

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

February 19, 2008

MINUTES



The City of Bonney Lake's Mission is to protect the community's livable identity and scenic beauty through responsible growth planning and by providing accountable, accessible and efficient local government services.

"Where Dreams Can Soar"

Audio Time
Stamp ↓

Call to Order:

Deputy Mayor Swatman called the Council Workshop to order at 5:31 p.m.

Roll Call:

Elected Officials in attendance were Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, Councilmember David Bowen, Councilmember Laurie Carter, Councilmember Dan Decker, Councilmember Mark Hamilton, Councilmember Dave King, and Councilmember James Rackley. Mayor Neil Johnson arrived at 5:42 p.m.

[Staff members attending were City Administrator Don Morrison, Planning and Community Development Director John Vodopich, Public Works Director Dan Grigsby, Community Services Director Gary Leaf, Chief Financial Officer Al Juarez, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson, Police Chief Mike Mitchell, City Attorney Jim Dionne, and Records & Information Specialist Susan Duis.]

Deputy Mayor Swatman explained that Mayor Johnson was at a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new medical center and was expected to arrive at the meeting shortly.

Agenda Items:

5:32:37

1. Presentation: Survey Results – Cassandra Brown, BLHS DECA

Ms. Brown presented the findings of a survey of Bonney Lake citizens, which was sent with utility bills. She said over 700 surveys were returned, and that 281 surveys were tabulated to create the report she presented. Councilmembers asked Ms. Brown what she thought the Council could do to better communicate with citizens. The Council was particularly interested how to get young people interested and involved in local government. Ms. Brown said people need to be interested in order to take part. She suggested the City could do more to promote public interest. She suggested increasing e-mail communication, newsletters, town hall meetings and further online surveys. Councilmember Hamilton suggested broadcasting council meetings via cable television or on the internet. Deputy Mayor Swatman noted that citizens can currently sign up for e-mail newsletters and RSS feeds via the City's web site. Councilmembers praised Ms. Brown on her project and thanked her for bringing her survey results to the Council.

6:05:25

2. Presentation: Boat Launch Bollard Operations – Eric Paffenroth of Netversant

Mr. Paffenroth described the installation of the boat launch in 2007 and work to adjust sensors to make it operate well. He said in 2007, use of the launch was delayed as the water level in the lake was not raised to recreation levels until mid-July. He said the launch shouldn't be operated when the lake was below recreational levels. Community Services Director Leaf said the launch was in use and that he recently learned that a vehicle had been damaged while using the launch. He said that when water levels are low, the launch needs to be either up all the way so it cannot be used, or down all the way. He added that the launch would be free for citizens to use if left in the 'down' position until the water level is raised. .

Councilmember Hamilton asked how 2007 revenues compare with previous years; Community Services Director Leaf said they are comparable, but were lower than expected in 2007 due to the lake levels. He said he expects revenues to be higher this year.

Council moved Open Discussion down on the Agenda, as Mayor Johnson had momentarily left the building.

6:14:04

3. Review of Minutes: February 1 & 2, 2008 Special Council Meeting (Retreat), February 5, 2008 Council Workshop, and February 12, 2008 Council Meeting.

Councilmember Carter asked for a revision the Council Retreat Minutes of February 1 & 2, 2008. She asked the second-to the last sentence in Section A (p. 2) read: "She also spoke in support of more employee and citizen recognition and team building opportunities and programs."

6:15:24

4. Discussion: AB08-26 – Resolution 1787 – Out of State Travel Policy

Deputy Mayor Swatman explained that a policy regulating out of state travel was rescinded by the Council some time ago, and that the proposed resolution should address the Council's current concerns. Councilmember King said the proposed policy seems to cover the bulk of the Council's concerns, and sets a good balance between what should and should not be reviewed. He noted that most out of state travel is to the cities listed as exceptions on the policy: Coeur D'Alene, Vancouver, and Portland. Councilmember Rackley said he expected the policy would reduce time and paperwork, since more travel would be planned and budgeted before-hand. City Administrator Morrison said departments would try to do as much advance planning as possible, especially for routine conferences and training, and include expected out of state travel in the budget. Council consensus was to move the Out of State Travel Policy forward for council action.

6:20:08

5. Discussion: AB08-21 – Resolution 1785 – Adjustment of City Administrator Salary.

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Finance Committee had reviewed the proposed resolution. He said he felt the salary increase was needed to ensure the position is properly compensated, and he recommended the council consider a performance-based adjustment to vacation accrual. He added that the resolution would be a modification to the City Administrator's contract. He also said the resolution would be different from the draft form presented to Council, and that input was needed from the City Attorney for the revised contract. Mayor Johnson, who returned to the meeting at 6:22 p.m., said City Administrator Morrison is a tremendous asset, has put a great staff together and always displays professionalism. He said the City needs to keep the salary competitive, and that he would hate if another city tried to recruit him away. Councilmember Hamilton said the salary increase is long overdue, but expressed concern with the economic forecast and possible downturn in city revenues. He said he supports the salary increase, but said the Council needs to think of what is coming and show caution.

Councilmember King offered an explanation on where the \$500 increase suggestion came from. He said the resolution is a 'no-brainer' to bring the salary up to median levels, and fully supports the increase and whatever new contract is necessary. Councilmember Rackley said salaries of all department heads should be reviewed, noting that the group works together extremely well and that it costs a lot to lose any department head. Councilmember King described the difficulty in creating performance-based metrics for pay adjustments, and said the council must be very careful in going forward with any adjustments. Mayor Johnson suggested that other salary scales be considered at the next Council Retreat.

Councilmember Decker suggested that the salaries should be based on other cities closest to Bonney Lake's size. City Administrator Morrison explained that for the past three years, the City sets non-represented salaries by finding the average from all cities with populations between 7,500 and 30,000 in Kitsap, Thurston, Pierce and King counties. He said this helps keep City of Bonney Lake salaries competitive. Council consensus was to take the proposed salary adjustment back to the Finance Committee for continued review and revision.

6:35:33

6. Council Open Discussion:

Lions 4 Kids

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Clothing Bank will need to move soon, and that Director Carol Wells-Reed would like to keep the Clothing Bank in the downtown area and near bus lines. He encouraged the council to consider the Clothing Bank when city-owned properties or sites become available. He also suggested the Clothing Bank and Food Bank might be moved into the same or nearby locations. Councilmember Carter agreed that these services are very important to the city, and that having the Clothing and Food Banks in the same location would be great. She asked whether any grants were available. Mayor Johnson said he would ask Executive Assistant Joel Thompson to do research. He added that Carol Wells-Reed was also seeking funding. Mayor Johnson said the Historical Society should be also included in any consideration of new locations for the other services.

Washington State Primaries

Deputy Mayor Swatman reminded everyone in attendance to vote in the state primaries.

Negotiations with Developers

Councilmember Hamilton said that in late 2007, the City had a disagreement with Cascadia. He said he understood that part of the agreement was to continue negotiations and hold at least four meetings. Mayor Johnson said no meetings had been scheduled yet. City Attorney Dionne confirmed that the City and Cascadia agreed to do a study of the implications of annexing Cascadia and sewer systems, and would meet four times, though no particular schedule was set. Mayor Johnson agreed that the first meeting should be scheduled, and that he would do so and the City would go forward from there.

Salary Commission

Councilmember Bowen asked for an update on the Salary Commission. Deputy Mayor Swatman said the legal council's opinion was that since the Salary Commission is in place, it must be abolished before the Council can change salaries itself. He said the Council seemed split on whether to keep the Salary Commission and was not sure where they stood on the issue. Mayor Johnson confirmed that the Council cannot have it both ways, and cannot set the salaries itself and keep the Salary Commission in place without using it. Councilmember Rackley reminded councilmembers that any salary increase passed by the Council would not go into affect until after new elections. Councilmember Decker suggested the Salary Commission include five members, instead of three, to have more fair determinations. Mayor Johnson said that at the Council Retreat the Council voted 4 to 3 in favor of doing away with the Salary Commission. He said the Council needs to decide whether to keep the Salary Commission or not, and if it is kept then to decide on how many members it should have. He added that the issue is not time-sensitive.

Moment of Silence

Councilmember Bowen said that the Council plans to have a moment of silence at its upcoming meeting on February 26, 2008 in memory of Elected and Appointed Officials of Kirkwood, Missouri. He offered the quote: "If a million people are killed, it is a statistic; if three people are killed, it is a tragedy." He said troops are fighting today, and that two from Fort Lewis were very recently killed. He said he feels another moment of silence should be held in honor of those who have been killed in the line of duty. He said it would be

hypocritical to hold a moment of silence for those killed in Missouri and not one for soldiers killed in combat. Mayor Johnson said he had no objection and would be happy to do whatever the Council wishes. Councilmember Bowen said he did not intend to diminish the tragedy in Missouri, and did not suggest the Council hold a moment of silence at every meeting. He proposed a moment of silence every few months in honor of fallen troops.

Sumner Dispatch Services

Councilmember Hamilton said he spoke with Sumner Mayor Enslow after the RAMP meeting regarding the possibility of Bonney Lake moving to use Puyallup's dispatch services. He said Mayor Enslow seemed surprised to hear about the issues Bonney Lake has had with the level of service. Councilmember Hamilton said he wanted to be sure the City had communicated with the City of Sumner about reasons the Council is considering changing services. Police Chief Mitchell said he has been involved in an ongoing dialogue with the Sumner Police Department and between the City Administrators for both cities. Mayor Johnson said he had spoken with Sumner Councilmember Steve Allsop recently as well. He said he told Councilmember Allsop that Bonney Lake's goal is to get 800 MHz and a good level of service. He said the City did everything it could to bring Sumner along in moving to Puyallup for dispatch. He said if Bonney Lake waits, the same deal with Puyallup may not be available. Councilmembers asked Chief Mitchell for more information on past communications and examples of service issues, which he provided. Councilmember Rackley said the City should continue to communicate with Sumner. Chief Mitchell said communications dropped off somewhat in the past but are being rekindled, with regular meetings including Sumner, Puyallup, and Bonney Lake.

Councilmember Bowen moved for a five minute break. Councilmember Rackley seconded the motion.

Motion Approved 7 – 0.

The break began at 7:02 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 7:09 p.m.

7:09:30

7. Executive Session: Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the City Council adjourned to an Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. for 15 minutes to discuss property negotiation. At 7:27 p.m. the Executive Session was extended for 5 minutes. At 7:32 p.m. the meeting was extended an additional 5 minutes. The meeting reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

7:34:52

8. Adjournment.

Councilmember Rackley moved to adjourn the workshop at 7:34 p.m. Councilmember Bowen seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7 – 0.

Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC
City Clerk

Neil Johnson, Jr.
Mayor

Items submitted to the Council meeting of February 19, 2008:

- Bonney Lake High School Student – “Creating Marketing Project” – Cassandra Brown, Bonney Lake High School DECA Chapter.