

**CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

**September 26, 2009
12:30 P.M.**

MINUTES



"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

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr. called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.

A. Roll Call:

Mayor Neil Johnson 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 Dave King and Councilmember Jim Rackley.

[Staffmembers in attendance were City Administrator Don Morrison, Public Works Director Dan Grigsby, Police Chief Mike Mitchell, Community Services Director Gary Leaf, Administrative Services Director/ City Clerk Harwood Edvalson and Executive Assistant Brian Hartsell.]

II. DISCUSSION:

Mayor Johnson welcomed United States Congressman Dave Reichert who represents the citizens of the 8th Congressional District. Mayor Johnson acknowledged Congressman Reichert's busy schedule and invited him to provide an update on the 8th district and respond to the questions previously submitted by the Mayor and Council.

Congressman Reichert said he appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Council and community and to review some of the questions in advance. He said several were of a technical nature requiring research by his staff. He said his office is currently quite focused on the healthcare issue. The Congressman summarized some of his assignments on committees in congress and his current activities. He also thanked the Mayor and Council for their service to the citizens of Bonney Lake, and acknowledged the Bonney Lake Police Department as a great law enforcement partner in the region.

Congressman Reichert commented on the City's questions about funding for preservation of Fennel Creek and the Victor Falls Watershed including the building of the Fennel Creek Trail. He encouraged city staff to contact his office about available federal funds. He noted there are stimulus funds and other grant programs that may apply to several of the projects the city mentioned such as transportation, 800 MHz radio and sewer treatment plants. He invited the staff to contact Gwen Frazier in his office for assistance with identifying potential sources of funding.

Congressman Reichert explained how he had refused to consider earmarks in house/senate bills for a year's period to make the point that the earmark process needs to be used ethically. He said the earmark process has been changed to be more transparent to the public. He added that he now will support appropriate earmarks in federal legislation and invited the City to work with his office to identify such opportunities.

The Congressman addressed the topic of potential flooding caused by the current problems with the Howard Hanson Dam and advised that his office is applying pressure to the Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate as much as possible these impacts and to give the citizens and businesses early warning before flooding occurs.

The question was posed to the Congressman about the free-up of former television frequencies for public safety. He said some of those frequencies will be available, particularly those that will enhance interoperability of communications between the various public safety agencies. He says he sees 800 MHz as old technology. He said new technology is in development that will allow various modes of communications to talk through a common box installed in the agency's communications center.

Congressman Reichert spoke to the question about cable systems and open competition. He said the Congress' current focus on healthcare has temporarily closed down their efforts on many different issues, including the effects of unsolicited email.

The Congressman was asked where he thought the Health Care Reform bill will likely end up. He gave some background to the development of the bill, and amendments to the bill he supported and had introduced. He said he thought it would take into mid to late October before a bill comes to the House floor. He said one of his great concerns for the proposed bill is the \$500 billion cut to Medicaid and Medicaid Advantage.

Councilmember Rackley asked if any of the government agencies are looking at new technology associated with sewer treatment. He noted that the state environmental agencies seem to be against the use of the new technologies that are available. Congressman Reichert noted that a few years ago, his office helped the City of Carnation with their new sewer treatment plant that incorporated some new technologies. He said he would be happy to have the City contact his staff that can provide specific contacts in this area, particularly in the Environmental Protection Agency.

Congressman Reichert offered some information on issues he thought may be of interest to the general audience. He noted that members of Congress do pay social security. He noted that the health plan he has as a congressman costs him \$460 per month with a deductible. He said he had better insurance with King County than he has with the federal government.

Councilmember Hamilton asked about the extension of Highway 167 and the cross-base highway. He noted that much of the money that has come to the State of Washington goes to the governor and then becomes a political issue. He asked if there was anything the Congressman can do to make sure the smaller jurisdictions get some of the stimulus money rather than the larger jurisdiction of King County. Congressman Reichert noted that he was successful in obtaining money for Auburn, Puyallup, and Kent for transportation projects. He noted that money also went to Buckley, Orting, Enumclaw, North Bend and Snoqualmie as well as other cities in King County. He said he is very interested in helping the smaller communities get a piece of the pie. He encouraged the City to work with his office to address some of the local needs for the fast growing area. He said his office will continue to try and push funding for the completion of Hwy 167.

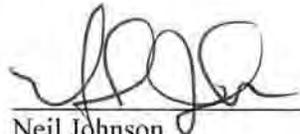
Councilmember Bowen noted that one of the recent grants received by the City for the construction of sidewalks required funds to be spent to teach children to walk and ride bikes to school. He said the grant rules would not allow the funds to go to the school district to

provide this education, but to someone with a specific certificate to teach this topic. He said he feels this requirement is a scam to benefit some particular individuals. Congressman Reichert agreed that some of the grants and bills have strings that seem ridiculous. He said he and the Council must look at these issues and determine if the overall benefit of the program is worth the strings attached.

Mayor Johnson closed the meeting by again expressing appreciation for the Congressman's participation. By common consent of the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.



Harwood Edvalson, CMC
City Clerk



Neil Johnson
Mayor

Items submitted at the September 26, 2009 Special Meeting:

- City of Bonney Lake – *Current Federal Issues of Interest to Bonney Lake* – Mayor Neil Johnson.