

**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**March 3, 2009  
5:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

City of



**"Where Dreams Can Soar"**

*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.*

*Website: [www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us](http://www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us)*

Audio Time  
Stamp ↓

**Call to Order:**

Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr. called the Workshop to order at 5:32 p.m.

**Roll Call:** [A1.3]

City Clerk Edvalson called the roll. In addition to Mayor Johnson, elected officials attending were Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, Councilmember David Bowen, Councilmember Laurie Carter, Councilmember Dan Decker, Councilmember Mark Hamilton, Councilmember David King and Councilmember James Rackley.

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

**Agenda Items:**

5:33:32

1. **Council Open Discussion:**

Mayor Johnson announced that he would be leaving the Workshop at 6:00 p.m. to visit Liberty Ridge Elementary and participate in a PTO program to read to kids. He planned to read 'Yertle the Turtle' during the event.

Coffee & Conversation with the Mayor

Councilmember Rackley said he attended the first 'Coffee and Conversation' with Mayor Johnson on Monday, March 2, 2009. Mayor Johnson said he has asked the City Attorney to research an issue brought up by a citizen about an area doctor. Councilmember King asked if the Mayor had scheduled which councilmember would be attending each coffee. Mayor Johnson asked councilmembers to let him know their availability if they want to participate in the event, which will be scheduled on the first Monday each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Senior Center.

Lions 4 Kids' Celebration

Deputy Mayor Swatman said Lions 4 Kids is celebrating their new facility with an event on Sunday, March 8, 2009 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. He invited everyone to attend.

Sumner Sewer Meeting

Deputy Mayor Swatman said he attended a meeting with Sumner on the sewer system on February 25, 2009. He said the City has a cost sharing agreement with Sumner and issues like rebuilding the flood wall, facilities and capacity issues should be considered. He suggested the Council discuss these issues at a future workshop. Mayor Johnson said he has asked Public Works Director Grigsby to review the City's options.

### City Budget

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the budget needs to be carefully reviewed at the Council Retreat this spring. He said revenues are down significantly but not much has been cut from the budget yet. Councilmember King said the Council should look at short term as well as long-range effects of the downturn in the economy. He said the current City administration has worked hard to remain transparent about projects and funds, and have not raised taxes much at a time when many are worried about how their tax dollars are being used. He noted some positive news, such as City project bids coming in far below engineer's estimates. He said citizens should know the City is prepared for a worse case scenario and the Council's vision is not being affected by economic panic.

### Council Retreat

Councilmembers discussed when to schedule the Council Retreat and what topics should be discussed. The retreat was set for Saturday, March 28, 2009 for an all-day session. Councilmembers expressed their preference to hold the retreat locally.

### Animal Services Contract

Councilmember King said Metro Animal Services briefed the Public Safety Committee on services at their meeting March 2, 2009. He said they can provide much better metrics about the number of calls coming in from different areas. He said in Bonney Lake, the number of animals reported in January was the same as the three-month average last year. He said costs go up as calls increase and the City is due to renegotiate the interlocal agreement for these services soon. He suggested the item be discussed at the Council retreat along with other budget items.

### Parliamentary Procedures

Councilmember Decker noted the Councilmembers received the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Sturgis' 'Rules of Parliamentary Procedures' this week. City Administrator Morrison said the Council adopted the 4<sup>th</sup> edition when it adopted its revised Council rules in 2008.

### State Stimulus Package

Councilmember Hamilton asked if the City submitted any requests for stimulus funds for sewer, water and road improvements, as the deadline is March 7, 2009. Public Works Director Grigsby said the City does not have any 'shovel ready' projects that meet the criteria at this time. City Administrator Morrison said the Executive Assistant is researching possible funding options now. Mr. Morrison also spoke with State Representative Dave Reichert, but no one has information about what funding will come to the 8<sup>th</sup> District yet. He said chances for funding coming to Bonney Lake seem slim but they will keep working on options. Councilmember Decker said the stock market is falling and will get worse, and appreciates the Mayor's work to keep things above board.

### City's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

Councilmember Carter thanked staff for their work on the City's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration on February 28<sup>th</sup>. She said the new portion of Main Street is now open, also.

### Bonney Lake Conservation Association

Councilmember Carter said the Conservation Association is holding a Rain Garden class with Stream Team. She said residents on Lake Bonney are interested in installing

rain gardens on their properties. Councilmember Carter asked Community Services Director Leaf to bring a sample of the Lake Bonney swale to the class to be analyzed.

5:58:32

2. **Review of Council Minutes:** February 17, 2009 Council Workshop and February 24, 2009 Council Meeting.

Councilmember Carter noted that "Pierce" is misspelled on p.3 of the February 24, 2009 Minutes. By Council consensus, the minutes were moved forward with the correction to the March 10, 2009 Meeting.

Mayor Johnson left the Council Workshop at 5:59 p.m.

5:59:24

3. **Presentation and Discussion:** Street Tree Master Plan.

Community Services Director Leaf said the draft Street Tree Master Plan has been available for public comment on the City website for about a year. The plan was prepared by Michelle Whitfield, a former City employee who was retained as a consultant for this project. One third of the \$10,000 cost to develop the plan was covered by a grant from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The plan is part of the Community Forestry plan and applies only to city-owned properties and right-of-ways in Bonney Lake. The plan recommends species that provide beautification, clean air, and traffic calming without interfering with power lines or damaging roads and sidewalks. The cost to implement the full plan is estimated at \$1 million over 10 to 20 years. The cost to maintain the 3,000 trees in the plan once they are planted and established would be about \$30,000 per year.

Councilmember King said in discussions about urban forestry, there was a focus on using native plants, but most of the plants in the plan are not native species. Director Leaf said evergreens are a common native plant but should not be planted close to roads. He said evergreens could be planted along the SR 410 corridor. Some native plants including maple trees are included in the plan, but others were selected for maintenance, color, etc. Councilmember Carter said spacing, width and height were also considered. She said native plants require less water usage to maintain.

City Administrator Morrison said the Street Tree Master Plan serves as an operational guide and identifies City streets and arterials that should have trees. He said the City's goal is to maintain 'Tree City USA' status and implement parts of the plan over time. Councilmembers spoke in favor of adopting the plan and looking to the future. Councilmembers discussed funding options including using City funds, grants, donations and assistance from volunteers. Council consensus was to bring the plan forward as a resolution to the March 10, 2009 Meeting.

6:21:05

4. **Discussion:** AB09-38 – D09-38 – Temporary Freeze of Transportation Impact Fee Rate at 2008 Level.

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Transportation Impact Fee rate increased 21.7% in 2009. Councilmembers discussed how the proposed ordinance would affect development and available funds. Councilmember Rackley said a sales tax incentive program like the one recently passed for Easttown and Downtown development would

be a better solution. He said freezing the TIF rate eliminates funds needed for necessary road improvements. Councilmember Hamilton said the City's rates are based on a study by Transpro, and the standards should be the same for all cities setting rates. He asked why Bonney Lake's rates are higher for some types of development, like single-family residential, than other area cities. Public Works Director Grigsby said the standards are the same, but a growing city needs more road improvements than an established City like Tacoma or Renton, so the costs of development are higher. He said each time the Transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan is revised the base line for TIF rates are reset. These rates are adjusted annually between Comprehensive Plan amendments. The Council changed the index used to adjust TIF rates from the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (CCI) to the WA State Department of Transportation CCI in 2008 (Ordinance 1284). He said the DOT CCI rate went up 21.7% on January 1, 2009, while the Engineering News Record CCI went up about 3.85%. Director Grigsby said the index is calculated each October and the rate may go down in October 2009 due to falling oil prices. City Administrator Morrison added that the new rate assumes \$4.00 per gallon fuel costs and bids coming in 30% over engineer's estimates, while gas is closer to \$2.00 per gallon and bids come in 30% under estimates today.

Councilmember Swatman provided councilmembers with an example of the City's fees for a restaurant, using Applebee's as an example. The estimated cost of fees and permits for this business is \$426,000. By comparison, Tukwila's total was \$201,000 and Auburn's was \$209,000. He said TIF fees are part of the costs, and there may be a better way to attract businesses. He noted that the proposed ordinance would not allow TIF rates to increase until 2011 at the earliest. Councilmembers King, Rackley, Decker and Bowen said they supported the proposed ordinance.

Councilmembers asked which, if any, businesses did not locate in Bonney Lake due to City fees. City Administrator Morrison said both Red Robin restaurants and the Fennel Creek Apartment developer said fees were an issue and/or made a project unfeasible in Bonney Lake. Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Council should review all development fees, as TIF fees are only part of the cost to developers. The proposed ordinance was moved forward by Council consensus to the March 10, 2009 Meeting.

6:55:57

5. **Discussion:** Council Retreat Topics and Date(s).

The Council discussed a proposed retreat date of March 28, 2009 and potential topics during open discussion. Deputy Mayor said some proposed agenda items, such as code enforcement and municipal code updates, might be better suited to regular workshop discussion. Discussion of Council Retreat topics was continued to the March 17, 2009 Workshop for continued discussion.

**At 7:00 p.m., Deputy Mayor Swatman called for a five-minute break, to be followed directly by an Executive Session.**

7:05:31

6. **Executive Session:**

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) the City Council adjourned to an Executive Session with the City Attorney at 7:05 p.m. to discuss potential

litigation and property acquisition for twenty minutes. The Workshop reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

7:29:20

7. **Adjournment:**

**At 7:29 p.m., Councilmember Bowen moved to adjourn the workshop. Councilmember Rackley seconded the motion.**

**Motion approved 7 – 0.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Neil Johnson, Jr.  
Mayor

No items were submitted to the Council Workshop of March 3, 2009.