

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 24, 2017

6:00 P.M.

### Minutes



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

- A. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr. called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Flag Salute – Mayor Johnson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson called the roll. In addition to Mayor Johnson, elected officials attending were Deputy Mayor Randy McKibbin, Councilmember Justin Evans, Councilmember Donn Lewis, Councilmember James Rackley, Councilmember Dan Swatman, and Councilmember Tom Watson.

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, Human Resources Manager Jenna Richardson and City Attorney Kathleen Haggard.

- C. Agenda Modifications
- D. Announcements, Appointments and Presentations:
1. Announcements: None.
  2. Appointments:
    - a. **Oath of Office:** City Clerk Harwood Edvalson administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Councilmember Michelle Surdez. Councilmember Surdez took her seat on the Council dais.
  3. Presentations:
    - a. **Proclamation:** Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October 2017.

Tonya Tunnell-Thornhill thanked Mayor Johnson for the proclamation and the continued support of the City of Bonney Lake. She described some of the services provided by the Exodus House program. She noted they would have a Christmas drive and welcomed audience participation in this and other fund-raising and collection drives.

- b. **Presentation:** Pierce County Library Strategic Plan – Georgia Lomax, Executive Director.

Ms. Lomax described the Library District's work on their 2017 community initiatives, which are building a reading community; supporting patron growth and curiosity; strengthening core services; and development of business processes and operations to most effectively use taxpayers' investment. She expressed appreciation for the community partnership with the City of Bonney Lake.

Councilmembers Evans and Rackley individually expressed their appreciation for the services provided by the local Bonney Lake Library and praised the library staff for their excellent work.

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

- A. Public Hearing: None.

- B. Citizen Comments:

Russ Hicks, 10401 178<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, spoke about his water bill. He said he lives alone with his young son. Their last utility bill was for \$427. He said he had received a leak notice which was checked out and determined there was no leak. He urged the Council to suspend all payments due until the City's investigation is done. He also expressed his opinion that new development should pay for itself. He added it is not fair to pass even a portion of the cost of new commercial development on to the citizen consumers.

Mr. Hicks also asked if the Council had taken a position or authored an objection letter to the increases associated with ST3.

Mayor Johnson said his office let Sound Transit officials know the problems associated with the steep transit increases.

Sharon Hodgins, spoke as a member of the Friends of the Library. She said Bonney Lake is lucky to have friends that mostly support our local library and its activities. She said the goal is to build a new library. She noted that the current library is undersized for the services sought by the community. She also noted the lack of parking for library patrons on days when court is held in the Justice & Municipal Center.

Mayor Johnson said the City is engaged with the library district in exploring possibilities for a new building.

Warren Lee, 18109 96<sup>th</sup> St. Avenue Ct. E, moved into Bonney Lake in April. He thanked Ms. Lomax and the libraries and noted that in his work it is known that the street and homeless kids are most often educated through the library system. He

then addressed his water bill. He said he and his wife consumed 52,940 gals of water in two months. He said he has no pool, no hot tub or fountain features. He believes the problem appears to be the meter reads regarding consumption. He said he represents 170 homeowners in Lakeland Hills. He reported a year ago in April there was the same type of spike with a 250% increase in consumption. Mr. Lee also addressed the upcoming advisory vote regarding commercial marijuana. He said in his professional position with the courts, he has seen the disruption that will come to Bonney Lake from allowing commercial marijuana sales. He added that the revenues to the City from one shop will not cover the negative impacts to the City. He gave his professional observation that marijuana is a gateway drug to the less expensive drugs associated with more serious drug abuse. He urged the Council to seriously consider the issue.

Gunther Ries, 8303 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue E, spoke regarding residential storm water utility fees. He said he has observed two storm water ponds in his neighborhood. One is still open, but is overgrown with bushes and blackberries, yet has 2 ft. of water from recent rains. He asked if the City maintains this pond.

Mayor Johnson said it could be a private storm water pond. Mr. Ries said he would like information regarding how many people work in the storm water utility. He said he has noticed that water and sewer have recently become more expensive. He said some customers do not understand the charges. He is concerned the rising rates will drive him from his home which he has occupied since 1990.

Cindy Gilsing, 184<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, expressed her concerns with consumption impacts on water bills. She said many customers are not aware that there are others feeling the same impacts. She asked if the City issued a letter to ratepayers to make them aware of the current issues. She asserted this is a situation that has occurred across the country, and it may have to do with the Neptune radio-read meters. She said she is aware the City is looking into the issues. However, she feels families do not have the money to pay the extra bills. She asked the City to suspend the collection of excessive portions of the bills until the accounts can be studied and reconciled.

Mayor Johnson said the City is indeed studying the situation. He said that within the parameters of the municipal code, individuals can make a payment plan through the Finance Department until the issues are resolved. He said the analysis of accounts is truly complicated.

Ron Walker, 10407 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, said he is a director of the Panorama West HOA. He said he has lived in the City since 2008. He said the water costs were pretty even until the last year or two. He said he's observed that when the water pressure goes up, the consumption also seems to go up. He said all his utility bills went down while away on a recent vacation except water. He also asked if the City has a plan to deal with wildland fires.

Administrative Services Director Edvalson said the City relies on plans from East Pierce Fire & Rescue to address wildland fires. He said based on their experience

last year in Panorama West they are well aware of the issues facing the City. Councilmember Watson invited Mr. Walker to attend the Public Safety Committee meetings to discuss this issue with City and Fire District representatives.

Mary Sullivan, 20518 Church Lake Drive E, addressed the high water bills. She thanked the Public Works Department for agreeing to download the water consumption readings for last 90 days to study the radio-read meter information. She said she understands the City will then look at the manual read meters starting November 1. She urged the comparison of data from the end of November to data from earlier this summer to compare seasonal effects to analyze trends over the past three years. She said she will send a request to city leaders. She also suggested the City's CFO could be looking at data to see if a credit is building in the utility accounts resulting from the apparent over-billing of citizens. She urged the City to protect the citizens by not placing itself in a position to not be able to reimburse the residents if investigations show that reimbursements are due. She hopes this investigation will not drag on for years and asks for a speedy resolution. She asked that a full-time leader be appointed who is a thinker and can mobilize the necessary resources to resolve these issues quickly. She hopes to be able to maintain her residence without being forced out due to utility rates.

C. Correspondence: None.

## II. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Finance Committee: Deputy Mayor McKibbin said the Committee met at 5 p.m. earlier in the evening and discussed the following issues: (1) Public Works Facility financing allocations, (2) an Interlocal agreement with the Chamber Collective and (3) an employment agreement extension for the City administrator.
- B. Community Development Committee: Councilmember Donn Lewis, Chair of the Committee, said the Committee will hold its next meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.
- C. Public Safety Committee: Councilmember Watson, Chair of the Committee, said the Committee held its meeting at 3:30 p.m. today. He said they discussed the Police Department year-end report and a new monthly report format. He said they also reviewed the animal services report. East Pierce Fire and Rescue was not represented at the meeting. The Committee discussed BLMC Chapter 8.12 regarding nuisance vehicles and what the Police Department can and cannot do.
- D. Other Reports: None.

## III. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of Minutes: September 19, 2017 Workshop, September 26, 2017 Meeting, and October 10, 2017 Meeting.

- B. **Approval of Accounts Payable and Utility Refund Checks/Vouchers:** Accounts Payable check/vouchers #77520-#77549 in the amount of \$161,440.21. Accounts Payable check/vouchers #77550-#77609 (including wire transfers #20170915, #201709051, #201709052, #201709053, #201709054, #201709055, #2017100301, #2017100302, #2017100303, #2017100304 and #2017100305) in the amount of \$904,893.50. Accounts Payable wire transfer #2017101701 in the amount of \$38,413.88 for P-Card Purchases. VOIDS: Check # 77439- Reissued with Check # 77534
- C. **Approval of Payroll:** October 1st-15th 2017 for checks #33595-33611 including Direct Deposits and Electronic Transfers is \$ 572,904.23.

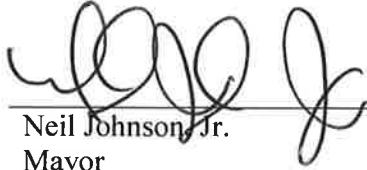
**Councilmember Watson moved the approval of the Consent Agenda.  
Councilmember Rackley seconded the motion.**

**Motion approved 7 – 0.**

- IV. **FINANCE COMMITTEE ISSUES:** None.
- V. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ISSUES:** None.
- VI. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ISSUES:** None.
- VII. **FULL COUNCIL ISSUES:** None
- VIII. **EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION:** None.
- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**At 6:58 p.m. the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Johnson with the common consent of the City Council.**

  
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Harwood Edvalson, MMC  
City Clerk

  
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Neil Johnson, Jr.  
Mayor

Items presented to Council at the September 19, 2017 Workshop: None.