

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2017  
6:00 P.M.



[www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us](http://www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us)

DRAFT MINUTES

---

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr. called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- A. Flag Salute: At Mayor Johnson’s invitation, Justin Potter of Boy Scout Troop 548 led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - B. Roll Call: Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson called the roll. In addition to Mayor Johnson, elected officials attending were Councilmember Justin Evans, Councilmember Donn Lewis, Councilmember James Rackley, Councilmember Dan Swatman, and Councilmember Tom Watson. Deputy Mayor Randy McKibbin was absent.

**Councilmember Rackley moved to excuse the absence of Deputy Mayor McKibbin. Councilmember Watson seconded the motion.**

**Motion approved 5 – 0.**

Staff members in attendance were City Administrator Don Morrison, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson, Police Chief Dana Powers, Public Services Director John Vodopich, and City Attorney Kathleen Haggard.

- C. Agenda Modifications: None.
- D. Announcements, Appointments and Presentations:
  - 1. Announcements:
    - a. **Proclamation:** Recognizing National Arts Month – October 2017. Mayor Johnson read the proclamation to the audience.
  - 2. Appointments:
    - a. **AB17-103** – A Motion Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Ratifying The Mayor’s Appointment Of Molly Williams To The Arts Commission (Position 1) For A Term Ending April 6, 2019.

**Councilmember Rackley moved to approve the motion ratifying the appointment of Arts Commissioner Molly Williams. Councilmember Lewis seconded the motion.**

**Motion approved 5 - 0.**

3. Presentations:

a. **Oath of Office:** Judge Ronald Heslop.

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson administered the oath of office to Judge Heslop.

b. **Oath of Office:** Police Officer Justin Paulson.

Judge Heslop administered the oath of office to Police Officer Justin Paulson.

**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS, CITIZEN COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:**

A. Public Hearings: None.

B. Citizen Comments:

Scott Anderson, 9901 197<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, Bonney Lake, spoke on behalf of the Greater Bonney Lake Historical Society to promote the Santa Breakfast at Applebee's on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8 - 10 a.m. He said the Society receives 50% of the proceeds from this event. He said there are additional fund raising activities occurring during the breakfast including raffles and entertainment. Their goal is to raise \$5,000 for the operations of the Society.

Mary Sullivan, 20518 Church Lake Drive E, Bonney Lake, expressed concern about sewer and water rates. She said when they built their home in 2007 they paid tens of thousands of dollars for impact fees. They own their own grinder pump. She acknowledged the difficulty of operating and maintaining these systems, but asked for more information regarding the specific projects to which the increased rates will be applied. She asked for more information on the structure of the rates and if there can be something done about the year over year increase in those rates. She said she is aware of many who are concerned about this topic.

Mayor Johnson identified Director John Vodopich as the appropriate person to provide the requested information. He proposed to Council that a special meeting might be scheduled to address the concerns of the assembled audience. Councilmember Rackley spoke in favor of such a meeting. Councilmember Swatman said he was confident the City's qualified staff can find ways to reduce the anticipated increases. He said he is not personally in favor of the current proposed direction. He urged the audience to call their councilmembers. He said he would personally be happy to spend time reviewing the issues and responding to

questions. Mayor Johnson suggested those in the audience who wish to participate in a future meeting give their contact information to Director Vodopich. He noted there would be a signup sheet available in the lobby outside the Council chambers. Councilmember Watson also spoke in favor of a special meeting, but didn't feel the item should be tabled. Councilmember Evans also spoke in favor of voting on the ordinances. He said he believes each councilmember understands the issues at hand, have heard from concerned citizens and are ready to vote this evening. Mayor Johnson said the Council could decide how to proceed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

**Mayor Johnson asked for Council support to reorder the agenda to move up the water and sewer rate ordinances to immediately follow the Citizen Comment period. There was general consensus of the Council to reorder the agenda as proposed.**

Kayla Hunter, 17711 115<sup>th</sup> St E, Bonney Lake, believes the issues are concerns about the rates and the number of individuals who have received letters indicating they may have leaks, when in fact they don't. She says their water usage hasn't changed, but their bill has more than doubled in excess of the rate increases.

Councilmember Watson noted there were 375 customers who received letters of possible high usage/leaks.

Jerimy Kirschner, 18311 104<sup>th</sup> St Ct E, Bonney Lake, said his concern is getting more information out to the people. He said he looked at the City website, but was unable to determine where this information is available. He suggested getting more information out to allow citizens to crowdsource potential solutions. He said he would like to have the information available before a special meeting is held. He suggested looking at other jurisdictions to see how they handle their rates and improvements. He said the assembled group wants to be productive and helpful members of the community to resolve these concerns.

Mayor Johnson asked City Administrator Morrison to comment on when the rate study was done. Administrator Morrison said many here tonight are coming in at the tail-end of over a year's process which included rate consultants, engineers, the State of Washington, the Council, workshops and public hearings. He said the extremely dry spell experienced this past summer and fall have driven up consumption and the costs associated with producing water and for the consumer purchasing water. He said the water meters are pretty accurate. The letters were a warning based on apparent usage. He explained that the more water used, the higher the rates applied due to the City's tiered rate system, which is used to encourage conservation. He said the Department of Health and the City's consultants are recommending steeper increases than what the Council is contemplating. He said the City's rates are generally in line with the surrounding jurisdictions.

Cindy Gilsing, 184<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, Bonney Lake, received a letter of possible leaks,

but the City came out and there was no leak. She said she knew she was using less water because her lawn had gone brown due to a non-functioning sprinkler system and she had installed low flow toilets as well. She said the water use reflected on her bill had gone from 1800 cubic feet to 6000+ cubic feet. Her bill increased from an average of \$71 to \$322. She said she posted this concern to the Nextdoor Neighbor social media site and received over 150 responses of similar concern from residents. She said one man reported an increase in his utility bill from an average of \$140 per month to \$1200 per month. She questioned whether the infrastructure being built with the increased rates is benefitting the new residential and commercial development occurring in the City. She suggested the new development should pay for the new infrastructure. She expressed concern that people will have to leave the City, particularly those on fixed incomes. She questioned whether the City's rates are comparable to other neighboring cities.

Chris Leyba, 178011 16<sup>th</sup> St Ct E, Bonney Lake, partially agrees that this issue should be tabled and discussed later. He said the information is available in the meeting agendas and minutes, however, it is difficult to track down on the website. He said water issues and rates will only continue to worsen in the State of Washington. He said in his employment with another city that they have noticed the city's website and social media can be used effectively to disseminate information and calm the public sentiment. He urged using these avenues to make the information available to the public before the town hall meeting to discuss the water and sewer rates.

Adam McLean, 5646 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, Bonney Lake, said he successfully reduced consumption over last year, yet his water charges increased by \$50 more than a year ago. He asked the Council, if they have a choice, to vote no on the increase.

Beth Doyle, 7723 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, Bonney Lake, said she used much less water than she ever did in Federal Way, however her fees were \$50 more. She said she feels she shouldn't have to choose between water conservation/cost and doing laundry, bathing her children or rinsing recyclable containers. She urged the Council to vote no, at least until a more in depth discussion on the issues can take place.

Jeff Rosendahl, 20308 Church Lake Drive E, Bonney Lake, moved to the City in April. He's only had three full water bills from Bonney Lake. His meter is not an automatic meter. His second bill is \$3,780. He said the City suspected a leak, and there was a small leak which was repaired. He does not believe the size was sufficient to warrant a bill of that size. He said he tried to work with the City's utilities and was given payment options, but no other relief. He is now facing a disconnect notice for the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month. He said there appears to be no working with the City as far as public utilities are concerned.

Doug Willrich, 18605 68<sup>th</sup> St E, Bonney Lake, said he is lending a voice to what's already been said. He said water and sewer rate increases have been at least an annual event in the last seven years. He said his consumption shows in excess of

three times what was shown last year. He has no lawn and can't understand why his consumption is so high. He said he was offered an adjustment a couple years ago for a large leak, but this year no offer to adjust the bill for the high consumption was offered to him. He said the cost to connect to utilities makes selling his home to find a more affordable utility rate a very difficult proposition. He said if you've paid off your mortgage, the cost of city utilities is far and away the biggest expense a homeowner faces.

Gwendolyn Fullerton, 9611 183<sup>rd</sup> Avenue E, Bonney Lake, said she agrees that the water expenses are astronomical this year. However, she said she was here to encourage the Council to reconsider allowing the opening of recreational marijuana shops in the City. She cited news stories of burglaries related to marijuana stores and suggested the City should not accept this exposure in the City. She suggested that the taxes associated with marijuana sales in the City would never diminish over the years and would never cover the added costs of providing security for the citizens. She concluded by asking the Council to table the decisions tonight on the water rates as there appeared to be many in attendance who are concerned about this issue.

Jason Dalton, 8102 183<sup>rd</sup> Avenue E, Bonney Lake, said he received no notice of potential leaks. He said he did water his lawn all summer, but although his bill doubled, he received no notice from the City. He urged monthly reading of the meters to increase accuracy and timeliness of notices. He asked the Council to hold off on the vote for the rate ordinances.

Jaime Cesarano, 19204 78<sup>th</sup> St E, Bonney Lake, asked the Council to table the new increases. She said another increase is too soon. She said her paychecks don't go up that fast. She asked the Council to table a decision and put the information out to everyone.

Steve Arnold, 11414 178<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ct E, Bonney Lake, said he also received no notice of high usage or a leak, yet his consumption showed almost double over last year. He said he does hand-water a small piece of grass in his front yard, and only has three people in his household. He said his water bill was \$291, higher than in Colorado where water is scarce and where his bill never exceeded \$80. He asked the Council to address these numbers and the discrepancies that are being reported.

Adam McLean, 5646 195<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, Bonney Lake, asked if the rate increase is water only. He noted water used on lawns doesn't go into the sewer, and asked why the sewer bill increases so much.

Councilmember Swatman said that is part of a larger discussion, but there is a cap on the water consumption attributed to the sewer bill.

Tami Edgerly, 7903 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue E, Bonney Lake, said she's lived in Bonney Lake since 1997 and her water bill has never exceeded \$100. She said her bill for the last two months is \$500. She said the fire department filled her pool, but was

not on the meter. Her grass is brown and she has installed low flow fixtures throughout her home. She said she's spoken recently with a real estate agent because she can't afford to live here with these expenses. She asked Council to table a decision saying there is something very wrong.

Greg Willging, 6709 W Tapps Hwy, Bonney Lake, said he has similar concerns to those the others who have addressed. He asked for clarification about the sewer fees. He noted that water is not flowing into the sewers or storm drains, yet these fees are astronomical. He said the fees associated with the water rates create the big increase in the utility bills. He asked for more information to the public and questioned the impact of new development on existing customers.

Jerimy Kirschner, 18311 104<sup>th</sup> St Ct E, Bonney Lake, said that based on the numbers given tonight approximately 1.6% of the City's population received a leak notice. He felt this was too high. He asked if there should be an audit of the meter readings and how they are read. He said it appears to be more systemic than associated with small numbers of individuals.

Gary Mosher, 17801 101<sup>st</sup> St E, Bonney Lake, said his bills have gone up 9% over last year, but his October bill is up 24%. He said he is just trying to keep his lawn green and have a nice looking community. He said his July/August bill was \$329 and his September/October bill is \$571. He said his bills were lower than his neighbors.

Chris Campbell, 11321 177<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, Bonney Lake, said he has six children and shouldn't have to wonder how often he can let them shower. He said his bill has doubled to \$497 and there are no leaks. He asked the Council to let the dust settle a little on the issue and look into what's going on. He said a 50% increase is too much.

Dennis Potter, 17701 101<sup>st</sup> St E, Bonney Lake, said he has a nice green lawn and hasn't adjusted the timing of his sprinklers for three years. He said his consumption last year for this same period was 74 cu ft. He said the current bill is for 130 cu ft. and he hasn't done anything different. Last year his bill was \$500 and this year the sewer and water bill is \$700. He said he was shocked to see the price for a green lawn double in a year, which has become too much for a retired person.

Dennis Lipurn, 8202 Locust Avenue, Bonney Lake, asked the Council to table their vote for this evening. He said his latest water bill was \$652. He said he is aware infrastructure is expensive to maintain, but there appears to be a problem here in Bonney Lake. He asked for further explanation. He also commented on the level of crime seen at his home and in the neighborhood and said the City does not need the increased crime associated with pot shops. He urged a no vote when that issue comes before the Council.

Scott Tanner, (no address given), said he appeared on KIRO TV last night. He

thanked all who made an effort to be in attendance tonight. He said he’s been a resident in Bonney Lake for four years. He asked what will be done about the cost of utility services. He said the community is good, but people will leave. He said his experience with the City employees is that everyone is respectful. He urged the audience to work with the City to achieve a resolution to the issues.

C. Correspondence:

City Clerk Edvalson noted that the Mayor received an email regarding water rates from William Austin. He said copies of the letter were distributed to the City Council.

**III. ~~VIII.~~ FULL COUNCIL ISSUES: (Moved up on the agenda by Council consensus.)**

- A. **AB17-99 – Ordinance D17-99** – An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Amending Chapter 13.04 Of The Bonney Lake And The Corresponding Portions Of Ordinance Nos. 1277, 1356, 1374, 1429, 1465, 1476, 1541, And 1576 Relating To An Increase In Water Rates And Charges

**Councilmember Watson moved to approve Ordinance D17-99.  
Councilmember Evans seconded the motion.**

**Councilmember Rackley moved to table Ordinance D17-99 to be re-calendared at the Mayor’s discretion. Councilmember Swatman seconded the motion.**

**Motion to table approved 3 - 2.  
Councilmembers Evans and Watson voted no.**

- B. **AB17-100 – Ordinance D17-100** – An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Amending Chapter 13.12 Of The Bonney Lake Municipal Code And The Corresponding Portions Of Ordinance Nos. 1465, 1565, And 1577 Relating To Sewer Rates And Charges.

**Councilmember Watson moved to approve Ordinance D17-100.  
Councilmember Lewis seconded the motion.**

**Councilmember Rackley moved to table Ordinance D17-100 to be re-calendared at the Mayor’s discretion. Councilmember Swatman seconded the motion.**

**Motion to table approved 4 - 1.  
Councilmember Evans voted no.**

**IV. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Finance Committee: The Mayor said the meeting for this evening had been cancelled and the Committee would meet again in two weeks.
- B. Community Development Committee: Chairman Lewis said the next meeting will be on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.
- C. Public Safety Committee: Chairman Watson said the next meeting will occur on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- D. Other Reports: None.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. **Approval of Accounts Payable and Utility Refund Checks/Vouchers**: Accounts Payable check/vouchers #77421-#77436 in the amount of \$87,005.91. Accounts Payable check/vouchers #77437-#77519 (including wire transfers #21582136) in the amount of \$346,107.60. Voids: Check # 77241- Reissued with Check # 77495, Check # 71031- Reissued with Check # 77437, Check # 76042- Reissued with Check # 77471.
- B. **Approval of Payroll**: September 16th -31st 2017 for checks #33575-33594 including Direct Deposits and Electronic Transfers is \$ 756,198.89.
- C. **AB17-92 –Resolution 2618** – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, To Sign A Service Agreement Between The City Of Bonney Lake, Washington And South Sound 911 For Continued Services.

**Councilmember Watson moved to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Councilmember Rackley seconded the motion.**

**Consent Agenda approved 5 - 0.**

**VI. FINANCE COMMITTEE ISSUES:** None.

**VII. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ISSUES:** None.

**VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ISSUES:** None.

**IX. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

**At 7:12 p.m. the Meeting was adjourned by common consent of the City Council.**

---

Harwood Edvalson  
City Clerk

Neil Johnson, Jr.  
Mayor

Items presented to Council at the October 10, 2017 Meeting:

- William Austin – Email to Mayor Johnson regarding Water and Sewer Increase.

*Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all documents submitted at City Council meetings and workshops are on file with the City Clerk. For detailed information on agenda items, please view the corresponding Agenda Packets, which are posted on the city website and on file with the City Clerk.*