

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

February 17, 2004

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"

Roll Call

Mayor Young called the workshop to order at 5:32 p.m.

Also in attendance were Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, Councilmember Phil DeLeo, Councilmember Mark Hamilton, Councilmember Neil Johnson, Councilmember Dave King, Councilmember Cheryle Noble and Councilmember Jim Rackley.

Staff members attending were Finance Director John Weidenfeller, Planning and Community Development Director Bob Leedy, Interim Public Works Director Bill Gilbert, Judge Jim Helbling, Code Enforcement Officer Denney Bryan and City Clerk Harwood Edvalson.

Agenda Items

1. Status of Code Enforcement Program

Mayor Young introduced Code Enforcement Officer Bryan, who provided an update on the City's current Code Enforcement Program. Code Enforcement Officer Bryan explained that a majority of his time is spent dealing with sign code violations, junk vehicles and health-affecting nuisances. He said that most abatements are initiated by a Request for Action form submitted by a complainant. The City Council expressed concern for the proliferation of illegal signs, and the lack of nuisance vehicles abated under the ordinance adopted last October. Director Leedy said that he and Code Enforcement Officer Bryan are developing a comprehensive plan of attack that will come back through the Mayor. He added that there probably will be a need for additional help. Several Councilmembers expressed a desire for the administration to be more aggressive or pro-active in its code enforcement. They suggested that the need for more personnel may be justified, but also suggested increased deterrence through increased fines. They reminded the Mayor of the semi-annual report on vehicle abatement required by Ordinance 1007, and asked for copies of the Request for Action form.

2. Open Discussion

Traffic signal at the Public Safety Building. Interim Director Gilbert explained the current operation of the emergency-egress traffic signal at the Public Safety Building (fire station). In their discussion, the Council identified two issues. One is a concern for vehicles backing up from the signal at Locust and Old Sumner-Buckley Highway into the "clear" zone in front of the fire station. The second concern is that drivers may not be sufficiently aware of the emergency signal in front of the fire station. Mayor Young concluded that the Council Public Safety Committee would review both issues.

Litter pickup. Councilmember Johnson asked if there were immediate plans to pickup litter on some of the City's busiest streets. Mayor Young said that some of the laborers have been assigned from time-to-time to target various streets and wards. Councilmember Johnson

asked if a schedule could be established and put on the city website. He also noted other information on the website that needs updating. Mayor Young said that the public works department would review the litter pickup and street sweeping programs and post schedules on the website.

Re-opening public hearing. Councilmember Hamilton asked if the Hearing Examiner was going to re-open the public hearing on the West Tapps property. Director Leedy responded that the attorney for the applicant has responded back to the Hearing Examiner, and that the City can expect a report in a few days. Councilmember Hamilton asked if there was a more recent Buildable Lands Report than 2002. Director Leedy said that was the most recent report, and that it was based on data from 2000. He added that Pierce County was in process to compile a major update. Councilmember Hamilton asked about the City's annual reports. Director Leedy said he would provide the Council a schedule for receipt of the next updated annual report by the next meeting.

Administrative services coordinator. Deputy Mayor Swatman commented that he felt the Mayor had some good candidates for the ASC position. He expressed concern that the lead candidates may not have the level of human resource background needed in the position. He added that he would not be surprised to have the Mayor come back next year and propose a position more dedicated to human resources. Mayor Young reminded the Council that he had discussed the need last year for an HR person, and said that he would indeed be addressing this concern next year.

Transfer of water rights. Deputy Mayor Swatman asked if there was an update on the transfer of water rights. Councilmember Rackley said the Community Development Committee has received a report and additional information is being compiled. Responding to the Deputy Mayor's question about Tacoma Water, Councilmember Rackley said he will accompany the department head to a meeting with Tacoma tomorrow.

Naches-Terrace Skystone. Deputy Mayor Swatman said he visited the skystone and said that from his personal observations of the Cascade Mountain range he could see how the stone could have been used to predict the seasons.

Connecting sidewalks. Deputy Mayor Swatman asked why some developments seem to be required to connect new sidewalks to the existing sidewalks, and others are not. Director Leedy said he will report back on the issue. Councilmember DeLeo said that if there is gap in the City's requirements then it should be addressed right away.

Kiwanis Club – pancake breakfast. Councilmember DeLeo said that the Kiwanis Club would support the Council in its retreat goal to have more outreach events in the community.

PCRC General Assembly. Councilmember King reminded the Council of the upcoming General Assembly for the Pierce County Regional Council, and invited all those available to attend. Councilmember Johnson asked for a copy of any notes taken at the meeting.

Legislative lobbying. Councilmember King urged the Council to review the AWC Legislative Bulletin. He mentioned several issues that may be of benefit to the City and commented that this session, more than many others, seems to be focused on City issues. Mayor Young mentioned additional proposed legislation regarding annexations and water districts. He noted that he had written a position in opposition to the proposed legislation that would require a vote of the people affected by a city's annexation of a water district. He

encouraged Councilmembers to write their representatives and voice an opinion on proposed legislation. He added that they respond to their constituents just like the Councilmembers do.

Televising meetings. Councilmember King noted that the Finance Committee is studying the televising of Council meetings. He said there was an article in the Tacoma News Tribune about the County Council trying to turn off the cameras during their citizen comment period. The reason, he said, was because of the grand-standing of some of the speakers during that portion of the meeting.

Economic development committee. Councilmember Johnson asked about an economic development committee, noting that the Council had designated April 1 as a deadline in their recent retreat. Mayor Young said he is putting together a list of those interested in serving on the committee and invited Council to submit names. Councilmember Johnson asked for a copy of the economic development plan that the Mayor had developed.

Position vacancies. Director Weidenfeller noted that Cathy Harstad-Everett and Debbie Crosier have spent a great deal of time to fill the City's current vacancies. He noted that the new engineering tech, Ken Gill, started work today. He added that one of the departing police dispatchers has filled the public works department assistant position, and that interviews would be conducted shortly for another department assistant, the secretary/receptionist and senior aide positions. Director Weidenfeller said that interviews were recently conducted for two maintenance worker positions, and that additional efforts are anticipated to fill resulting vacancies at the laborer level. He stated that interviews for the associate planner were scheduled for next week. Councilmember King asked if Council might receive an updated organization chart. A chart was distributed by Director Weidenfeller at the conclusion of the meeting recess.

Acting upon the request of Councilmember Rackley, Mayor Young declared a ten-minute recess at 6:55 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

3. Review of Minutes: February 3 Workshop and February 10 Council Meeting.

Councilmember DeLeo asked that the reference to the Fire Chief under Open Discussion on page one of the February 3 Workshop minutes be changed to "Assistant Fire Chief or Fire Marshal."

4. AB03-155 - Possible Change of Council Ward to At-Large Positions.

Councilmember Rackley asked that the record reflect that he did not sponsor this proposal to replace the ward system with an all at-large Council. Deputy Mayor Swatman and Councilmember Johnson spoke in favor of the proposed change. They felt an at-large system would require Councilmembers to give attention to all the issues impacting the City rather than limiting their scope to those impacting their wards. They also felt the at-large system would best address the future needs of the City and allow citizens to vote for all the Council positions. Councilmembers DeLeo, King, Noble and Rackley felt that the current mixture of ward and at-large positions best meets the needs of the citizens of Bonney Lake.

Councilmember DeLeo expressed concern that an at-large system may give a certain demographic or geographic portion of the City a disproportionate voice by allowing multiple representatives to be elected from the same neighborhood. Councilmember Rackley noted that citizens have informed him that they prefer to have a Councilmember designated to

represent them. Councilmember Noble also noted that the oath of office she took as a Councilmember was not just for Ward 3, but as a Councilmember for the City of Bonney Lake. Councilmember King suggested that the ward system allows for less expensive election campaigns by allowing candidates to focus their resources on a particular ward. Councilmember Hamilton said he would prefer to see a decision to change the ward system on a ballot for the citizens to decide. Deputy Mayor Swatman asked the Council's support to put the issue on the next meeting's agenda to allow public comment on the issue. There was a general consensus to have the City Attorney draft an ordinance to place the issue on the agenda for the February 24 Council meeting.

5. Guidelines for the Ad Hoc Ethics Investigation Committee.

As the chair of the Ethics Investigation Committee, Councilmember King reminded the Council that no procedural direction had been given the Committee. He recited the difficulties involved with having the Council committee conduct the investigations. Councilmember King added that the Committee has no power under the law to prosecute for a charge of malfeasance, and at most can only censure a fellow Councilmember. The Council discussed the pros and cons of pursuing the investigations. A majority concluded to invite the concerned citizens to take their complaints to the appropriate County and State authorities for review and appropriate action.

Councilmember Rackley moved that the Ethics Committee be disbanded after the Chairman of the Ethics Committee and the City Attorney jointly sign a letter to the complainants providing information on whom to call and to whom they should give their allegations. Councilmember Hamilton seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4 – 2 – 1.
Councilmembers DeLeo and Noble voted no. Deputy Mayor Swatman abstained.**

6. Nominations for the Small Cities and Towns Representative on the Pierce Transit Board.

Mayor Young asked the Council if they wished to nominate one of their number to represent the smaller cities of the County on the Pierce Transit Board.

Councilmember King nominated Councilmember Rackley for appointment to the Board. Councilmember Johnson nominated himself to serve on the Board.

Councilmember Johnson was designated as the nominee to the Pierce Transit Board on the supporting vote of Deputy Mayor Swatman and Councilmembers DeLeo, Johnson and Noble.

7. AB04-27 – Ordinance 1015 – Revising Ordinance 1001 related to alcohol in Allan Yorke Park for Bonney Lake Days.

Councilmember Johnson said that the authorization to do a beer and wine garden last year

was given just before Bonney Lake Days. He suggested that earlier approval would facilitate the process between the City and the proposed vendor. Mayor Young voiced his opposition to the sale of alcohol in the parks and in association with Bonney Lake Days. The City Council discussed incorporating the hours of operation for the beer/wine garden into the ordinance. Councilmember DeLeo suggested tying the closing time to coincide with the completion of the last event of the evening. There was consensus by the Council to allow operations to begin at 12:00 Noon and conclude with the days events. Councilmember Johnson said he would work with City Attorney Dionne to incorporate the appropriate changes into the proposed ordinance.

8. Executive Session

Mayor Young announced that pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c) and 42.30.140(4)(a), the City Council will hold an executive session to discuss issues dealing with labor negotiations and property acquisition. It was announced the session would last approximately 10 minutes. The session commenced at 8:40 p.m. At 8:50 p.m., the session was extended for five minutes. At 8:55 p.m., the executive session was extended another five minutes. Council reconvened in open session at 9:00 p.m.

9.. Adjournment

By common consent, Mayor Young adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Harwood T. Edvalson, City Clerk

Robert Young, Mayor