

City of

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**January 3, 2006**

**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"*

Audio  
Time  
Stamp ↓

**Call to Order:**

Mayor Neil Johnson called the January 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Workshop to order at 5:33 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

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

Staff members attending were Administrative Services Coordinator (ASC) Don Morrison, Public Works Director Dan Grigsby, Planning and Community Development Director Bob Leedy, Interim Police Chief Buster McGehee, Judge Jim Helbling, Planning Manager Steve Ladd, City Attorney Jim Dionne, Senior Human Resources Analyst Jennifer Young, Deputy City Clerk Cathy Harstad, City Engineer John Woodcock, Assistant City Engineer Doug Budzynski and City Clerk Harwood Edvalson.

**Announcements:**

Mayor Johnson announced the reappointment of Ms. Quinn Dahlstrom to the Planning Commission. He advised Council that he will appoint all other Board and Commission vacancies by the Council meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Johnson announced that former Finance Director John Weidenfeller is no longer with the City. He added that it became known this morning that Mr. Weidenfeller had submitted his resignation to former Mayor Young on December 19, 2005 with the intention that his last day be January 4, 2006. Mayor Johnson informed the Council that interim Finance Directors are being interviewed and he hopes one will be appointed by the end of the week. He added that for the permanent position the job description will be reviewed with an opportunity for input from the Council.

Councilmember DeLeo asked if there were multiple applicants for the Board and Commission vacancies being filled by the Mayor. Mayor Johnson responded that there is one vacancy on the Parks Board and one on the Design Commission. He said he has a qualified applicant for each vacancy. He added that there are three applicants for the remaining Planning Commission vacancy.

**Agenda Items:**

5:35:45

1. Presentation: Annual Liability Orientation – Lew Leigh, WCIA Executive Director.

Mayor Johnson introduced Lew Leigh, Executive Director for the Washington Cities Insurance Authority. Mr. Leigh explained that WCIA is run by the members through their board of directors. He said the organization is aggressive with its risk management. He complimented the

City on its recent claims history. He advised the Council to limit their activities to those areas prescribed by law. He said that going outside those areas may open the Councilmembers to individual liability. Mr. Leigh added that the Mayor's largest area of exposure is employee liability. He gave some examples from other cities of how Mayors and Councilmembers opened themselves and their cities to increased liability. He urged open communication between the Mayor and Council to reduce the potential for unnecessary liability. The Council expressed appreciation for Mr. Leigh's visit and recommendations.

6:07:47

2. **Action: AB06-01** – Council Selection of Deputy Mayor and Designation of Council Committee Assignments.

**Councilmember Swatman nominated himself as Deputy Mayor. Councilmember Noble seconded the nomination.**

**Councilmember King nominated Councilmember Rackley as Deputy Mayor. Councilmember Hamilton seconded the nomination.**

Mayor Johnson called for a vote on the first nomination to elect Councilmember Swatman as Deputy Mayor.

**Motion approved 4 – 3.  
Councilmembers Bowen, King  
and Rackley voted no.**

Councilmembers discussed Committee appointments and the chairmanships of the standing committees. By common consent, it was agreed the committee membership would be as follows:

Finance and Voucher Review Committees – Deputy Mayor Swatman, Chair, with Councilmembers DeLeo and Rackley as additional members; and

Community Development Committee – Councilmember Rackley, Chair, with Councilmembers Bowen and Hamilton as additional members; and

Public Safety Committee – Councilmember DeLeo, Chair, with Councilmembers King and Noble as additional members.

6:14:33

3. Council Open Discussion.

Little Footballs and Seating. Mayor Johnson distributed soft, red miniature footballs to the Council. He offered to have Councilmembers throw those when he spends too much time offering his opinion during the Council meetings. He also mentioned that the arrangement of seating for the Councilmembers was intended to allow them all to face the audience. He urged the Councilmembers to rearrange their seating order according to their personal preference.

Town Hall Meetings – January 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mayor Johnson advised the Council that special meetings had been set for January 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to seek public input to establish a community vision for Bonney Lake. He invited Councilmembers to participate and said the locations at Bonney Lake High School and Lakeview Middle School had been selected to have meetings north and south of SR410. Councilmember King asked if department heads could be present to respond to questions. Mayor Johnson said that department heads or their designees would be in attendance. He added that he hoped the information received would be of value to the Council

for their February retreat. Mayor Johnson said he is working with the Courier-Herald to have a twice-monthly publication of information from the City. Director Grigsby added that the utility bills have a one line space for messages that could be used to advertise the town hall meetings.

Civil Service Commission. Councilmember Rackley asked that the administration be aware that the Civil Service Commission is interested in expanding its membership from three to five. He said they have had quorum issues that they hope will be solved with a five-member commission.

3-1-1 System. Councilmember Rackley suggested that the Council discuss a 3-1-1 complaint system for the City. Councilmember King suggested that the Public Safety Committee discuss the topic. He said he is aware that there are coverage issues that need to be addressed. Interim Chief McGehee said the discussion could include 9-1-1 difficulties for cell phone users.

Regional Access Mobility Project Meeting. Councilmember Hamilton reminded Councilmembers that the RAMP meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning at the Tacoma Chamber at 8:00 a.m. He said that representatives of the neighboring jurisdictions would be attending, and hoped that Bonney Lake Councilmembers participating in the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Traffic Summit will also attend.

Park Plan Revision. Deputy Mayor Swatman asked if the City's Park Plan will be revised to include the expansion of Allan Yorke Park. Councilmember Noble suggested that the Parks Board review the plan and make a recommendation.

192<sup>nd</sup> Corridor Homeowners Associations. Deputy Mayor Swatman said he has met with folks on both sides of the Fennel Ridge connection issue. He said he is looking forward to working with the two homeowners associations on improvement projects in their areas.

Historical Society Website Support. Deputy Mayor Swatman asked if there was a way for the City to sub-host a Bonney Lake Historical Society website. City Attorney Dionne said it would have to be a City site focused on preservation of the City's history. He suggested that the historical society could be the main contributor to the website.

Auditor Exit Interview. Deputy Mayor Swatman reported that an exit interview meeting was held with the State Auditors for the 2004 annual audit. He said there were a couple of recommendations from them, but no audit findings.

Ballfield #4 Parking Lot. Councilmember DeLeo asked if the parking lot improvements were completed. He suggested some improvements that would increase the capacity of the parking lot. Director Grigsby said his department will look into it.

Wetlands Banking and Allan Yorke Park. Deputy Mayor Swatman asked that staff keep in mind the new parts of Allan Yorke Park when considering wetlands banking to maximize the utility of the parks properties. Councilmember DeLeo asked if the area cleaned up last year in the woods has had its trails completed, or if it needed another clean up party? Director Grigsby said the stump grindings will be used on the trails by parks crews, and added that a clean up party is always useful.

Regional Committee Assignments. By common consent the following assignments were made: Councilmember King as primary representative to the Pierce County Regional Council, Mayor Johnson as the primary representative to the Puget Sound Regional Council and representative to the Lake Tapps Task Force, and Councilmember DeLeo as representative to the Rainier

Communications Commission.

Bonney Lake Reporter/Council Corner. Mayor Johnson suggested that the Council and staff work together to combine the Council Corner and Bonney Lake Reporter newsletters. There was general agreement to try the combination of the two.

6:41:47

4. Review of Minutes: December 3 Special Council Meeting, December 6 Council Workshop, December 13 Council Meeting.

There were no corrections requested by the City Council.

6:42:49

5. Discussion: AB06-02 – Peaking Storage Tank Project.

Mayor Johnson said he had understood there was interest in reconvening the Water Committee to study the Peaking Storage Tank, future water storage and future water resources for the City. There was general consensus to have Director Grigsby reconvene the committee composed of Deputy Mayor Swatman and Councilmembers King and Rackley.

6:49:15

6. Discussion: Code Enforcement for the City of Bonney Lake.

Mayor Johnson said he put this item on the agenda to inform Council where this administration intended to go with code enforcement. He invited Director Leedy to comment. Director Leedy replied that he had not intended to speak this evening. However, he said he understands the Council's frustration with the enforcement process and added that staff gets frustrated, too. He said the Code Enforcement Officer has had great success in getting people to comply with the Code, but that he is required to spend a lot of time monitoring the property owners' efforts on enforcement issues. He said the most egregious cases seem the hardest to resolve. He said his department is open to the Council's expression of desires and opinions. Deputy Mayor Swatman asked if there are some tools that we are lacking in terms of issuing citations. Councilmember Noble expressed concern for health issues. She asked if there is something the Council can do to give the enforcement personnel more force. She added that it is unfortunate when the City has to be embarrassed in the newspaper before it acts.

City Attorney Dionne said that unfortunately most issues are resolved by peer persuasion or embarrassment. He said that none of his or the City's staff wants the process to take as long as it does. He said it would be helpful if the Public Safety Committee, who best knows the details, would give him a list of those things that have failed or taken too long. He also suggested the Council make a list of issues and properties that it would like to see targeted and provide that list to the City Attorney's Office. Councilmember King said some ambiguities in enforcement crept in after the adoption of the International Building Codes. He suggested a review of those codes and their impacts on the City's enforcement process. City Attorney Dionne said that Code Enforcement Officer Bryan has been largely effective. He added that generally only the most difficult cases rise to the level of the Council's direct attention. Mayor Johnson concluded that the Public Safety Committee would take the lead to discuss the issue.

7:11:28

7. Discussion: February Council Retreat.

The City Council discussed the upcoming February planning retreat and agreed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month as the date. Concern was expressed for the travel time required to use the Alderbrook facility. Mayor Johnson said he would look for a site closer in to Bonney Lake.

8:31:00

13. Executive Session: Under authority of RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)(i), Mayor Johnson announced that after a five minute break, the City Council will meet in executive session to discuss the performance of a public employee and to discuss potential litigation. He said the duration will be 30 minutes. The executive session started at 7:25 p.m. At 7:48 p.m., announcement was made that the executive session would be extended another five minutes. The session concluded at 7:56 p.m.

7. Adjournment

**At 7:56 p.m., Councilmember Rackley moved to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Mayor Swatman seconded the motion.**

**Motion approved 7 – 0.**

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Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC  
City Clerk

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Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr.

Documents submitted for/at the Council Workshop of January 3, 2005:

- Washington Cities Insurance Authority – *City Council Do's and Don'ts* – Lew Leigh, Executive Director.