

City of

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

December 06, 2006



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 ↓

Call to Order:

Mayor Johnson called the December 6th Council Workshop to order at 7:41 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

[Staff members attending were City Administrator Don Morrison, Planning & Community Development Director Bob Leedy, Public Works Director Dan Grigsby, Police Chief Mike Mitchell, Chief Financial Officer Beth Anne Wroe, City Attorney Jim Dionne, Administrative Services Director / City Clerk Harwood Edvalson, and Records & Information Specialist Virginia Phelan.]

Councilmember Rackley made a motion to excuse Councilmember David Bowen. Councilmember Noble seconded.

Motion Approved 6 – 0.

Agenda Items:

7:41:55

1. Council Open Discussion.

Burglaries.

Councilmember Rackley expressed appreciation for the hard work of Police Chief Mitchell and the involved members of the Police Department in catching a burglar who broke into two houses on his street. He said he is proud of the City's Police Department.

RAMP Meeting.

Councilmember Hamilton informed Council about the most recent RAMP meeting he attended. He said there is a package coming up before the legislature for improvements to transit, Hwy 167, the Cross Base Highway and 180 million dollars for improvements to Hwy 162. Councilmember Hamilton went on to explain there is a special interest group including the Valley City Associations, which includes many local cities, trying to pull the \$180 million for projects which only help the warehouse businesses and freight mobility. He went on to say the 162 Corridor Project is essential to ease congestion in the area and the City of Bonney Lake needs to write a letter to this effect, in order to counter the damaging lobbying of the special interest group.

Louisa Smith.

Councilmember DeLeo alerted Council to the fact that local business leader and long time City activist, Louisa Smith, was recently hospitalized. He expressed concern and suggested a greeting be sent to her.

Youngberg Tenant Improvement.

Councilmember DeLeo relayed a concern Linda Youngberg had regarding someone who tried to build a wall in one of her buildings. She said he was charged impact fees and set up for a long permitting process so he went to Sumner instead and there was no fee and permitting was done right away. Councilmember DeLeo worried if our processes are not efficient enough we may drive businesses out of town. He asked for explanation on this customer's fee. Director Grigsby said he would have to look up the case individually because he was not sure why the situation as it was explained would result in an impact fee. Councilmember DeLeo said he wanted to be sure impact fees were not being charged every time a new business moves into an existing location and he reiterated the need for this topic to be reworked in the coming months as planned.

Food and Clothing Bank.

Deputy Mayor Swatman referenced an email he had received and copied to Council regarding the Clothing Bank. He said they are trying to get a site other than the Ludwig building where they are now. He reminded Council that the City owns that property and although there are plans for it, the clothing bank should not have to worry about being ejected. Deputy Mayor Swatman suggested the Mayor communicate to them, assuming Council consent, that the City will assist them in finding a new facility. He said as long as there are people willing to provide services of this nature the City should be helping.

Lake Tapps Water Rights.

Deputy Mayor Swatman said he had attended the most recent Lake Tapps Water rights meeting. He described the turmoil resulting from this contentious topic.

Eastown.

Mayor Johnson said he had met with the group working on Eastown and everything is moving ahead smoothly. He said they are trying to advance the widening of Hwy 410 to 2008. Mayor Johnson went on to explain there will be a meeting next week with the City Engineer, Eastown Group and the Department of Transportation to work out the possibility of widening some parts of Hwy 410 in 2007. Public Works Director Grigsby said the group is working on the projected timeline for Eastown and it should become available soon.

Public Works Support Services.

Councilmember DeLeo asked if the Public Works Support Services position had been filled. Director Grigsby said it had been filled Monday by Tierney Williams, who is doing well.

Customer Service Updates.

Mayor Johnson reminded Council that they should have received the Customer Service monthly update from the new system. Councilmember King said there seemed to be a lot less calls than he expected and asked if it was a thorough representation of all calls received at the 311 line. City Administrator Morrison said staff using the new program may not be logging calls which do not result in work orders. He said 311 is not being used as often as it was anticipated, but that is not necessarily a bad thing since it is generally indicative of the number of complaints the City is receiving. Councilmember King said he had heard good things from people who had used the line. He said the Customer Services Specialist is well suited for the position and has always done great customer service for the City.

Planning Commissioner Dahlstrom's resignation.

Mayor Johnson informed Council that Commissioner Dahlstrom had submitted her resignation. Councilmember King expressed appreciation for her long history of working diligently for the good of the City. He said she is a dedicated community activist and commissioner. Councilmember Rackley agreed that she has done a lot for the City and confirmed that she will be recognized at the January 9th Council meeting.

Special Council Meeting with Pierce County.

Mayor Johnson expressed appreciation to the Councilmembers who were able to attend the meeting of the prior evening with Pierce County District 1. He said the session was very interesting and a good chance for the County to learn more about Bonney Lake. Councilmember Hamilton said he was able to get some of the County Council to agree to support Rhodes Lake Road Corridor.

Stormwater Symposium

Councilmember DeLeo thanked Director Grigsby, Planning Manager Ladd and additional planning staff for their work on the symposium. Mayor Johnson said Planning Commission Secretary Christy McQuillen did a good job putting the event together and is planning on doing four symposiums in the coming year. Councilmember Rackley said he loves it when the City invites other Cities to participate in the learning process. He said it spreads good will and should continue. He also expressed pride in Director Grigsby for holding his own with some very powerful presenters. Mayor Johnson said the symposium was put together very quickly at the request of Fred Jacobsen and it is a good indication of the responsiveness and flexibility of Council.

Photo Ticket Court Session.

Councilmember Rackley said he had attended the recent court session for people fighting their photo enforcement tickets. He said there were a few minor errors pointed out, but essentially the program seems to be achieving what the City intended. He said there were 86 tickets processed during the session and things went smoothly.

8:16:15

2. Approval of Minutes: November 21st Council Workshop and November 28th Council Meeting.

Councilmember Noble offered a correction to the November 28th Minutes. She said on page 6 under AB06-377 the vote should be 5-2, with Deputy Mayor Swatman and herself dissenting.

8:17:55

3. AB06-378 – D06-378 – Proposal to establish three-year staggered terms by reconstituting the Park Board, Design Commission and Planning Commission; and setting a common annual date when terms expire.

Councilmember Rackley inquired as to the number of Board and Commission members who support this ordinance. Deputy Mayor Swatman said he didn't have an exact count, but there were several with whom he spoke to who supported it. Councilmember Hamilton said he had spoken to some Park Board members who supported it and Councilmember Noble said she spoke to Planning Commissioners who supported it as well. Council discussed the merits of the ordinance.

Councilmember King asked if there are candidates to fill Commissioner Dahlstrom's position. Mayor Johnson said there are a few, but if Council has any others to add to please let him know.

8:23:00

4. Discussion: AB06-367 – Ordinance D06-367 - Non-union salary schedule.

City Administrator Morrison explained that this ordinance is essentially a request for a cost of living increase for those employees not represented by a union. He said the ordinance is written for a COLA of 3.5%, but there are slightly higher options which were studied as well and could be substituted into the ordinance. He also said the City is adding in an incentive of \$20 a month to employees who enroll in a fitness club. Council asked some questions and discussed the difference between the COLA and the merit-based raise available to employees on their anniversary. The consensus was to move forward with the 3.5% increase.

8:35:15

5. Discussion: AB06-381 – D06-381- Non-union holiday, vacation, and sick leave schedule.

City Administrator Morrison said the change which required this ordinance is the Union's desire to consolidate the two City holidays in February into one "President's Day" holiday and turn the other holiday into a floating holiday. Council discussed the way holidays are implemented based on an employee's status. City Administrator Morrison said the ordinance also addresses the pro rata leave given to part-time regular employees. He said it has been the City's practice to offer it, but it was not technically in the code before. He added that this clause only applies to the Judge, one of the Senior Center Aides, and the Senior Center Cook position.

8:42:40

6. Discussion: AB06-360 – D06-360 – Follow-up to final public hearing on the 2007-2008 Biennial budget.

Mayor Johnson said there was little testimony at the Public Hearing. City Administrator Morrison distributed a sheet detailing the amendments staff would like to make to the budget before it is approved. He said there were some minor additions, such as security lighting at Allan Yorke Park and a \$3,000 grant received by Community Services Director Gary Leaf designated for the purpose of holding an outdoor concert.

The one major amendment Administrator Morrison brought up for discussion was consideration of a federal lobbying firm. He said it had been budgeted for \$25,000 but out that figure was \$50,000 short. Mayor Johnson explained that the City has been trying to find a way to capitalize on the recent elections. He said the firm which Administrator Morrison referenced has connections with many high ranking democratic officials, such as Senators Murray and Cantwell. He further explained that other local cities have had success using lobbyists. Administrator Morrison and Mayor Johnson expounded on more of the advantages of having a lobbyist as well as the risk involved. Council questioned the need to budget this now, but ultimately decided to presently set aside money in the budget to avoid a possible amendment later, since any contract for a lobbyist would ultimately come through them for approval. Mayor Johnson said the firm he has in mind will come make a presentation to Council and other firms will be considered before any contract is moved forward.

Councilmember Hamilton stressed that any firm chosen to lobby for the City must understand the community so they can properly represent the City's needs. Councilmember DeLeo offered another suggestion to amend the budget to allow a contract with Leads Online to subscribe to a

list which provides information from local pawn shops on additions to their inventories. This service allows Police Departments to track down stolen goods more easily. On the subject, Councilmember King said the City will soon need a full time Criminal Information Coordinator in the Police Department to work on things such as this. He recommended it be budgeted for in the next biennial budget cycle. Councilmember Noble asked for confirmation that the City is giving money to a domestic violence related program, to which Administrator Morrison responded in the affirmative. Additionally, he said, there is some unallocated human service funding, which can be used for whatever Council sees fit.

7. Executive Session: Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and RCW 42.30.140(4)(a), and RCW42.30.110(1)(b), Mayor Johnson announced a 10 minute executive session to discuss potential litigation and a 10 minute executive session to discuss labor negotiations. Executive session started at 9:05 p.m. and was extended for 10 minutes at 9:23 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:34 p.m.

8. Adjournment

At 9:34 p.m., Councilmember Rackley moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hamilton seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6 – 0.

Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC
City Clerk

Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr.