MINUTES

Location: Bonney Lake Justice Center, 9002 Main Street East, Bonney Lake, Washington.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr. called the workshop to order at 5:31 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL:
Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson called the roll. In addition to Mayor Neil Johnson Jr., elected officials attending were Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, Councilmember Mark Hamilton, Councilmember Donn Lewis, Councilmember Randy McKibbin, Councilmember Katrina Minton-Davis, Councilmember Jim Rackley, and Councilmember Tom Watson.

Staff members in attendance were City Administrator Don Morrison, Public Works Director Dan Grigsby, Community Development Director John Vodopich, Chief Financial Officer Al Juarez, Interim Police Chief Dana Powers, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson, City Attorney Jim Dionne, and Administrative Specialist II Shawn Campbell.

III. AGENDA ITEMS:


Councilmember Rackley moved to approve Resolution 2181. Councilmember Lewis seconded the motion.

Mayor Johnson thanked everyone who participated in the negotiations. He said he liked that we were doing more of the negotiations in-house and relying less on the City Attorney’s office.

Resolution 2181 approved 7-0.


Councilmember Hamilton moved to approve motion AB12-13. Councilmember Watson seconded the motion.

Mayor Johnson said the interim dog park has had a very positive reception. He said he has heard a few complaints from neighbors. He said it is his experience that residents often are not happy when a park goes into their neighborhood. City Administrator Morrison said in 2010 the City announced the opening of the dog park on an interim basis. He said he received inquiries frequently about when and if the park is going to become permanent. He said this motion only refers the issue to the Park Board for a recommendation.
Councilmember Rackley questioned the word “permanent”. City Administrator Morrison said a better word would be regular. Councilmember McKibbin said he would like to see more than one Dog Park. He said they may need a larger one with additional parking. He questioned why the Council would send the issue back to the Park Board because they recommended not opening the dog park originally. City Administrator Morrison said five of the seven Park Board members are new and they have not had an opportunity to weigh in on this issue. Councilmember Lewis asked for information on the cost to the City for the dog park. He said the issue should go back to the Park board for their input, and it would be good to have them look at all the advantages and disadvantages of making this park permanent. Mayor Johnson said the City will be able to figure out the City funds spent on the Dog Park but the value of volunteer hours and time will be more difficult. He said the City will need help to figure out how many volunteer hours have been put in at the Dog Park.

Councilmember Hamilton said the public has spoken about the popularity of the Dog Park. He said it is highly used and he does not want to put any restrictions on developing a larger park in the future. He said he is concerned if the Council sends the issue back to the Park Board and does not take their advice there will be conflict between the Council and the Park Board. He agreed the issue should go back to the Park Board for review. He said the City has a lot more information and citizen input than when it originally went to the Park Board. Mayor Johnson said this may not need to go back to the Park Board for a recommendation because the Council is finishing an action not starting one. He said if the Council is looking to develop a new dog park then it would need to go to the Park Board for a recommendation. Councilmember Minton-Davis said a board needs meaningful work to do but if the Council has already made up their mind on the issue it should not be sent back to the Park Board. She said the park should be made an official park.

Councilmember Rackley moved to remove the word “permanent” from the agenda bill background summary, and add the word “official”.

Motion approved 7-0.

Deputy Mayor Swatman said it is important to have boards and to listen to their opinions. He said he believes this property is designated for use as a park. He said it would be more appropriate to ask the Park Board to discuss what to do with the City’s other properties and look at adding additional dog parks. City Administrator Morrison said the staff report that is presented to the Park Board could state the Council’s desire for the park to become official.

Councilmember Lewis moved to table AB12-13 to the January 24, 2012 Council Meeting. Councilmember Rackley seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

C. Council Open Discussion:

Litter: Councilmember Rackley discussed the free newspapers that are left in driveways and along streets all around town. He said if the resident does not pick up the paper it becomes litter. He said the residents have not subscribed to the paper and the publisher should not be able to leave them in the street. He suggested if papers are not retrieved in a timely fashion, the newspaper should be required to retrieve them. Community Development Director Vodopich said newspapers are permitted by state law to drop their publications off in the City. He said the distributor of a publication that is left in the pink bags have been asked to not deliver inside City limits.
Relay for Life: Councilmember Minton-Davis discussed the 2012 Relay for Life event. She said the kickoff event is scheduled for February 9, 2012 at 5:30pm at the Midtown Grill in Bonney Lake. She added that Mayor Johnson is going to be the guest speaker.

Snow Removal: Councilmember Lewis complimented the Public Works crew on a great job keeping the City streets clear. Public Works Director Grigsby said they added a plow on the front of the Kubota tractor to clear the sidewalks.


Councilmember Minton-Davis requested that the January 3, 2012 minutes be amended on p.3 to “school City does hang”. The corrected minutes were forwarded to the January 24, 2012 Meeting for action.


City Administrator Morrison read the survey results from the Council interest survey he had sent. Councilmembers discussed the different options for the retreat. Councilmember Rackley suggested selecting the most important items, and the administration can give a brief update on the other items. Mayor Johnson said the retreat is for strategic planning. City Administrator Morrison said he would create a draft agenda for the next workshop for Council approval. Deputy Mayor Swatman said the agenda can have many items and each item can have a time limit, and the Council will have to stop discussions at the end of the allotted time. Councilmember Hamilton asked if this would be a decision making session. Councilmember McKibbin said the retreat is for educational purposes. He said it helps get new councilmembers up to speed and to decide on goals for the coming year.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) the Council adjourned to an executive session with the City Attorney at 6:30 p.m. for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation. The Council returned to chambers at 6:45 p.m. No action was taken.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:45 p.m., Councilmember Lewis moved to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilmember Watson seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn approved 7-0.

Harwood Edvalson, CMC
City Clerk

Neil Johnson, Jr.
Mayor

Items presented to Council at the January 17, 2012 Workshop: None