

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

January 6, 2009
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES



"Where Dreams Can Soar"

The City of Bonney Lake's Mission is to protect the community's livable identity and scenic beauty through responsible growth planning and by providing accountable, accessible and efficient local government services.

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Audio Time
Stamp ↓

Call to Order:

Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr. called the Workshop to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: [A1.3]

City Clerk Edvalson called the roll. In addition to Mayor Johnson, elected officials attending were Deputy Mayor Swatman, Councilmember David Bowen, Councilmember Laurie Carter, Councilmember Dan Decker, Councilmember Mark Hamilton, Councilmember David King, and Councilmember James Rackley.

[Staff Members in attendance were City Administrator Don Morrison, Chief Financial Officer Al Juarez, Community Development Director John Vodopich, Police Chief Mike Mitchell, Community Services Director Gary Leaf, City Engineer John Woodcock, City Attorney Jim Dionne, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson and Records & Information Specialist Susan Duis.]

Agenda Items:

5:33:39

1. **Action: AB09-08 – Resolution 1912** – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Authorizing a Contract with the Bonney Lake Police Guild for a Labor Agreement Covering the Police Officers and Support Services.

Deputy Mayor Swatman moved to approve Resolution 1912. Councilmember Bowen seconded the motion.

Police Chief Mitchell reminded the Council of their previous discussion of the Guild contract in October, 2008. He said due to a misunderstanding, the contract process was not completed and is coming before the Council now for approval. He said there are a few changes from the contract reviewed in October, mostly due to updated information or errors in the original. For example, the insurance coverage had to be changed because the carrier eliminated some services. He said any changes would be ratified through Memorandums of Understanding with the Guild.

Chief Mitchell said the Police Department wages are about \$200 per month below the median for cities of similar size, and the new contract brings wages up to near the median range. Councilmember Decker asked if the department is satisfied with their insurance carrier. Chief Mitchell said they are happy with the coverage they receive. Mayor Johnson said he fully supports the three-year contract and congratulated the Chief for his hard work.

Motion approved 7 – 0.

5:38:31

2. **Discussion:** AB09-06 – Resolution 1910 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Opposing Proposition 1, Charter Code City.

Councilmember Carter said she submitted the item for discussion as the election for Proposition 1 is February 3, 2009. She said citizens have the right to vote on the issue, but said the amount of time and money required is too great, and there is no clear reason behind the proposition to change the form of government. City Attorney Dionne said the law gives councils the opportunity to express opposition or support for propositions in the form of a motion, resolution or ordinance, and the proposed resolution is an appropriate way to voice a majority opinion of the Council. He said those opposed to the proposed resolution have equal opportunity to speak, and Citizens also have an opportunity to speak on the issue.

Councilmember Decker asked how much time and money Councilmember Carter expects will be needed. Councilmember Carter referred to the information that has been provided by the City on its website. She said if Proposition 1 passes, the Charter Commissioners will have 180 days to write the charter, and the charter will come on the next ballot along with any new elected positions and any current positions that are up for election. She said citizens are expressing confusion and she wants to be sure they are getting the information they need. Councilmember Decker said the information the City has provided online is misleading. Mayor Johnson said the same document has been included by the Pierce County Auditor with election materials in print and online.

Councilmember Bowen said he will abstain from voting on proposed Resolution 1910, as he believes the people can vote without his recommendation. He said he feels that if he votes on Resolution 1910, it tells citizens that he wants them to vote a certain way. Councilmember Hamilton said he understands Councilmember Bowen's point but feels this situation is different from a park bond or an issue outside the City. He said it is important to clearly communicate to citizens that the Proposition did not come from the Council and whether the Council supports it. Councilmember Rackley and Mayor Johnson said citizens have asked them why the City initiated the proposition, why the City would spend money on this, etc., and have had to explain to citizens that this is not a Council-initiated proposition. Deputy Mayor Swatman agreed with Councilmember Hamilton. He said the Charter process is complicated, long and possibly costly.

Councilmember King spoke in favor of proposed Resolution 1910. He suggested rephrasing the sentences in section E. to declarative statements rather than questions, and eliminating a sentence about Charter Commissioners' qualifications. Deputy Mayor Swatman and Councilmembers Bowen, Carter, Hamilton and Rackley spoke in favor of Councilmember King's proposed revisions. Councilmember Carter suggested amending Section B to add language about the City Council: "This proposition is not necessary, was not initiated by the City Council, and the voters have already spoken regarding adoption of the council-manager plan of government."

Councilmember Decker said the proposed resolution refers to "Councilmember Decker's" petition, but the Charter proposition comes from two separate petitions with over 1,000 signatures. He said citizens will be concerned about how the Council has acted and acts in the future. Councilmember Carter said the City's resolution log shows that the Council has passed similar resolutions stating the Council's position on an issue

as far back as 1972. Councilmember consensus was to bring the proposed resolution forward to the January 13, 2009 Meeting for action.

5:59:19

3. **Council Open Discussion.**

Letter to the Editor

Mayor Johnson provided Councilmembers with his memo regarding a letter to the editor that was published in the January 7, 2009 Bonney Lake Courier Herald. He said he wanted the Council to be aware and to get all the facts.

Federal Stimulus Package

Councilmember Bowen asked for an update on projects submitted for possible federal stimulus package funding. Mayor Johnson said several items were submitted and the Puget Sound Regional Council will qualify and rank area projects at their meeting next week. Councilmember Bowen said citizens asked him if sewer projects in Easttown were submitted. City Administrator Morrison said they were not, as they are still in the design phase and not ready for construction. He added that this project would not create as many jobs as others.

Snow Removal

Councilmember Hamilton congratulated Public Works staff for dealing with the recent snowfall. He said the City roads were in good shape, but the County roads, where deicer mix was used, were in better condition. Mayor Johnson said Director Grigsby is working with the County on a possible agreement for maintaining major roads in future snowstorms. Mayor Johnson said there was great communication between Public Works, the Police Department and City Hall during the storms, and Bonney Lake was better off than other cities in the area. Deputy Mayor Swatman also thanked staff, and said he is glad they are looking at other options to improve road conditions. He said many small businesses in the City did a better job clearing sidewalks, entrances, and parking lots than large stores did after the snow. Mayor Johnson said he would add something to the newsletter, and asked Chief Mitchell to bring up snow clearing issues with business owners during their next regular meeting. Mayor Johnson also thanked local business Corliss Redi-Mix for providing sand to Public Works crews when they ran out late at night during the storm. Councilmember Decker said the staff did a great job clearing roads without using salt, which is very corrosive and damaging to vehicles.

Speed Limit Sign

Councilmember Rackley said one speed limit sign on Myers Road was changed to 30 MPH, but another still reads 25 MPH. John Woodcock said he would work on the error.

Council Retreat

Councilmember Carter asked about plans for the Council Retreat, noting that the AWC Legislative Action Conference is on February 18-19, 2009. City Administrator Morrison said he planned to wait until after the Special Election and AWC conference, and asked Council to provide feedback on possible dates and locations.

Sidewalk Grant

Councilmember Carter congratulated the City on the recently announced grant award for sidewalks along SR 410 in Midtown. She said she received a lot of positive feedback from citizens. Mayor Johnson thanked staff for their hard work and said the City received well over \$2 million in grant funds recently. Councilmember Decker

asked if the speed limit would be lowered once the sidewalk is installed. City Engineer Woodcock said the State decides speed limits, and the City can ask the State to evaluate highway speeds. He said the sidewalk will be installed past the roadway and shoulder, and likely would not lead to a change in the speed limit on 410.

Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet

Councilmember Carter reminded Councilmembers of the upcoming Chamber of Commerce awards banquet on January 31, 2009.

Police Chase

Councilmember Carter congratulated the Police Department for their participation in the successful high-speed chase in Puyallup on January 2, 2008.

Emergency Operations Center

City Administrator Morrison attended a joint emergency management meeting earlier in the day regarding the heavy rains expected in the next two days. He said the City has been asked to activate the Emergency Operations Center on the morning of January 7, 2009 to support Sumner's emergency management efforts. He said the City will help Sumner and Orting with sandbagging and said there is some chance of landslides in the Bonney Lake area.

Planning Commission Updates

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the first joint meeting between the Council and Planning Commission is January 20, 2009. He asked Councilmembers to think of potential items for the Planning Commission work plan. He suggested looking at townhomes, minimum density in R-2 and R-3 zones, and where to allow Accessory Dwelling Units.

Annexation Study

Councilmember Rackley asked for an update on the annexation study. Director Vodopich said the draft study is under review, and the City Administrator and Chief Financial Officer are working on the economic portion. He said the consultants working on the study (AHBL) will probably brief the Council on the study in February. Councilmember Decker asked when the City will reach a population of 25,000 or more, as the City will become responsible for maintaining SR 410 at that point. Director Vodopich said the annexation process depends on study results, Council action, and elections, and may take several years.

6:20:50

4. **Review of Council Minutes:** November 25, 2008 Council Meeting, December 2, 2008 Council Workshop, December 9, 2008 Council Meeting and December 16, 2008 Council Workshop.

Councilmember Carter complimented the City Clerk's office on the content of the meeting minutes, and said she had no corrections to offer. By consensus of the Council, the minutes were moved forward for approval at the January 13, 2009 Meeting.

5. ~~**Discussion:** AB09-11 D09-11 Building Height Definition.~~
This item was pulled from the agenda, to be discussed at a future workshop.
6. ~~**Discussion:** AB09-12 D09-12 Permit Extensions.~~

This item was pulled from the agenda, to be discussed at a future workshop.

6:21:30

7. **Discussion:** AB09-13 – Parliamentary Rules for Boards and Commissions.

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Edvalson asked the Council for input on adopting parliamentary rules for the City's appointed boards and commissions. Mayor Johnson said the Park Board will begin holding meetings in the Council Chambers and record all meetings, like the Council, Planning Commission and Design Commission. The City Clerk asked for input on whether the boards and commissions should be required to use the same parliamentary rules and procedures as the Council.

Councilmember Decker spoke in support of making Sturgis' Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures the standard for all boards and commissions. Councilmember Bowen spoke against requiring use of the Procedures. He said people can use them to make mischief, dominate meetings and bully others. Councilmember Decker said all councils, board and commissions are required by law to use some procedure; City Attorney Dionne said there is no legal requirement to use a particular set of procedures.

The City Attorney advised using the Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures as a guide for boards and commissions, which would help them resolve issues and have efficient meetings. Council consensus was to make the Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures a guide for appointed boards and commissions, but not a requirement. In addition, consensus was to provide boards and commissions with a copy of the procedures book (or excerpts) and a training seminar on meeting procedures.

6:33:55

8. **Discussion:** AB09-15 – D09-15 – Updates to the Floodplain Code.

Director Vodopich said a representative from the Department of Ecology visited the City and deemed the floodplain code inadequate. He said since the City participates in the National Flood Insurance program, he's recommending that the Council repeals the old code and adopts the State's model floodplain code by ordinance. Councilmember King asked what areas of Bonney Lake are most affected by the floodplain code. Director Vodopich said areas near Fennel Creek apply, and there are only about 15 flood insurance policies in effect in the City currently. He said it's important to keep the code up to date and consistent to avoid problems with floodplain insurance.

Councilmember King said as the City grows, staff are kept very busy simply keeping things functioning, and do not have time to go through the code to keep elements up to date when new state and federal regulations come into effect. He recommended the City initiate a procedure to review sections of the municipal code on a schedule. Director Vodopich agreed, and said Community Development staff started a list of portions of the code that need to be cleaned up. City Administrator Morrison agreed and hopes to set up a process to identify and prioritize code updates. He said it will take some time to review all the municipal code, but it is essential. Council consensus was to forward D09-15 to the January 13, 2009 meeting.

6:42:26

9. **Executive Session:**

Pursuant to ~~RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)~~ and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) the City Council adjourned

to an Executive Session with the City Attorney at 6:43 p.m. for fifteen minutes to discuss current litigation. The Workshop reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

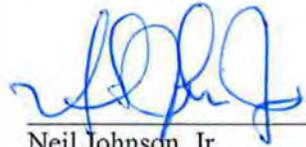
7:03:03

10. **Adjournment:**

At 7:03 p.m., Councilmember Rackley moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Bowen seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7 – 0.



Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC
City Clerk

Neil Johnson, Jr.
Mayor

Items submitted to the Council meeting of January 6, 2009:

- City of Bonney Lake – *Memo from Mayor Johnson to Council Members re: Budget Status* – Mayor Neil Johnson.