

## ORDINANCE NO. 1383

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BONNEY LAKE, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 2.04 OF THE BONNEY LAKE MUNICIPAL CODE AND ORDINANCE NO. 1061, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NOS. 1231 § 2, 1223 § 1, 1118 § 1, 1030 § 1, 923 § 2, 816 § 1, 648 § 1, 556 § 1, AND 388 § 1, RELATING TO CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION.**

**WHEREAS**, RCW 35A.12.040 requires councilmembers in Code cities to be elected at-large, unless an ordinance provides for election by wards; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined to abandon the combined at-large/ward system of Council representation in favor of a completely at-large system of Council representation; and

**WHEREAS**, this change requires an amendment to BLMC Chapter 2.04, Council Policies and Procedures, and a repeal of BLMC Chapter 1.12, Ward System.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BONNEY LAKE, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** BLMC § 2.04.1060 and Section 1 of Ordinance No. 1061 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**2.04.1060 Number of councilmembers.**

The City of Bonney Lake is a noncharter code city under the laws and statutes of the State of Washington and its city council shall consist of seven members, all of whom shall be elected at large.

**Section 2.** BLMC § 2.04.950 and Section 1 of Ordinance No. 1061 are hereby amended to read as follows:

**2.04.950 Correspondence.**

All correspondence received by the council shall be answered in a timely manner. All correspondence or phone calls from citizens received by City Hall regarding policy or legislative issues shall indicate the date received and which department they were referred to for follow up and response. Copies of the information shall be provided to all council members.

The city clerk is authorized to open and examine all mail or other written communications addressed to the city council. No mail shall be opened which is addressed to the personal attention of any one member of the council.

**Section 3.** BLMC Chapter 1.12 and Ordinance Nos. 1231 § 2, 1223 § 1, 1118 § 1, 1030 § 1, 923 § 2, 816 § 1, 648 § 1, 556 § 1, and 388 § 1, are hereby repealed in their entirety.

**Section 4.** This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

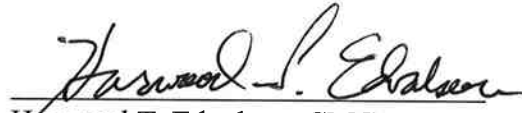
**PASSED** by the City Council and approved by the Mayor this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011.



Neil Johnson, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC  
City Clerk



James J. Dionne, City Attorney

Passed: 3/8/11

*AB11-28*

Valid: 3/8/11

Published: 3/16/11

Effective Date: 4/7/11

There are 1 Page to this Ordinance

## Ward System Pros and Cons

### ARGUMENTS MADE IN SUPPORT OF A WARD SYSTEM

Wards ensure that city leaders come from every section of the city

Wards give voters the feeling that they have better representation on the city council - that they know who their representative is.

The community feels more connected to its government because of the ward system

It is easier to achieve racial and economic diversity with a ward system.

At-large positions make it easier for candidates with the most name recognition to win.

Election campaign costs are cheaper with wards.

Ensures greater balance of representation for all geographic areas.

Brings politics closer to the people

Requires elected representatives to be more knowledgeable about the needs and concerns of their ward residents.

Councilors represent a more reasonable number of residents than with the at-large system.

Encourages councilors to liaise and consult with neighborhood groups and organizations.

### ARGUMENTS MADE IN SUPPORT OF AN AT-LARGE SYSTEM

The ward system creates "tunnel vision" on the Council since the primary focus is the ward, not the City as a whole.

The ward system creates a fragmented community and detracts from a sense of community and a vision of the community as a whole.

With a ward system, council members can bog down staff and budget processes with requests for special projects or services in their wards.

Ward system accentuates divisions within council.

In ward system residents may have to work with a councilor they do not know or like

Easier for Council member to play NIMBY (Not in my back yard)

Ward system more costly to administer and manage.

Councilors view city needs as a whole from a long-term perspective; most issues affect the city at large

More likely to make balanced decisions, especially with budgets

System promotes the election of the best candidates

Easy to administer and understand

Least costly system to manage

Everyone is accountable for all areas of the city

Councilors focus on city-wide issues and are more strategic in their thinking

Reduces perceived power of 'ward bosses'

Electors can vote for all councilors and the mayor.

City of Bonney Lake, Washington  
**City Council Agenda Bill (AB)**

<b>Department/Staff Contact:</b> Executive / Don Morrison	<b>Meeting/Workshop Date:</b> 8 March 2011	<b>Agenda Bill Number:</b> AB11-28
<b>Agenda Item Type:</b> Ordinance	<b>Ordinance/Resolution Number:</b> Ord. D11-28	<b>Councilmember Sponsor:</b> Deputy Mayor Swatman

**Agenda Subject:** At-Large System of Council Representation

**Full Title/Motion:** An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Approving Ordinance No. D11-28 Providing For An At-Large System Of Council Representation.

**Administrative Recommendation:** Approve

**Background Summary:** RCW 35A.12.040 requires councilmembers in Code cities to be elected at-large, unless an ordinance otherwise provides for election by wards. Bonney Lake is one of the few cities in the state that had otherwise established a ward system. After reviewing the pros and cons of a ward vs. an at-large system of Council representation for several years, it is proposed to amend the BLMC to provide for all council position to be elected at large. This would be in effect for this fall's municipal elections.  
**Attachments:** Ordinance D11-28; Pro and Con Sheet

<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>			
Budget Amount	Current Balance	Required Expenditure	Budget Balance
<b>Budget Explanation:</b> NA			

<b>COMMITTEE, BOARD &amp; COMMISSION REVIEW</b>			
<b>Council Committee Review:</b>	<i>Approvals:</i>		Yes No
Date:	Chair/Councilmember NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Forward to: Workshop	<b>Consent</b>		
	<b>Agenda:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>Commission/Board Review:</b>			
<b>Hearing Examiner Review:</b>			

<b>COUNCIL ACTION</b>	
Workshop Date(s): 2-15-2011, 3-1-2011	Public Hearing Date(s):
Meeting Date(s):	Tabled to Date:

<b>APPROVALS</b>		
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>Date Reviewed</b>
		by City Attorney: 2-4-11
		(if applicable):