

**SPECIAL TOWN HALL CITY
COUNCIL MEETING**

City of

**January 19, 2006
6:00 P.M.**



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.

MINUTES

"Where Dreams Can Soar"

Audio Time
Stamp ↓

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Neil Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS - Mayor Johnson introduced the Councilmembers and City staff in attendance.

Councilmembers: Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, Councilmember Mark Hamilton, Councilmember Cheryle Noble and Councilmember Jim Rackley. Mayor Young noted that Councilmember Dave King is representing the City at a Pierce County Regional Meeting this evening.

Staff: Administrative Services Coordinator Don Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development Bob Leedy, Public Works Director Dan Grigsby, Assistant Public Works Director Gary Leaf, Interim Police Chief "Buster" McGehee, Police Sergeant Ron Sasaki and City Clerk Harwood Edvalson.

Mayor Johnson invited Councilmembers to comment before starting the discussion. Councilmember Rackley told attendees that the Council is there to listen to the public input and understand what the public vision is for the City. Councilmember Noble added her welcome and said that what the public says does matter.

4:09

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS:

A. What are the three biggest concerns you have about Bonney Lake as it is today? The audience gave the following responses:

1. Improve financial accountability and transparency
2. Becoming South Hill
3. Transportation
4. Tree preservation
5. WSU Forest
6. More public involvement
7. Lack of Information
8. Downtown
9. Fennel Creek Corridor
10. Accommodating Cascadia
11. Return the 9-1-1 dispatch to Bonney Lake
12. Improving communication and rapport with customers
13. Person answering the phones doesn't have the answers
14. Use City Newsletter for more information on upcoming events and meetings
15. Use Email to get information to people

16. Have a central place to find out what's happening
17. Coordination with County to address nearby concerns with noise, trash, etc.

14:00

B. What are the three biggest fears you have about the future of Bonney Lake?

1. Bonney Lake becomes a wide spot in the highway
2. Uncontrolled growth
3. Loss of green spaces & open spaces
4. Congestion – impacts of noise and congestion on Fennel Creek Corridor
5. Safety of travel in and out of neighborhoods
6. Downtown becoming a slum
7. Increased annexation
8. Cascadia and Falling Water Impacts
9. WSU Forest
10. Water Quantity and Quality
11. Overbuilding in an economic downturn
12. Not enough dollars to accommodate services for all the growth
13. Ensure quality schools grow with the population
14. Not enough arterials off the plateau
15. Minimize big box stores
16. Not enough parking for Downtown
17. Is there balance between commercial and residential? Need for balance.

22:57

C. How would you like the following commercial areas of Bonney Lake to look in 20 years? *Downtown *Midtown *Eastown

1. Interconnect all areas with trails or sidewalks
2. Bus system or shuttle between the three areas
3. Street lights

25:43

D. What type of businesses would be appropriate in the Downtown Core?

1. No tattoo, strip clubs and no casinos
2. Want to see little cafes and coffee houses
3. Become a destination location – use current location to build identity
4. Get businesses to conform to current design standards

Mayor Johnson said the challenge will be to work with small businesses in a cooperative effort, providing assistance from the City through incentives. Asked to define the Downtown area, Director Leedy said the area is currently somewhat amorphous. Administrative Services Coordinator Morrison mentioned University Place as an example of a Downtown program of partnering with businesses to develop a themed façade program. Mayor Johnson said that Auburn is an example, too. He said it will take cooperation to maintain the quality of life. He added that parks and open space equal quality of life. Councilmember Noble said the process takes time. She used the development of Kent Station as an example of an effort to define and develop a downtown area.

43:00

E. What types of business are important for Bonney Lake to attract in the next 5 years?

1. Don't mix in too many types in one area. Use Kirkland as a model.
2. No tilt-ups in Midtown; maybe in Easttown.
3. Midtown needs more restaurants; a lot of interest in restaurants
4. Business centers or tourist areas seem to attract restaurants
5. Need for hotel – perhaps Midtown area
6. Need for senior housing and assisted living centers
7. Multi-family housing and multi-generational types of housing in Easttown
8. Extended learning centers perhaps in Easttown

Mayor Johnson pointed out that restaurants generally follow specific markets. He said the trade area takes in more than Bonney Lake.

50:25

F. How important and appropriate is it to you for Bonney Lake to develop a civic center campus in the Downtown area, keeping the public safety building, library, post office, city hall and community center all in close proximity?

1. Centralize them – maybe Downtown
2. If Downtown to grow- City must start it –Need new post office with parking
3. Put the civic campus downtown; city should help develop properties for sale
4. City Hall needs to be Downtown, not by Target
5. City Hall should be where it has a view of Mt. Rainier
6. Use some of the City's property near Target for a trail head

Mayor Johnson gave a brief history behind the acquisition of the property near Target. He said the deciding factors for him were a good price and the potential to develop a joint civic and recreation/community center.

1:02:45

G. How important is it to you to have a trail and/or sidewalk system in the City that connects key points such as, schools, parks, shopping, etc.

1. Need for a connecting trail to Downtown
2. A trail/sidewalk system is very important
3. Sidewalks may solve some other transportation problems in the City
4. Further bus system development needed
5. Get more information out to the public
6. Make sidewalks and trails around schools/crosswalks a priority
7. Explore grants for these projects; use a grant writer
8. SR410 too dangerous for traditional sidewalks
9. Pedestrian overpass over SR410 from the park-n-ride
10. Need for underground parking in Downtown
11. Old residential area in Downtown should be zoned commercial
12. Possible expansion of current city hall site

1:18:29

H. What would you like to see done with the WSU Demonstration Forest Property?

1. Leave it as is

2. Some use might be appropriate if many of the trees are preserved.

1:21:52

I. Open Discussion with Councilmembers and Staff at Displays.

Mayor Johnson invited attendees to leave their email addresses and signup for further information.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

By common consent, the Council adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC
City Clerk

Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr.