

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
February 06, 2024
6:00 P.M.



www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us

AGENDA

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

The public is invited to attend Council Meetings and Workshops in person, via conference call or over the internet. The information for attending is provided below.

Council Workshop options:

In-Person: Bonney Lake Justice & Municipal Center at 9002 Main Street East in Bonney Lake

By phone: 323-792-6234 (Meeting ID: 384 308 606#)

By internet: Teams meeting link: [TEAMS](#) (Meeting ID: 222 580 150 033) **All public online cameras and microphones will be disabled. Only staff and presenters will be visible and unmuted.**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Michael McCullough

A. Pledge of Allegiance

II. ROLL CALL: Mayor Michael McCullough, Deputy Mayor Terry Carter, Councilmember Angela Baldwin, Councilmember Gwendolyn Fullerton, Councilmember Kerri Hubler, Councilmember J. Kelly McClimans, Councilmember Dan Roach, and Councilmember Dan Swatman.

III. AGENDA ITEMS:

Page 3 A. **Appointment:** Friends of Fontana Recognition.

B. **Presentation:** WCIA Council Do's And Don'ts Training.

C. **Council Open Discussion:**

Page 5 D. **Review Of Council Minutes:** January 9, 2024, City Council Meeting, January 16, 2024, City Council Workshop, And January 23, 2024, City Council Meeting.

Page 19 E. **Discussion:** Public Comments.

IV. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION: None.

V. ADJOURNMENT

For citizens with disabilities requesting translators or adaptive equipment for communication purposes, the City requests notification as early as possible prior to the meeting regarding the type of service or equipment needed.

The City Council may act on items listed on this agenda, or by consensus give direction for future action.
The Council may also add and take action on other items not listed on this agenda.



CITY OF BONNEY LAKE CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This certificate is awarded to

Friends of Fontana

In recognition of the Adopt A Street participants' continuous support of this worthwhile program, Friends of Michael Fontana demonstrate civic pride and concern for the City of Bonney Lake and their neighborhood whereby adopting and cleaning 214th Avenue E for 18 years. It is this selfless act that stands as a worthy example to all residents of the City. We thank you for your contribution to the beauty and livability of the City of Bonney Lake.

Michael McCullough, Mayor

Date

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 09, 2024

6:00 P.M.

DRAFT MINUTES



www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us

Location: The physical location of the Council Meeting was at the Bonney Lake Justice & Municipal Center, 9002 Main Street East, Bonney Lake, Washington. The public was also given the option to call in or attend virtually the Council Meeting.

Audio starts at:
06:00:00

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Michael McCullough, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor McCullough led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Roll Call: City Clerk Sadie Schaneman called the roll. In addition to Mayor McCullough, elected officials attending were Councilmember Angela Baldwin, Councilmember Gwendolyn Fullerton Councilmember Kerri Hubler, Councilmember J. Kelly McClimans, Councilmember Dan Roach, and Councilmember Dan Swatman. Deputy Mayor Terry Carter was in virtual attendance.

Staff members in attendance at the physical location were City Administrator John Vodopich, Chief of Police Mark Berry, Public Services Director Ryan Johnstone, Building & Planning Supervisor Jason Sullivan, Assistant to the City Administrator Leslie Harris, Human Resource Manager Brian Sandler, Deputy City Attorney/Prosecutor Dena Burke, Administrative Specialist III Carol Paul, Maintenance Worker I Austyn Young, City Clerk Sadie Schaneman, Administrative Specialist III Debbie McDonald and City Attorney Jennifer Robertson.

Staff member in virtual attendance using the Teams conference line was, Records & Disclosure Coordinator Kandice Besaw.

C. Agenda Modifications: None.

D. Announcements, Appointments and Presentations:

1. **AB24-01 – Motion M24-01** - A Motion Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Electing The Deputy Mayor And Assigning Councilmembers To The Council Standing Committees.

Mayor McCullough called for nominations from the Council for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Audio starts at:
06:04:00

Councilmember Fullerton nominated Councilmember Carter for Deputy Mayor.

Hearing no further nominations, Mayor McCullough called for a vote of the Council.

With all in favor, Councilmember Carter was appointed Deputy Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Carter opened the conversation regarding appointments for the Council Standing Committees. Deputy Mayor Carter stated he had spoken with all Councilmembers regarding their preferred committee and made the following appointments without objection from the Councilmembers.

Community Development Committee: Councilmember Fullerton, Councilmember McClimans, and Councilmember Swatman.

Public Safety Committee: Councilmember Baldwin, Councilmember Hubler and Councilmember Roach.

Finance Committee: Deputy Mayor Carter, CDC Chair and Public Safety Chair once the Committees vote on a chair at their next meeting.

Councilmember Baldwin moved to approve Standing Committee Appointments. Councilmember Fullerton seconded the motion.

Motion M24-01 approved 7 - 0.

2. **AB24-05 – Motion M24-05** - A Motion Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Appointing The City's Representative To The Pierce County Regional Council.

Council discussed and shared their concerns, including:

- Time constraints and commitments.
- Type of issues that are addressed.
- Other city positions being able to volunteer outside of councilmembers.

Mayor McCullough asked if there were any volunteers. Councilmember Roach volunteered to be the city representative and Councilmember Hubler volunteered to be the alternate.

Motion M24-05 approved 7 - 0.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS, CITIZEN COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Public Hearing: None.

Audio starts at:
6:15:15

- B. Citizen Comments: *For efficient use of city resources, comments will be a short summary and not verbatim. Video recordings will be uploaded to the city's YouTube channel and an audio recording to the state digital archives for review of all the comments.*

Erin Muske, Bonney Lake Public Library: Gave an update on the foodbank lockers, invited all to come make a "Valentine for a Vet" and shared that the library has a "did you know" segment and on the 20th, all can join the "kindness club".

Dave Morell, Pierce County Councilmember 11421 164th St, Puyallup: Welcomed and congratulated new and past council members.

Dan Decker, 20401 70th St E, Bonney Lake: Spoke on how the 1st amendment gives people the right to speak their mind about all things. Except if your employer doesn't like your political speech, they can fire you.

Audio starts at:
6:28:00

- C. Correspondence:

Received an email from Ms. Dahlstrom regarding fireworks.

City Clerk Sadie Schaneman noted the Mayor and all Councilmembers received the letter prior to the Council Meeting.

Audio starts at:
6:06:43

III. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Finance Committee: Deputy Mayor Carter reported the Finance Committee met in person and virtually today at 5:00 p.m. The Committee went thru personnel updates; discussed and forwarded AB24-03 and AB24-07 to a future meeting and approved their minutes.
- B. Community Development Committee: Councilmember Swatman reported the Community Development Committee met in person and virtually on January 2, 2024. The Committee had open discussion on the sewer interlocal agreement, Tacoma water usage and approved their minutes.
- C. Public Safety Committee: Public Safety Committee did not meet and is expected to have their next meeting in person and virtually at 3:30 p.m. on January 23, 2024.
- D. Other Reports: None.

Audio starts at:
6:34:00

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember McClimans motioned for AB24 -04 be pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to Full Council Issues as Item A. Councilmember Fullerton seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6 - 1.
Councilmember Baldwin voted no.**

- A. **Approval of Corrected Minutes:** None.
- B. **Approval of Accounts Payable and Utility Refund Checks/Vouchers:** Accounts Payable check/vouchers #95933 to #95981 and wire transfers #2023120401 and 2023120699 in the amount of \$407,281.82. Accounts Payable check/vouchers #95982 to #96013 in the amount of \$5,672.65. Accounts Payable wire transfer #2023103102 in the amount of \$12,606.57. Accounts Payable check/vouchers #96014 to #96031 in the amount of \$89,477.00. Accounts Payable wire transfer #2023121701 in the amount of \$31,381.31. Accounts Payable check/vouchers #96032 to #96121, and wire transfers #2023111401, #2023120402, 2023121001, 2023121002, #2023121401 and #2023121901, in the amount of \$687,591.39. Accounts Payable check/vouchers #96122 to #96136 in the amount of \$3,773.09. Accounts Payable check/vouchers #96137 to #96145, and wire transfer #37321722 in the amount of \$79,969.74. **Voids:** Check/Voucher #95772 - Check lost/missing, Reissue Check/Voucher #95788 - Check lost/missing, Reissue Check/Voucher #95656 – Wrong vendor, Reissue Check/Voucher #95738 – Wrong vendor, Reissue Check/Voucher #96002 – Wrong vendor, Reissue.
- C. **Approval of Payroll:** December 1 – 15, 2023 for checks #34899 - 34901 including Direct Deposits and Electronic Transfers totaling \$734,021.84. **Voids:** None. December 16 – 31, 2023 for checks #34901 - 34911 including Direct Deposits and Electronic Transfers totaling \$934,713.10. **Voids:** None.
- D. ~~AB24-04 – Motion M24-04 – A Motion Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Authorizing The Mayor To Sign A Labor Agreement With AFSCME Local 120 Representing Public Works & General Government Employees From January 1, 2024, Through December 31, 2025. (Moved to Full Council Issues Item A).~~

**Deputy Mayor Carter moved to approve the Consent Agenda as modified.
Councilmember Fullerton seconded the motion.**

Consent Agenda approved as modified 7 - 0.

- V. **FINANCE COMMITTEE ISSUES:** None.
- VI. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ISSUES:** None.
- VII. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ISSUES:** None.
- VIII. **FULL COUNCIL ISSUES:**

- A. (Moved from Consent Agenda, Item D) **AB24-04 – Motion M24-04** - A Motion Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington,

Audio starts at:
6:35:00

Authorizing The Mayor To Sign A Labor Agreement With AFSCME Local 120 Representing Public Works & General Government Employees From January 1, 2024, Through December 31, 2026.

**Councilmember Swatman moved to approve Motion M24-04.
Councilmember Fullerton seconded the motion.**

Councilmember McClimans shared that administration did a good job putting the contract together. He said that he feels any significant contract should not go under consent agenda in order to listen to the transcript and support it.

Motion M24-04 approved 7 - 0.

IX. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION: None.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:37 p.m. the Meeting was adjourned by Mayor McCullough with the common consent of the City Council.

Sadie A. Schaneman, CMC, City Clerk

Michael McCullough, Mayor

Items presented to Council at the January 09, 2024, Meeting for the record: None.

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.

**SPECIAL JOINT CITY
COUNCIL
WORKSHOP/PLANNING
COMMISSION MEETING**

January 16, 2024

6:00 P.M.



www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Audio starts at:
06:00

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Michael McCullough

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Audio starts at:
6:01

II. Roll Call: City Clerk Sadie Schaneman called the roll. In addition to Mayor McCullough, elected officials attending were Deputy Mayor Terry Carter, Councilmember Angela Baldwin, Councilmember Gwendolyn Fullerton, Councilmember J. Kelly McClimans, Councilmember Dan Roach, and Councilmember Dan Swatman. Councilmember Kerri Hubler was in virtual attendance.

Staff members in attendance at the physical location were City Administrator John Vodopich, Chief of Police Mark Berry, Public Services Director Ryan Johnstone, Development Services Manager Jason Sullivan, Assistant to the City Administrator Leslie Harris, City Clerk Sadie Schaneman, Administrative Specialist III Debbie McDonald, and City Attorney Jennifer Robertson.

Staff member in virtual attendance using the Teams conference line was, Chief Finance Officer Cherie Reiersen.

Planning Commissioners attending were Chair Grant Sulham, Vice-Chair Jessica Bennion, Commissioner Brad Doll, Commissioner Craig Saver, and Commissioner Jeffrey Wilkins. Commissioner Debbie Strous-Boyd was absent.

III. AGENDA ITEMS:

Audio starts at:
6:03

Deputy Mayor Carter moved to table item D on the agenda until the February 6th Council Workshop. Councilmember McClimans seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7 – 0.

A. Planning Commission Open Discussion:

Audio starts at:
6:05

1. Presentation: PTRO Plan Presentation.

Development Services Manager Sullivan introduced Steve Duh to present the PTRO Plan Presentation. Mr. Duh gave a project overview, survey results and key project recommendations.

Council discussed and shared their ideas and concerns, including:

- Concerns that the survey was a small sample of the population, would like to put it on the ballot for a vote.
- Traffic and parking concerns at Midtown and Allan Yorke Parks.
- Funding of the projects and finding outside donors.

Audio starts at:
7:18

2. Presentation: Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Presentation.

Development Services Manager Sullivan presented the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. The presentation included why the City needed to complete the update, how the comprehensive plan affects the community, and how the city will reach their targeted growth.

Council discussed and shared their ideas and concerns, including:

- What happens if the update is not approved.
- How will the City meet the Income Band Targets.
- Zoning Options.

Audio starts at:
8:11

****End of Special Joint City Council Workshop/Planning Commission Meeting****

Followed by Regular Council Workshop Items.

Audio starts at:
8:11

- B. Review Of Council Minutes:** November 21, 2023, City Council Workshop and November 28, 2023, City Council Meeting, December 5, 2023, City Council Workshop and December 12, 2023, City Council Meeting.

The draft minutes were forwarded with minor corrections to the January 23, 2024, meeting for approval.

C. Council Open Discussion:

Audio starts at:
8:12

Councilmember McClimans:

United States Constitution Celebration: Councilmember McClimans would like to plan a celebration in a few years for the 200th Anniversary of our Constitution.

Human Trafficking: Councilmember McClimans attended a workshop on Human Trafficking, and brought back some materials from the workshop.

Self-Governing Tools: Councilmember McClimans would like to have a training on the constitution at the Council retreat in March.

Audio starts at:
8:14

Councilmember Fullerton:

Fireworks: Councilmember Fullerton would like to discuss having a ban on fireworks added to the ballot.

Audio starts at:
8:18

D. Discussion: Public Comments.

Issue was tabled until the February 6th, workshop.

Audio starts at:
8:18

E. Discussion With Presentation: AB24-06 - Motion M24-06 – A Motion Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington Authorizing The Mayor To Sign The Interlocal Agreement Between The City Of Bonney Lake And City OF Sumner For The Coordination Of Cooperative Wastewater Services.

Public Services Director Johnstone presented the history of the interlocal agreement, the changes and additions that have been made. The draft agreement includes how parties shall manage and share costs, a pretreatment program and how to terminate the agreement.

Council discussed and shared their ideas and concerns, including:

- Can the Pretreatment Program be its own separate agreement.
- Feels that the City of Sumner has all the control.
- Still not understanding the cost sharing and why the Citizens of Sumner pay so much less than the Citizens of Bonney Lake.

There was Council consensus to place the item for action on the next Council agenda under Full Council Issues.

Audio starts at:
8:42

IV. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION: None.

Audio starts at:
8:42

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 p.m. the Meeting was adjourned by Mayor McCullough with the common consent of the City Council.

Sadie A. Schaneman, CMC, City Clerk

Michael McCullough, Mayor

Items presented to Council at the January 16, 2024, Workshop: None.

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.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 23, 2024

6:00 P.M.

DRAFT MINUTES



www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us

Location: The physical location of the Council Meeting was at the Bonney Lake Justice & Municipal Center, 9002 Main Street East, Bonney Lake, Washington. The public was also given the option to call in or attend virtually the Council Meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Michael McCullough, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Audio starts at:
06:00:00

- A. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor McCullough led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Roll Call: City Clerk Sadie Schaneman called the roll. In addition to Mayor McCullough, elected officials attending were Councilmember Angela Baldwin, Councilmember Gwendolyn Fullerton Councilmember Kerri Hubler, Councilmember J. Kelly McClimans, Councilmember Dan Roach, and Councilmember Dan Swatman. Deputy Mayor Terry Carter was in virtual attendance.

Staff members in attendance at the physical location were City Administrator John Vodopich, Chief of Police Mark Berry, Administrative Services Director Chuck McEwen, Public Services Director Ryan Johnstone, Community Development Manager Jason Sullivan, Assistant to the City Administrator Leslie Harris, Deputy City Attorney/Prosecutor Dena Burke, Recreation & Special Events Manager David Wells, City Clerk Sadie Schaneman, Records and Disclosure Coordinator Kandice Besaw and City Attorney Jennifer Robertson.

Staff members in virtual attendance using the City's Teams conference line were Chief Finance Officer Cherie Reiersen and Judge Joanna Daniels.

C. Agenda Modifications: None.

D. Announcements, Appointments and Presentations:

Audio starts at:
06:02:26

1. **Presentation:** Update from MRAC.

Doug Clevenger from MRAC spoke about the 4 phases of the plans to move forward. He explained the updated timeline of building and planning the proposed property to house the recreation events and inquired how the Council would like them to proceed.

Council asked questions and shared their thoughts including:

- Insurance limits.
- Funding options.

- Possible Resolution.
- ILA with School district.

Audio starts at:
07:01:28

2. **Appointments: AB24-08 – Motion M24-08** - A Motion Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Approving The Mayor's Appointment Of Justin Evans To The Civil Service Commission With A Term Ending April 6, 2024.

Councilmember McClimans moved to approve Motion M24-08.
Councilmember Baldwin seconded the Motion.

Motion M24-08 approved 7-0.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS, CITIZEN COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Audio starts at:
07:02:30

- A. Public Hearing: None.
- B. Citizen Comments: *For efficient use of city resources, comments will be a short summary and not verbatim. Video recordings will be uploaded to the city's YouTube channel and an audio recording to the state digital archives for review of all the comments.*

Chris Leier, 204916 Island Drive, Lake Tapps: Wanted to memorialize and thank outgoing Public Service Director Ryan Johnstone for all his hard work and great partnership.

Justin Evans, 17806 111th St Ct E: Thanked outgoing Public Service Director Ryan Johnstone for all he has done for the city.

Dan Decker, 20401 70th St E, Bonney Lake: Spoke on the poison fluoride in our drinking water.

Beverly Proby, 18819 68th Ave E, Bonney Lake: Spoke about the lack of funding for the Senior Center and how she would like to see the new councilmembers take action. She also reminded the Mayor about swearing in the new Senior Center Advisory Board Members on February 6, 2024.

- C. Correspondence: None.

Audio starts at:
07:16:09

III. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Finance Committee: Deputy Mayor Carter reported the Finance Committee met in person and virtually today at 5:00 p.m. The Committee went thru personnel updates and discussed and forwarded to tonight's consent agenda and AB24-10, and AB24-11 to a future meeting, and approved their minutes.

- B. Community Development Committee: Councilmember Swatman reported the Community Development Committee met in person and virtually on January 16, 2024. The Committee discussed and forwarded AB24-02 to a future meeting and approved their minutes.
- C. Public Safety Committee: Councilmember Baldwin reported the Public Safety Committee did not meet and is expected to have their next meeting in person and virtually at 3:30 p.m. on February 13, 2024.
- D. Other Reports: None.

Audio starts at:
6:14:56

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilmember McClimans moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Hubler said she would like to discuss items D and E that are on the Consent Agenda.

**Councilmember McClimans motioned to rescind his motion of approval.
Councilmember Baldwin seconded.**

Councilmember Hubler motioned for AB24 -07 and AB24-09 be pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to Full Council Issues as Item B and C. Councilmember Swatman seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7 – 0.

- A. **Approval of Corrected Minutes:** November 21, 2023, City Council Workshop, November 28, 2023, City Council Meeting, December 5, 2023, City Council Workshop And December 12, 2023, City Council Meeting.
- B. **Approval of Accounts Payable and Utility Refund Checks/Vouchers:**
Accounts Payable check/vouchers #96146 to #96159 in the amount of \$2,480.27.
Accounts Payable check/vouchers #96160 to #96188 in the amount of \$253,940.02. **Voids:** Check/Voucher #96030 – Name change, Reissue, Check/Voucher #96120 – printing error, Reissue.
- C. **Approval of Payroll:** No Advanced Materials.
- D. ~~**AB24-07 – Motion M24-07 – A Motion Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Authorizing Judge Daniels To Sign A Memorandum Of Understanding With Rainier Recovery Centers LLC For Behavioral Health And Community Court Liaison CPC, SUDPT, AAC. (Moved to Full Council Issues Item B).**~~

- E. ~~**AB24-09 – Motion M24-09**~~ – A Motion Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County Washington, Approving Agreement No. GRT24052 With The Washington State Office Of Public Defense For Simple Possession Advocacy And Representation (SPAR) Program Funding. (Moved to Full Council Issues Item C).

Councilmember Fullerton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as modified. Councilmember Baldwin seconded the motion.

Consent Agenda approved as modified 7 - 0.

Audio starts at:
6:17:03

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE ISSUES:

- A. **AB24-03 – Ordinance D24-03** - An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County Washington, Regrading Employee Leave Benefits; Amending Chapter 2.32 Of The Bonney Lake Municipal Code (BLMC) To Add A New Section 2.32.070 To Provide Longevity Leave For Non-Represented City Employees; Providing For Severability And Corrections; And Establishing An Effective Date.

Councilmember Swatman moved to approve Ordinance D24-03. Councilmember McClimans seconded the motion.

Council discussed and shared their concerns, including:

- Additional leave.
- Represented vs. non-represented.

Ordinance D24-03 approved 7 – 0.

VI. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ISSUES: None.

VII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ISSUES: None.

VIII. FULL COUNCIL ISSUES:

- A. **AB24-06 – Motion M24-06** - A Motion Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington Authorizing The Mayor To Sign The Interlocal Agreement Between The City Of Bonney Lake And City Of Sumner For The Coordination Of Cooperative Wastewater Services.

Councilmember Roach moved to approve Motion M24-06. Councilmember Hubler seconded the motion.

Council discussed and shared their concerns, including:

- Actual costs.
- Termination portion of contract.
- Cost analysis study.

Audio starts at:
7:35:14

Councilmember Swatman motioned to change the 10 year termination clause to 5 years. Councilmember McClimans seconded the motion.

**Motion to change the termination clause approved 6 – 1.
Deputy Mayor Carter voted no.**

**Councilmember Swatman motioned to approve M24-06 as amended.
Councilmember McClimans seconded the motion.**

**M24-06 approved as amended 5 – 2.
Deputy Mayor Carter and Councilmember McClimans voted no.**

Audio starts at:
8:16:16

- B. (Moved from Consent Agenda, Item D) **AB24-07 – Motion M24-07** - A Motion Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Authorizing Judge Daniels To Sign A Memorandum Of Understanding With Rainier Recovery Centers LLC For Behavioral Health And Community Court Liaison CPC, SUDPT, AAC.

**Councilmember McClimans moved to approve Motion M24-07.
Councilmember Baldwin seconded the motion.**

Council discussed and shared their concerns, including:

- Grant funding.
- Term end dates.

Motion M24-07 approved 7 – 0.

Audio starts at:
8:20:03

- C. (Moved from Consent Agenda, Item E) **AB24-09 – Motion M24-09** - A Motion Of The City Council Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County Washington, Approving Agreement No. GRT24052 With The Washington State Office Of Public Defense For Simple Possession Advocacy And Representation (SPAR) Program Funding.

**Councilmember McClimans moved to approve Motion M24-09.
Councilmember Baldwin seconded the motion.**

Council discussed and shared their concerns, including:

- Grant funding.
- Term end dates.

Motion M24-09 approved 7 – 0.

IX. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION: None.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:25 p.m. the Meeting was adjourned by Mayor McCullough with the common consent of the City Council.

Sadie A. Schaneman, CMC, City Clerk

Michael McCullough, Mayor

Items presented to Council at the January 23, 2024, Meeting for the record: None.

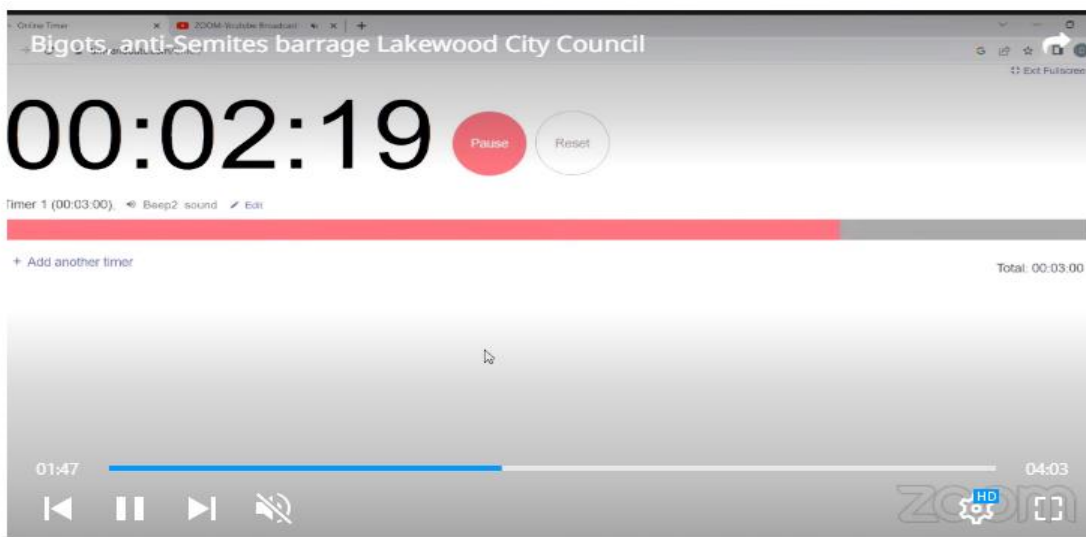
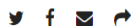
Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all documents submitted at City Council meetings and workshops are on file with the City Clerk. For detailed information on agenda items, please view the corresponding Agenda Packets, which are posted on the city website and on file with the City Clerk.

LOCAL

Callers spewing racism, defending Nazis hijack council meetings across Pierce County

BY CRAIG SAILOR

UPDATED DECEMBER 11, 2023 10:13 AM



In what appeared to be an organized effort, callers spouting anti-Semitic statements, bombarded the Lakewood City Council meeting on Dec. 4, 2023. BY PETE CASTER

City council meetings across Pierce County have been hijacked in the past week in what appears to be organized attempts to harass and intimidate elected officials. Callers with fake names and addresses have used public comment periods to make antisemitic and racist comments along with veiled references to violence.

Tacoma, Lakewood and Buckley city councils have all been prey for the callers as well as the Pierce County Council. It's part of a trend that's affecting other public meetings across the United States.

On Monday, Dec. 4, Lakewood Mayor Jason Whalen seemed caught off guard by the onslaught of callers who lined up virtually to speak. He eventually began shutting down the commenters when they veered into hate speech.

PATTERNS

The callers, most likely organizing their efforts somewhere on the internet, come en masse to each meeting.

They often begin cordially but become increasingly belligerent. Some begin by pretending to comment on whatever issue a council is discussing only to quickly segue into hate speech.

During a public comment period at a Pierce County Council meeting Tuesday, Dec. 5, a caller pretending to speak about a small business grant program instead launched into a diatribe against Black men. The caller seemed ready to be interrupted and when Council members Marty Campbell and Ryan Mello did so, the caller called them “(N-word) lovers.”

On Nov. 28, the Tacoma City Council was the victim of a hate call campaign. It was student government day, when City Hall is filled with dozens of high school students who sit in on council meetings and meet with leadership, according to city spokesperson Maria Lee.

During these organized hate speech efforts, some callers appeared to be reading from prepared statements, and others were adept at being extemporaneous. Some identify themselves as LGBTQ, Black or Jewish only to launch into hate speech against those groups. One caller to Tacoma’s meeting falsely stated he worked for animal control. Mayor Victoria Woodards quickly shut him down.

LAKEWOOD

Lakewood limits commenters to three minutes. They are asked to state their names and addresses. They are also required to confine their comments to issues [directly concerned with Lakewood](#). While the public can speak to the council in person, the city allows callers to speak via Zoom.

The Dec. 4 barrage began when a person who identified herself as Barbara of Lakewood and a member of the Jewish community read a list of inflammatory statements that were geared to cast Jews in an unfavorable light.

That pattern continued through the evening as callers made antisemitic and racist comments. Many of the commenters framed their hate speech as an exercise of free speech.

“Barbara” called for a city resolution to support the First Amendment.

“That way, all of these gentiles, mostly the white people of this nation, that are basically just forgotten about in their own country, have the right to speak up for themselves,” she said. “And they don’t have to resort to the Second Amendment.”

NATIONWIDE TREND

Like other callers, “Barbara” subscribed to a variety of conspiracy theories, including that the entire American news media is controlled by six Jewish individuals and that the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is trying to limit free speech at public meetings.

On its website, the [ADL acknowledges the trend of harassment](#).

“Extremists and bigots are using the public comment portion of these events, especially those with the option to call in virtually, to push antisemitic, white supremacist and anti-LGBTQ+ narratives,” it states.

The ADL says the trend has grown from tactics right-wing activists have employed at school board meetings to protest masking, vaccine mandates, transgender inclusive policies, LGBTQ-student support and other issues.

During Lakewood’s meeting, a person gave a name that sounded like “Jew destroyer” and claimed that the ADL sends directions to city councils on how to restrict free speech. “Judy Stroyer” then made threats about “spilling blood.”

“At what point do you think the next generation are going to turn on the baby boomers and knock you out, figuratively and literally,” the caller said.

BUCKLEY CITY COUNCIL

On Nov. 28, the [Buckley City Council](#) was hit by the same or similar group of callers, according to City Clerk Treva Percival. She estimated between five and 10 callers made antisemitic and bigoted comments via Zoom. Some also displayed visuals.

“The N-word specifically — happened more than once — they shouted during the meeting,” she said.

Mayor Beau Burkett told the callers that the council was only hearing comments on the 2024 budget.

“And that’s when they started showing stuff on the screen and yelling, and so then we just kicked them out of the Zoom meeting,” Percival said.

Buckley is looking into how to prevent a similar occurrence without infringing on free speech, Percival said.

SHUTTING THEM DOWN

After a man called in to the Lakewood meeting from South Dakota to complain about Washington state in general, Mayor Whalen reminded callers that they should address only issues in the city.

Caller “Richard” then gave a false address and launched into a Holocaust denial and pro-Hitler narrative.

At that point, Whelan had had enough.

“I just want to remind people that our rules do not allow unfettered hate speech,” he said. “This is public comment on matters pertaining to city business. So, I would encourage you to be constructive in your comments and not use this as a platform for your personal whim.”

Subsequent callers, including Lakewood resident Christina Manetti, expressed shock and dismay over the comments.

“I cannot bear to hear Holocaust denial in any place,” she said.

Things quickly went south again when a “Rudy Hess” called in. Rudolph Hess was a Nazi leader in World War II. The caller challenged Manetti’s comments until Whalen told him to confine his comments to city matters.

“Get to it,” Whalen said.

Hess then launched into anti-Jewish conspiracy theories.

“Madam clerk, shut him down,” Whalen said. The audio went silent.

Still, Whalen allowed subsequent callers to give discursive narratives on feminism, Marxism, climate change and antisemitism but did not end their comments.

“This is not going to be a forum for hate speech,” he said before finally ending the public comment period.

IN PERSON

The only in-person speaker in the council chambers then chastised Whalen for shutting down the online speakers. He was complaining about a permitting issue.

“Don’t conflate hate speech with reactions or responses to your particular personal situation,” Whalen told the speaker. “They are completely separate. We listen to you because you have something to say that relates to city business.”

Lakewood City Attorney Heidi Wachter is looking at how to handle future instances of hate speech, city spokeswoman Brynn Grimley said. Like other municipalities, Lakewood has to balance the right to free speech versus the curtailing of hate speech.

“We have the right to not listen to people who spew hate speech that are offensive to many of our residents in this city,” Whalen said Dec. 4. “It’s not just a matter of free speech. And you should know that.”

This story was originally published December 7, 2023, 5:30 AM.



CRAIG SAILOR



253-597-8541

Craig Sailor has worked for The News Tribune since 1998 as a writer, editor and photographer. He previously worked at The Olympian and at other newspapers in Nevada and California. He has a degree in journalism from San Jose State University.