**LWVSJ Observer Corps\*: Friday Harbor Town Council, April 6, 2023**

The Public Hearing on the **Martin Street proposal** was **continued to the March 20** meeting to allow more public comment.

The Town proclaimed April 6 as **Arbor Day** and noted this is the sixth Year the Town has gotten the Tree City USA designation.

The Chamber of Commerce announced **the July 4 Parade theme** will be **“Marching Forward Together.”**

The SJI Ag Guild presented its plan for the **Brickworks Sunshine Plaza** which will build a stage and green space behind the brickworks in July/August and covered stall in the fall. The construction labor is being donated and about half the cash required has been raised for the $270k project.

The FHHS Grad Committee requested that the Covid-era practice of **hanging photos of the island’s graduating seniors** become a more permanent tradition, hanging this year from May 30- June 23. The town administrator raised the legal issue and policy issues as Covid legal flexibility is in the past. The Council supported keeping this tradition, as marking a once in a lifetime achievement, but town staff will not hang or take down banners. It raises the issue of other requests from civic organizations to hang banners in support of various events or causes that remains to be addressed.

The Council approved unclaimed plaques from **poetry gardens** to go to the Sculpture Garden for a permanent installation.

The Council passed ordinances on compactor rates, sewer repairs and a septage station. They approved the Mayor entering an agreement to get **financial advice on town funding for the sewer project** where bids were much higher than expected.

The Planning Commission had a robust turnout at a public hearing on **food trucks.** Issues of location and hours still need to be worked out. The Community Theater **is planning a renovation and will seek a height variance** to allow for modern stage set equipment. The Commission is planning to create a **public outreach plan for public works projects.** They are working on a study required by the County for the **UGA-town expansion.** They are planning **broad-based environmental data collection** that will speed up the Environmental Impact Statement portion of the permitting process.

The County, Town, Public Hospital District and the EDC will run an event on April 24 at Skagit Valley College to **help local contractors register in the municipal contracting database** so they can bid on public projects. The process is on-line and usually takes about 30 minutes to complete.

A citizen requested the Town to ensure that **unoccupied buildings remain code compliant** and to consider making **parking hour limits** more generous.

\*The **League of Women Voters,** a nonpartisan organization encourages informed participation in government. The Observer Corps attends and takes notes at government meetings to expand public understanding of public policy and decisions. The notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the League or its members.