

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

*December 4, 2007*

**MINUTES**

*City of*



*“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.*

Audio Time  
Stamp ↓

**Call to Order:**

Deputy Mayor Swatman called the December 4, 2007 Council Workshop to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Elected Officials in attendance were Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, Councilmember David Bowen, Councilmember Phil DeLeo, Councilmember Dave King, Councilmember Mark Hamilton, and Councilmember Jim Rackley. Mayor Neil Johnson arrived at 6:18 p.m. Councilmember Cheryle Noble was absent.

[Staff members attending were City Administrator Don Morrison, Planning and Community Development Director John Vodopich, Public Works Director Dan Grigsby, Community Services Director Gary Leaf, Administrative Services Director / City Clerk Harwood Edvalson, Police Chief Mike Mitchell, City Attorney Jim Dionne, Chief Financial Officer Al Juarez, Special Events Coordinator David Wells, and Records & Information Specialist Susan Duis.]

**Councilmember King moved to excuse Councilmember Noble. Councilmember Hamilton seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

Deputy Mayor Swatman requested that agenda item 5 be presented first, as the Mayor was not yet present to discuss the budget and salary agenda items.

**Agenda Items:**

5:33:40

1. **Presentation: 2007 Summer Park Activities** – David Wells, Special Events Coordinator.

Special Events Coordinator Wells gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding Community Services Department activities and events offered in 2007. Events included Bonney Lake Idol, Tunes at Tapps, Missoula Children’s Theater, Bonney Lake Days, and Senior Center events and services. Community Services Director Leaf noted that Bonney Lake Idol was one of the most successful events in 2007. Special Events Coordinator Wells distributed the draft schedule for Summer 2008 events, and described several other planned events that were not listed, including Arbor Day/Parks Appreciation Day, Town Halls, and the Health Fair. Councilmembers King, DeLeo and Rackley discussed upcoming activities including Bonney Lake Days. Councilmember King asked that a complete schedule of events in 2008 be sent to councilmembers.

Councilmembers Rackley and King expressed appreciation for the department’s efforts, and noted how far the department had come in its three years. Councilmember Bowen asked if the

department had adequate funds for the events planned in 2008. Special Events Coordinator Wells said he and Community Services Director Leaf had adequate funds for the planned events. He added that more could be done with additional funds, but that they were also offering more programs for less money due to larger donations and event revenues. Community Services Director Leaf noted that a wide range of sponsors helped with events, and that businesses including Wal-Mart and Big E Nursery made large donations last year. Special Events Coordinator Wells offered everyone samples of dessert from the Senior Center in recognition of the meals the center served in 2007.

6:16:30

2. Discussion: Downtown Redevelopment Update.

City Administrator Morrison said the City closed on the Dole parcels on November 30, 2007, which include three lots on 89<sup>th</sup> Street behind the City Hall Annex. He said one parcel remains in that section, which should be closed by the first of the year. He added that the Greenwood Project is also moving forward. Planning and Community Development Director Vodopich said that the Planning Commission had a public hearing on the area-wide rezone at their last meeting. He said they would discuss it further at the meeting on December 5, 2007, and the item would come before the full Council in January.

6:19:34

3. **Discussion:** (Pursuant to Public Hearing held on 11/27/07) **AB07-225 – Ordinance D07-225 – An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Adopting The Mid-Biennial Budget Amendment For Budget Years 2007 And 2008.**

Councilmember Rackley thanked the City Administration for making one of the smoothest budget packages the Council has dealt with. Don Morrison noted that this ordinance is simply a budget modification required by the RCW, and that some modifications may be needed after the first quarter of next year. He said that it should be fairly close to the budget and hoped that few adjustments would be needed.

Councilmember Hamilton asked for clarification on several items, including the funds for a city-wide employee recognition program, wellness program, and Comprehensive UGA expenditure of \$45,000. City Administrator Morrison answered his questions and explained that the UGA funds have been budgeted, but that county has not yet made a formal response regarding possible matching funds. Councilmember DeLeo asked if funds for repairing the Public Safety Building roof were included on the budget amendment; City Administrator Morrison replied that it was budgeted, and showed its location in the Capital Improvement Project section of the proposal.

Councilmember Bowen congratulated everyone on the new bond rating for the city, as the S&P Bond Rating was changed to A+. Councilmember Rackley said he was proud of the group, and Councilmember King noted how important and rare it is to have such a good rating for a community of Bonney Lake's size. City Administrator Morrison said they are checking to see how much will be saved over the life of the bond with this new rating, and will send out a press release when that information is available. The Mayor also said he was happy to be a part of this process, and thanked City Administrator Morrison for his hard work.

6:28:30

3. **Discussion: AB07-243 – D07-243 – Non-represented Employee Salary Schedule.**

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Finance Committee reviewed this item, and that he still had a problem with section 5c, a car allowance for the mayor. He said he did not think the City should

have allowances for expenses for elected officials, and that officials should put in claims for expenses. Councilmember Rackley said that the mayor travels much more on city business than councilmembers, and that gas is one of the biggest expenses currently. Councilmember King said he agreed with Deputy Mayor Swatman, and that according to the IRS standard for mileage, \$400 per month was equivalent to over 800 miles of travel per month. He added that there is no record of actual travel expenses since the Mayor has not put in travel mileage claims in the past. He concluded that a provision is in place for mileage reimbursement, and that the Mayor and Councilmembers should start using it.

Councilmember DeLeo said he felt the allowance was appropriate and could be amended later if necessary. Deputy Mayor Swatman, Hamilton, Bowen, and King discussed using allowances versus reimbursements. City Administrator Morrison offered input on the allowance as income, and confirmed that it only covered mileage within Pierce County. Councilmember King again stressed to all councilmembers that it is essential for them all to track travel expenses and submit claims. Mayor Johnson said he tracked his appointments and would be happy to gather information to calculate actual travel expenses. He suggested that the allowance (5c) be removed from the salary schedule, to be revisited in the future. Deputy Mayor Swatman, Councilmember Hamilton, Councilmember Rackley, and Councilmember King supported removing the mayor's travel allowance section (5c). Councilmember DeLeo and Bowen supported leaving the section in with amendments. The Mayor closed discussions by confirming that the section will be removed from the salary schedule, and that elected official's expenses and salaries will be discussed at the Council Retreat.

Councilmember King said that he had qualms about Section 5b, but after studying the 3.96% Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase, he now feels the section should remain as written. Deputy Mayor Swatman noted that the CPI increase was separate from step increases for employees based on performance. He discussed salary increases in the private versus the public sector. City Administrator Morrison offered information on the policies and concept behind step increases.

Mayor Johnson confirmed that the Non-represented Employee Salary Schedule would move forward, less item 5c, to the next Council Meeting.

7:02:15

### 3. **Council Open Discussion.**

#### January 2008 Council Schedule

Councilmember DeLeo asked about the schedule for meetings in January 2008. Administrative Services Coordinator/City Clerk Edvalson said that a proposed action is included on the December 11, 2007 Council Meeting to cancel the last two Council Workshops/Meetings in December, and the option to schedule a Council Workshop on Wednesday, January 2, 2008 as the first Tuesday is a holiday. Councilmembers discussed whether or not the Council needed to meet during the first week of January. They noted the need to swear in new councilmembers and make committee selections early in the year. Councilmembers agreed that the January 2, 2008 Workshop could be cancelled and all business attended to at the regular Council Meeting on January 8, 2008. Deputy Mayor Swatman asked if Judge Helbling would be available to swear in councilmembers in January; City Clerk Edvalson said the outgoing Judge had already indicated he would like to take part in the ceremony.

#### Emergency Preparedness

Councilmember Bowen asked if emergency response supplies could be warehoused at the new Public Works location when it is completed. Public Works Director Grigsby said all the space in the new building space would be used, but said that the old space behind City Hall might be

available for storage. Mayor Johnson and Councilmembers discussed possibilities for developing an emergency response supply area. Councilmember Hamilton and Councilmember King noted the need to coordinate with the fire district and county/state emergency councils on any plans. Police Chief Mitchell noted that an emergency response plan is in place and was used during flooding last year. He said the plans include using the Senior Center as a Red Cross Station, and that area churches and gymnasiums are designated for shelter spaces.

#### Bond Resolution

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Bond Resolution issue would be coming to the Council at the next meeting and that councilmembers should go through the proposal and get any questions answered by then.

#### County Urban Growth Area (CUGA)

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Council should discuss the CUGA south of the Bonney Lake city limits at the upcoming retreat. He said the area includes about 465 acres and annexation could mean significant revenue for the City. He said it would also give the city more control over design and development in the area. Councilmember King noted that annexation of the CUGA would add about 10,000 people to the city, nearly doubling the population.

#### Food for Thought, December 14<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Johnson said the employee recognition breakfast, or 'Food for Thought', will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. He said that instead of having staff cook and serve food, this year the meal will be handled by C J's Deli so employees can relax. He invited the Council to attend. City Administrator Morrison said the City offices will open at 10:00 a.m. that day so all employees can take part. Councilmember King said he wouldn't be able to attend but offered his good wishes and thanks to city employees.

#### Board & Commission Appreciation Banquet, December 20<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Johnson said invitations will go out tomorrow for the Board & Commission Appreciation Banquet. The event recognizing City Council, Commission and Board members will be held on December 20, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Cedar Ridge Retirement Community.

#### Bond Resolution (Continued)

Councilmember Hamilton returned to discussion of the Bond Resolution, and asked for clarification on the payment amounts and what the bond would produce for the city. Chief Financial Officer Al Juarez and City Administrator Morrison offered information on the anticipated yearly cost, and possible sources of revenue such as sales tax, interest earnings on the bond proceeds, rent revenues, and city growth. City Administrator Morrison offered possible strategies for properties, including the temporary Justice Center, and confirmed that the bond covers the justice center and some of the infrastructure needed for the civic campus area.

Councilmember Hamilton asked additional questions about strategies to attract business development and how the bond would work toward the civic campus plan. Mayor Johnson noted that the Pierce County Library, YMCA, and the school's performing arts group are interested in being part of the civic campus. He said that other entities would be drawn in as the campus develops. Chief Financial Officer Juarez noted that the improved bond rating happened in part because of the projected growth and economic development in the city, which offers some outside indication of growth.

Councilmember King said that the bond is the first step in the civic campus concept, and felt the discussion should continue at the Council Retreat. He added that the council needs to maintain the strategic vision and make sure to continue to go in the direction that is best for the city.

Councilmember Hamilton said he is not at all opposed to the bond, but wanted to be sure he knew what the public would get from it. Councilmembers Bowen and King asked what percentage of revenue increases might be committed to bond payments; Chief Financial Officer Juarez suggested setting up a meeting with the two councilmembers to formalize a strategy and research possibilities.

8:03:40

4. **Review of Minutes:** November 20<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, November 20<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop, and November 27<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting.

Deputy Mayor Swatman asked for revision of the November 27, 2007 minutes, specifically the Citizen Comment made by Dan Decker related to Christmas lights. No other revisions were requested.

Councilmember King noted that Judge Helbling's retirement celebration is scheduled for December 28<sup>th</sup>, and invitations had just been sent. Mayor Johnson said a plaque would be presented to the outgoing Judge.

8:07:23

5. Discussion: 800 MHz Public Safety Communications Plan Update.

Police Chief Mitchell said he is waiting on the budget amendment for funding at this time, and that other issues are still being worked on.

6. Executive Session: None.
7. Adjournment.

**Councilmember Bowen moved to adjourn the workshop at 8:08 p.m. Councilmember Rackley seconded the motion.**

**Motion approved 6 – 0.**

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Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC  
City Clerk

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Neil Johnson, Jr.  
Mayor

Items Submitted to December 4, 2007 Council Workshop include:

- City of Bonney Lake – *Summer Time Fun: 2008 Special Events Schedule* – Special Events Coordinator David Wells.