

**CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP**

**May 18, 2010
5:30 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

Audio Time
Stamp ↓

Location: City Hall Council Chambers, 19306 Bonney Lake Blvd., Bonney Lake.

I. Call to Order: Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman called the workshop to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. Roll Call: [A1.3]

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson called the roll. In addition to Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, elected officials attending were Councilmember Laurie Carter, Councilmember Dan Decker, Councilmember Mark Hamilton, Councilmember Donn Lewis, Councilmember Randy McKibbin and Councilmember James Rackley. Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr. arrived at 5:40 p.m.

[Staff members in attendance were City Administrator Don Morrison, Chief Financial Officer Al Juarez, Assistant Public Works Director Charles Simpson, Assistant Police Chief Dana Powers, Community Services Director Gary Leaf, City Attorney Jim Dionne, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson and Records & Information Specialist Susan Duis.]

III. Agenda Items:

5:36:05

A. Presentation: Pierce Transit - Update on System Redesign PT Tomorrow - Tina Lee, Principal Planner.

Pierce Transit Principal Planner Tina Lee presented an update on 'PT Tomorrow' and the system redesign process. She invited all to attend a public meeting on June 2, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bonney Lake Senior Center. She also encouraged members of the community to visit their website, www.pttomorrow.org.

Ms. Lee provided an overview of Pierce Transit's funding resources, costs for different types of services, public involvement, and responses to public comments. She said Bonney Lake Route 407 costs about \$14.12 per passenger to operate, in comparison to \$2.54 for trunk routes and up to \$38.70 for Shuttle Trips. She described two alternatives for future services, a 'reduction' plan and a 'growth' plan. She said the revised alternatives offer more services to the cities of Bonney Lake and Buckley than the original proposals. The reduction plan includes adding a Bus Plus route from Puyallup through Bonney Lake and on to Buckley and Prairie Ridge, but no fixed route in north Bonney Lake. The growth plan keeps Route 408 and 496, and includes service to Buckley.

Councilmembers asked about timelines for service changes, transit system costs and proposed cuts. Ms. Lee said the Pierce Transit Board will consider when and if to present a tax increase on the ballot, and whether to increase bus fares. Councilmember Rackley said promises were made to the City when the system was created that have still not been fulfilled. Councilmember Carter suggested extending

service to the Lakeland Community and Enumclaw. She asked how Bus Plus service impacts people who use Shuttle services; Ms. Lee said Shuttle Service is not available in areas that have Bus Plus service, and riders would have to meet the bus at Bus Plus fixed stops. She said the agency will work with people who currently use Shuttle Service. Councilmember Carter said the current system schedule is not coordinated with connector routes, so people have to wait a long time to make connections. She asked about local bus hubs and coordinating with school schedules, and said the online Trip Planner is difficult to use. Ms. Lee said an alternative trip planner is now available through www.onebusaway.org.

Deputy Mayor Swatman questioned why Pierce Transit has proposed a 43% reduction in services when sales tax revenues have decreased by only 12%. He said the agency's radio system is costly and noted that many agencies use private communications rather than maintaining their own radio systems. He applauded the agency's use of CNG-powered buses, but said they should work harder to encourage other agencies to use their fuel station. He said Bonney Lake pays \$2 million in taxes to Pierce Transit each year and asked what level of service residents should expect. Ms. Lee said the City has fixed routes, 13 vanpools, shuttle services, a Park & Ride station, and other benefits related to transit in the area. Mayor Johnson asked how the agency measures service use and ridership on vanpools. Ms. Lee said riders record mileage and ridership; she said vanpools are one of the most efficient services provided by Pierce Transit. She said she will provide information on staff reductions to Mayor Johnson since she did not have the information on hand.

Councilmember Lewis asked whether Pierce Transit collaborates with other transit agencies for purchasing, maintenance and reviewing costs. Ms. Lee said they use federal purchasing options for some items since they receive federal funding. Councilmember Hamilton said the agency is focusing on cuts, but he thinks they should present the issue as a temporary problem related to the recession, and push for increased services and ridership in the future. He said the agency needs to make major cuts to maintain services, and they would benefit from diversifying revenue sources beyond sales taxes. Mayor Johnson said residents in smaller communities perceive that Pierce Transit serves Tacoma first, and not their communities. He suggested the agency provide them with basic information on minimum and maximum service options as they move forward. Councilmember Rackley stressed that riders in outlying communities like Prairie Ridge depend on bus service to get to their jobs. Mayor Johnson and the Councilmembers thanked Ms. Lee for attending and providing more information.

Mayor Johnson recessed the workshop for five minutes at 6:54 p.m. The workshop was brought back to order at 7:07 p.m.

7:07:72

B. Council Open Discussion:

Transit Services: Councilmember Rackley thanked Chief Financial Officer Juarez for providing information to the Council on bus services.

Local Schools: Councilmember Carter attended the Victor Falls Elementary field trip. She, Councilmember Rackley and City Administrator Morrison plan to attend the Families First Coalition conference at White River High School on May 24th.

National League of Cities: Councilmember Carter asked for updates on the National League of Cities Health Card Program. City Administrator Morrison said the City would have to renew its membership with the League to qualify, and he has not yet received information from other cities on their use of the program.

Non-Political Sign Ordinance: Deputy Mayor Swatman said the City Attorney's office has asked for time to review the proposed sign ordinance. The proposed ordinance will come before Council with revisions at the next workshop.

Annexation: Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Mayor attended a meeting on annexation at the library organized by Brad Doll. Deputy Mayor Swatman said residents in Prairie Ridge are interested in annexing into the City, but the community is not included in the UGA/CUGA and cannot be annexed at this time.

Dog Park: Deputy Mayor Swatman said a Dog Park work party was held on May 15 and 16. The group of community volunteers cleared several trails. He thanked the volunteers for their hard work.

Boat Launch: Community Services Director Leaf said the pump on the boat launch bollard failed, and should be repaired by the end of the week if a replacement part can be found. Mayor Johnson said the bollards are often left down through Memorial Day weekend.

Flood Control District: Deputy Mayor Swatman said the newly-formed Flood Control District can impose a new tax without a vote of the people. Councilmember Carter said she read a report that Washington State plans to move the Orting fish hatchery out of the flood plain. Councilmember Hamilton said he does not completely oppose the Flood Control District, but feels they must negotiate with communities outside the flood plain.

County Executive Meeting: Councilmember Rackley said the Community Development Committee suggested two items be included in the Mayor's upcoming meeting with the County Executive: the 192nd St corridor and bus services. He asked the Mayor whether he could attend the meeting as an observer. Mayor Johnson said the meetings are set up between the County Executive, her staff and the Mayor and do not include Councilmembers. He said he will provide a report of the meeting to the Council.

Community Garden: Councilmember Carter said a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the new Community Garden on May 27th at 5:00 pm. Councilmember Rackley said plenty of people have volunteered to help prepare the garden, but they need more wood to build the rest of the garden plots.

WSU Forest: Councilmember Hamilton said the forest is being kept relatively free of garbage, but he has seen trees tagged with spray paint and evidence of fires and motorized vehicles inside the forest. He said the Police Chief asked for more information on where the property lines are, and suggested if officers rode through the trails regularly it would help. Councilmember McKibbin suggested that 'City Property' signs would also help with enforcement. Councilmember Carter said some debris was left over after the clean-up, but it is on the site for the new medical center, which could start being cleared by the first week of June. Councilmember Lewis said

when development starts for the commercial site, the contractor should clearly mark those areas that are managed by the City and those that are off-limits due to construction. City Attorney Dionne said he will talk with the Police Chief to clarify the City’s role in managing the forest and trails.

Eastown: Mayor Johnson said he will provide a copy of a letter he sent to Geinger Development, Inc. setting a June 14th deadline for them to submit easement documents and other information to the City. He said after this deadline the Council will move forward with an alternative plan. He said most of the other property owners have been working to get their easement paperwork submitted.

Sumner Pool: Mayor Johnson met with members of Sumner School District to discuss the future of the community pool. He said the district is negotiating with someone to manage the pool and they feel confident that they can work something out. He said they also discussed funding options for a YMCA, and the district said they would help fund the pool portion of the Bonney Lake recreation center. They also discussed long-range park and recreation planning for the area.

7:34:05

C. **Review of Draft Council Minutes:** May 4, 2010 Meeting and May 11, 2010 Workshop Draft Minutes.

Councilmember Carter and Lewis asked that the May 11th minutes be revised on p.2 to state “He said a resident in Sky Island expressed concern about speeding in his neighborhood.” The corrected minutes were forwarded to the May 25, 2010 Meeting for action.

7:35:24

D. **Discussion: AB10-59 - Ordinance D10-59** - Proposed Sewer Monthly Rate Increase for Grinder Pump, Availability and Consumption Rates.

City Administrator Morrison summarized the proposed ordinance and rates. He noted that the base rate used in the draft ordinance is the current rate, which is based on annual CPI adjustments. The ordinance proposes increasing the grinder pump charge from \$7.76 to \$16, which covers the average actual costs for grinder pumps. It also proposes a 4% increase to base rates and a 5% increase to volumetric rates. The rates would continue to rise by 4% and 5%, respectively for four years. After four years of rate increases, these rates would continue to be adjusted with an annual CPI adjustment, except for grinder pump fees. He said the ordinance also clarifies rates for duplex units. He reviewed six alternative timelines for rate increases, that increase rates by higher percentages to make up the difference between current revenues and what the City’s consultants calculated are needed to maintain the system.

Councilmember Rackley asked for more information on the methodology used to calculate and distribute costs and revenues. City Administrator Morrison said he can provide labor allocation data, but other information can be provided by the FCS Group consultants. He said the City’s methodology for calculating these costs is 8 or 9 years old, and he plans to review it in the future.

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Finance Committee has reviewed sewer rates several times, and he is not in favor of using CPI adjustments. City Administrator Morrison said CPI adjustments are helpful to keep rates on track by implementing small increases that do not require council action. He said CPI adjustments cause some administrative complications, and the yearly changes are not reflected in the

municipal code. He said operations and maintenance (O & M) costs may not stay in line with CPI adjustments, and SDC charges will not always be able to cover the costs to maintain infrastructure.

Deputy Mayor Swatman questioned why the City needs rate increases if new customers are projected to increase by 4% each year. He said in general, cities do not do a good job of explaining how funds from utilities customers are used. He said SDC charges are a major complicating factor, and they are not being replenished at a sustainable rate. He said it is important that staff have what they need to do their jobs in the field.

Mayor Johnson said Public Works Director Grigsby and City Engineer John Woodcock are conservative in their rate suggestions, and he feels the City should be more aggressive. He questioned how the City can cover costs for infrastructure maintenance and emergency projects with the current structure. He suggested that it may be sensible to start with smaller increases over a longer period of time, given the poor economy.

Assistant Public Works Director Charlie Simpson said he favors setting aside funds for emergency repairs and other needed projects. He said a lot of what goes on in public works is not seen, but if one of the city's 28 lift stations breaks down the City has to fix it, regardless of whether funds were previously set aside. He said he supports conservative planning and maintenance to keep the system functioning smoothly. He said staff are working to improve O & M with a new work order system and more professional processes. He said he wants to provide the Council with detailed information to help them make decisions. Councilmember Carter said the City should provide more detailed information for customers online, like other cities do. Mayor Johnson said past studies and recommendations have given varied information, which makes it difficult for the Council to make decisions.

Councilmember Hamilton said his main concern is how rate increases will affect residents during the difficult economy. He said he supports more gradual rate increases, and suggested the Council wait to implement increases until early 2011. City Administrator Morrison said the Council reviewed increases a year ago and chose not to make a decision because it was an election year. He said the Council could pass an ordinance now that is not effective until 2011. Deputy Mayor Swatman, Deputy Mayor Swatman suggested if the Council feels increases are necessary they may as well approve a small increase, such as 1%, immediately.

Mayor Johnson asked for direction from Council on how to proceed. Council consensus was to bring a separate ordinance for a grinder pump fee increase forward for action at the May 25, 2010 Meeting. Mayor Johnson said the Community Development Committee can continue discussions and bring additional increases back to Council for discussion if it wishes.

IV. Executive Session: None.

8:36:52

V. Adjournment:

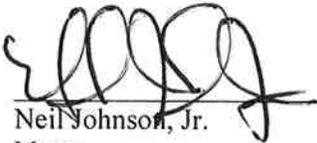
At 8:36 p.m. Councilmember Rackley moved to adjourn the workshop. Councilmember Lewis seconded the motion.

Mayor Johnson said he will be unable to attend the May 25, 2010 Meeting.

Motion approved 7 – 0.



Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC
City Clerk



Neil Johnson, Jr.
Mayor

Items submitted to the Council Workshop of May 18, 2010:

- Pierce Transit – *Update on PT Tomorrow* – Pierce Transit Principal Planner Tina Lee.