is also working with the Arts Commission to get artists' work displayed at the economic development luncheon and looking for a new sculpture in front of the post office. The commission is also starting to plan for the replacement of the sculptures on 2nd Street and working on the economic development luncheon on the 30th. Michael has been helping the Second Street Market set up each week. The number of vendors is growing. Michael has been working on building partnerships with agencies like the Port.

Stan Berryman reported he went to a transportation board meeting last week. The state has enhanced TIB eligibility requirements. First Street did not qualify for federal grant funding, but now may qualify for state TIB funds. He will apply for funding of First Street for 2016. TIB is funding along with PSE, a program to replace all street lights with LED bulbs. All entities on the island are trying to standardize recycling guidelines. The Park Street water main is proceeding. There have been some problems with water quality tests, but that should be resolved and done within two weeks. The Community Club generously redid the landscaping at Generation Park. Tires were removed from the City watershed property and were recycled. Les Schwab recycled the tires at no charge. About 100 were removed. Stan has contacted the Department Of Health and they did not feel additional soil testing was needed because water testing is good. The Detention pond is silted up and Stan is hiring a contractor to clean out the pond and clear the drains.

Dave Marks reported the Police are prepping for security at several events happening soon; the Pride Parade, Choochokum, and Island County Fair. The new patrol vehicle is almost ready to bring into service. It is currently having the light bars, logo, etc. put on. The State Criminal Justice Training Commission gave the department a certificate for meeting or exceeding all training requirements for three years in row. Officer Adkins just completed a Crisis intervention/suicide prevention course. All officers are going to complete the same course.

Debbie Mahler gave financial reports and revenue graphs for the month of May. Major revenues are slightly exceeding what they were over the same time period last year. Once June is complete, Debbie will produce a mid-year report before the city begins looking towards next year's budget.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Council chambers have new live edge tables done by Kim Hoelting, an artist in our community. They were done very reasonably at considerably less than retail cost. The full redesign and painting of the Council chambers and replacement of furniture has cost less than \$5,000. Mayor McCarthy attended a FEMA Flood Plain Mapping meeting last week. A few changes have been made to the map in Langley. He is meeting with an engineer regarding those changes next week. There was an Island wide public display of these materials in Coupeville and on Camano. They were on display in Langley for over 30 days, also.

The Economic Development luncheon on June 30th has an arts focus. Mayor McCarthy passed out copies of the flyer that advertises the meeting and how the arts contribute to economic growth. Frank Rose, Chairman of the Arts Commission stated that artists may each display one piece of art at the meeting, up to 20 in total. The next economic development luncheon is scheduled for September 29th. That meeting will focus on incubating new businesses. One of the speakers will be the Mayor of Sultan, who is a member of "Grow Washington". They help businesses get started and people who have cottage industries in their homes can be brought into a more commercial store front setting on at least a part time basis. The Chamber of Commerce held a meet the candidates meeting which went very well. It was very informative. Mid-year evaluations of employees are being done in June. The next annual staff training is

later this month on substance abuse prevention. Training done so far this year, has been in ethics, harassment and now substance abuse prevention. Mayor McCarthy expressed his appreciation to Bruce Allen for sitting in for Jim Sundberg on the Island Transit Board. The Department of Transportation has proposed to do a study of the three free bus systems in the state of which Island Transit is one. The Legislature is pushing a fare system. Island Transit is now financed by sales tax and state subsidies. Collecting fares slows down the routes and requires equipment.

Mayor Fred reported that he found the Island Transit Director to be very open to listening to the City's needs and also met with Airport Shuttle, a Taxi company and Cooper Auto who has a vehicle rental program. Airport Shuttle has done contract services here for different events in the past. They currently have some of their vehicles wrapped with Whidbey wraps of scenery for tourism; if we had one bus operating in Langley, they would use Langley wraps for \$3,000 - \$5,000. The Mayor has been working on a project called "Here for You," a pilot program to encourage tourists and local residents to see Langley as a friendly place to shop. There are 33 businesses ready to publically display their open hours, here and on the internet. Mayor McCarthy met with the Sustainable Whidbey leadership committee. Their activity is winding down. They have done many activities and outcomes over the last seven years, but their work may be sun setting now. There are many overlapping organizations that will carry on some of the work they have done. Two board members have been appointed to the Ethics Board, five are in the review process. Intent is that the board will be formed when five members are appointed. The role of the Ethics Board will be training and advice on ethical questions and issues.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: to bring to a first reading, an Ordinance amending Zoning, Chapter 18 of Langley Municipal Code. Motion - Gill, 2nd - Black. Michael Davolio went through the amendments and the reasons for them. Councilman Gill asked for a few small additions to the amendments which Michael will add before the second reading. The first reading was approved with all in favor.

Michael Davolio reported that the Planning Advisory Board felt it is important to document the need for auxiliary transportation service to the marina area. They want to make sure that there is an issue that needs correction. Cruise lines have stated that they need transportation services for their clients when the boats dock, but we have no actual documentation of other needs. Several providers are open to providing additional transportation services to Langley, from the ferry, to wineries, etc. Michael will look to see what kind of funding is available. It will not be possible to get bus service to the marina area this summer. The Port is getting an additional six person golf cart for transportation. The City has grant funds available for a conveyance from the harbor. The City may see if we can defer the funding until we have more information regarding the need. Ed Halloren suggested that Michael keep the records from the different entities (port, Main Street, etc.). Tim Callison agreed that the data collection is very important. He feels that several different solutions may be necessary. He feels that traffic on Wharf Street can be quite dangerous and heavy, especially during summer and crabbing season. He thinks we need some kind of traffic control methodology. Thomas Gill feels that there is a lack of permanent moorage for boats and too little parking. Chief Marks will check on getting a roadway counter for the number of trips daily. It was suggested by Tim Callison that the city eliminate left/right turns in each direction. Eric Levine stated that he interviewed a shuttle driver last week who reported very little ridership; four riders on one trip, six empty trips out of seven on one Saturday that he observed. He feels that the information from the Charrette was an invalid sample and no information on the different conveyances was provided before the

charrette. He is concerned about the grant money still being available if the city waits. Eric also stated that the Chamber of Commerce Board members are all pro-funicular. He pointed out that the funicular is the only 24/7 option available and the Clipper Ship is considering off season trips to Langley if transportation up the hill is available. Eric also pointed out that it is the only option approved for the grant at this time. Sharon Emerson wants the city to consider going back to the original purpose of the grant – to widen Wharf Street and have a retaining wall on the slope to trap any debris from small slides. She feels there is much more study that can be done regarding the options that are necessary. Eric Levine said that the funicular would not only provide transportation, but be an attraction in and of itself. Both studies on the bluff concluded that the dirt was pushed aside instead of hauled away when Cascade Avenue was built. That is the soil that slid, the underlying soil is quite stable. Grant money must be recommended by the Council of Governments and then approved by the County Commissioners. The grant has been approved for over ten years and not used yet. Stan Berryman, Public Works Director stated that those grant funds may not be nearly enough to widen Wharf Street and build a retaining wall and the street may also be too narrow to do the construction without completely closing off access during construction. Mayor McCarthy said that he believes the City cannot use the grant for study or planning, but can be used for infrastructure only.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Robin Black reported that in the last couple weeks she attended a Port meeting, and was impressed with all the different things the Port is doing. They are looking into weekend bus service, parking in Mukilteo, and other issues. She suggested that a joint workshop be held with the Council and Port to figure how to best meet our joint needs. The Port is giving presentations to other organizations in the area. Robin also went to a Housing Advisory Board meeting. They hold quarterly meetings. She reported statistics on the numbers of unsheltered homeless, people living in vehicles, those lacking basic services and those living outside. Rents have increased by a large percentage, deposits are large and not enough rental housing is available. All this is contributing to homelessness. The problems have not been resolved. The issue is being taken very seriously. Out of five hundred rentals in Oak Harbor, only three of those are vacant. Average rent is \$1,300 per month.

Jim Sundberg reported that Island Transit is losing its funding for cross county connections. Skagit County is not excited about providing paratransit services at the county borders where service would stop. The State is offering to do a study on charging fares and whether it would be cost effective. Thomas Gill attended the quarterly Library Board meeting. They had a pre-meeting tour of the facility and looked at all the building issues. It was a constructive meeting on Board responsibilities and duties. It is an all new board. Thomas took several AWC trainings in the last couple weeks on planning and public works. These were very informative classes. He learned about a service the state provides called EZ view (web based) to provide information to the public on projects and construction. It is offered free to the City.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Mahler, Clerk/Director of Finance

