

CITY OF LYNDEN

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING



June 17, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Korthuis called to order the June 17, 2019 regular session of the Lynden City Council at 7:00 p.m. at the Lynden City Hall Annex.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mayor Scott Korthuis and Councilors Gary Bode, Ron De Valois, Jerry Kuiken, Brent Lenssen, Nick Laninga and Mark Wohlrab. Councilor Kyle Strengtholt arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Members absent: None

Staff present: Fire Chief Mark Billmire, Parks Director Vern Meenderinck, Planning Director Heidi Gudde, Police Chief John Billester, City Clerk Pam Brown and City Administrator Mike Martin.

OATH OF OFFICE - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor De Valois moved and Councilor Kuiken seconded that the minutes of June 3, 2019 be approved as presented. Motion approved on a 6-0 vote, Councilor Strengtholt had not yet arrived.

ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Scheduled:

Susan Marks (3015 Pacific Street, Bellingham) & Caryl Dunavan

Ms. Marks and Ms. Dunavan presented the annual report on the work of the Bellingham Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence which included some information specific to the City of Lynden.

Mayor Korthuis thanked them for the work that they do in Whatcom County communities.

Nonscheduled:

Gary Vis- Director of Lynden Chamber of Commerce, 518 Front Street, Lynden

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Mr. Vis thanked Chief Billester for dedicated service to the Lynden community and wished him well in his retirement.

Cynthia Ripke-Kutsagoitz, 7062 Guide Meridian #30, Lynden

Ms. Ripke-Kutsagoitz shared her views about the flags that are flown in the Lynden Cemetery. She stated that a Free Mason flag is being flown and she does not approve.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Payroll Information is not available.

Approval of Claims – June 19, 2019

Manual Warrants No.	<u>73157</u>	through	<u>73158</u>		\$9,278.73
EFT Payment Pre-Pays					\$44,858.82
				Sub Total Pre-Pays	\$54,137.55
Voucher Warrants No.	<u>72959</u>	through	<u>73315</u>		\$862,344.88
EFT Payments					<u>28,893.53</u>
				Sub Total	\$891,238.41
				Total Accts. Payable	\$945,375.96

Request to use Parks Capital Reserve Funds for Berthusen Park

The budget for 2018 included funds for a new restroom at Berthusen Park but the City was unable to do the work in 2018. The Parks Committee agreed to roll the funds into the 2019 budget. These funds were not reported to the Finance Director and were not included in the 2019 Budget. Since that time the cost for a new restroom in Berthusen Park has increased and the Park's roadway requires repairs.

The Parks Committee reviewed this request at their June 17 meeting and recommends that Council approve the request to use Parks Capital Reserve funds to complete the restroom replacement and repair the road this fall.

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Resolution No. 1003 to set Public Hearing Date (July 15, 2019) for Potential Street Vacation of the Current Right of Way between 135 and 136 Terrace Drive

Resolution No. 1005 to set Public Hearing Date (July 15, 2019) for Potential Street Vacation of the Current Right of Way for the 17th Street Extension Project

Councilor Kuiken moved and Councilor Strengholt seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion approved on 7-0 vote.

3. PUBLIC HEARING - None

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

5. NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1583- This Ordinance was pulled from the agenda- no action was taken.

Employment Agreement- Interim Police Chief (Michael Knapp)

Lynden Police Chief John Billester is leaving in July. Finding his replacement will take at least six months or longer and during that time we have asked Michael Knapp to serve as interim chief. Chief Knapp is well known in the public safety community and has decades of experience in police work. He retired from the FBI as a member of its Senior Executive Service in 1997. He served various law enforcement agencies in California and Washington, including 11 years as the City of Ferndale's Police Chief.

Chief Billester's final day in the office will be June 28th. Chief Knapp will begin work June 24th so there will be an overlapping transition period.

Councilor Kuiken moved and Councilor Strengholt seconded to approve the contract for Chief Michael Knapp. Motion approved on 7-0 vote

Glenning Street Schoolyard – Purchase and Sale Agreement

The Lynden School District is selling the 4-acre Glenning Street playground that once served the former Middle School on Main Street. A group of residents who want to preserve that property as green space formed the "Glenning Schoolyard Committee" for that purpose.

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In late 2018 Committee spokesman, Harlan Kredit, approached the City and asked that it participate in this endeavor. The City agreed and worked with the Committee and the District on terms for selling that property to the City. Those terms are included in the Purchase and Sale agreement (attached) being considered by Council tonight.

The City would purchase the property from the District for \$1,450,000. As part of the agreement, the Schoolyard Committee must raise at least \$400,000 and give it to the City by June 27, 2019. That money will be applied to the purchase price. Over the next two years the Committee would raise an additional \$650,000.

Importantly, if the Committee is unable to raise the entire amount it promised within two years, the City would sell enough of the Schoolyard to make up whatever deficit there is.

The Committee intends to raise \$200,000 as part of a bond measure in November that, if successful, would also fund improvements in other, existing, City parks. The City has agreed to contribute \$200,000 toward the purchase of the Glenning property.

The Glenning Street property was once the site of the old Lynden School which was torn down decades ago. The City is currently doing an environmental assessment to ensure there is no contamination on the site.

Councilor De Valois moved and Councilor Wohlrab seconded to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement. Motion approved on 7-0 vote

Ordinance No. 1586- Special Events – Animal Ban

Lynden Police Chief John Billester is leaving in July. Finding his replacement will take at least six months or There are several annual events on streets within the downtown section of the City of Lynden that can draw thousands of people which can lead to crowding and congestion. Experience has shown that even well-behaved pets can become distracted and anxious when exposed to large crowds, excessive noises, odors and the consistent unpredictable motion of many people and other animals. There has also been an increase in food services during many of these events that could be affected when animals are near food preparation. In the interest of protecting the health and safety of those attending these events, it is necessary to ban animals from certain special events. The new section, 9.32.085 will amend chapter 9.32 of the Lynden Municipal Code and will allow the prohibition of animals from certain parades and special events and prohibit animals from the annual Raspberry Festival.

Councilor Lenssen moved and Councilor De Valois seconded to approve Ordinance No. 1586, Special Events- Animal Ban and authorize the Mayor's signature. Motion approved on 7-0 vote

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6. OTHER BUSINESS

Council Committee Updates

Councilor Lenssen reporting for the Community Development Committee, involving the discussion of:

- The CDC meeting scheduled for June 19 has been canceled.
- A notable upcoming item - trailers parking on streets
- Another upcoming item - special events downtown and parameters for items on sidewalks

Councilor Lenssen reporting for the Public Safety Committee, involving the discussion of:

- Interim police chief contract
- Ordinance No. 1586- Animal Ban
- Fire Department call out numbers and potential volunteer firefighters
- New ambulance is expected at the end of the year
- Certification of FD's Ladder Truck
- Thanked Chief Billester for his 28 years of service to the City of Lynden and his appreciation of Chief Billester's friendship and support

Councilor De Valois reporting for the Parks Committee, involving the discussion of:

- Capital Reserve fund expenditures for Berthusen Park
- Concessioner at Bender Park was granting some leniency due to the lack of games half of the month
- YMCA facilities, discovering the needs of our community and determining the services that the YMCA may provide to the community
- Lynden Parks and Rec passed a resolution to submit a Bond Measure to the November ballot
- Rotary project at Bender field amenities
- Dogs in Berthusen Park- Lynden police officers will be asked to follow up on complaints

Councilor Kuiken reporting for the Finance Committee, involving the discussion of:

- Review of Police and Fire department overtime.
- Sales tax continues to be robust
- Interim police chief contract
- Ordinance No. 1583

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Finance Director Anthony Burrows gave a brief overview of the purpose of Ordinance No. 1583. He stated that the point was to make processes more efficient and to streamline purchases while not losing any transparency or accountability. This would only include items that had been approved in the Budget by Council. To exceed the Budget would require further Council approval.

Council members then discussed what the progress reporting would look like and how often council would receive information, specifically concerning the larger public works engineering projects. Suggestion was made to begin the reporting now and wait to take the next steps. There was not action taken on this item, it will be discussed at future Committee meetings.

Councilor Lenssen announced a Flood Plan Emergency Response Plan Open House Event which is scheduled for Thursday, June 20th at 4:00 p.m. at the Fisher Elementary School.

Mayor Korthuis thanked Chief John Billester for his 28 years of service to the Lynden Community and reminded everyone of the retirement celebration for Chief Billester which is planned for July 3rd from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. here at the City's Annex building.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not hold an executive session

8. ADJOURNMENT

The June 17, 2019 regular session of the Lynden City Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Pamela D. Brown

Pamela D. Brown, MMC
City Clerk

Scott Korthuis

Scott Korthuis
Mayor