

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

**July 21, 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.

Website: www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us

Audio Time
Stamp ↓

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

II. Roll Call: [A1.3]
Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Edvalson called the roll. In addition to Mayor Johnson, elected officials attending were Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, Councilmember David Bowen, Councilmember Laurie Carter, Councilmember Dan Decker, Councilmember Mark Hamilton and Councilmember James Rackley. Councilmember David King was absent.

[Staff Members in attendance were City Administrator Don Morrison, Chief Financial Officer Al Juarez, Police Chief Mike Mitchell, Public Works Director Dan Grigsby, Assistant Public Works Director Charlie Simpson, Community Services Director Gary Leaf, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson and Records & Information Specialist Susan Duis.]

Councilmember Rackley moved to excuse Councilmember King. Councilmember Carter seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6 – 0.

III. Agenda Items:

5:31:20

A. Council Open Discussion:

Water Supply & Rates

Councilmember Bowen asked whether the city notifies customers about summer rates, noting past complaints about high bills. Mayor Johnson said there are complaints each year and the city staff helps explain the summer rates and how increased consumption from water lawns, etc. affects utility bills.

Director Grigsby said the city only posts the water conservation signs in a true emergency. He said if they are posted regularly during the summer, people will not pay attention to them when they are posted for a water line break, severe shortage, or other emergency. Mayor Johnson added that the water bills fund the city's water system and are an important revenue source for the city.

Eastown Sewer Updates

Councilmember Bowen said he has spoken with two residents in Eastown who would like to install septic systems on their property in order to develop their parcels. They would like to know if the Council would consider them allowing to install septic, with the understanding that when sewer service is available in Eastown they would hook up and pay their fair share. Councilmembers discussed the options available to property owners who are waiting for sewer service, and

regulations against installing septic systems for commercial development. Deputy Mayor Swatman said it is important to look at the issue from a policy standpoint, and whether the Council wishes to allow hodge-podge development on septic systems around Eastown rather than as part of a larger development plan. Councilmember Rackley said he would add the item to the Community Development Committee agenda for discussion and policy suggestions. Councilmember Bowen said the property owners feel they are being held hostage by the delayed sewer system installation. He said if they are denied the option to install septic systems, they would like the City to develop a firm timeline for sewer service construction.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment Applications

Deputy Mayor Swatman asked for information on the WSU forest Comprehensive Plan amendment application, noting the Planning Commission held a presentation on applications on July 15, 2009. Councilmember Carter said she listened to the audio recording of the meeting, where all three applications were discussed. She said the draft environmental impact statement should be ready by early August for public comment, and the Planning Commission plans to schedule hearings and discussions in mid-August. Councilmember Carter said she hopes the City will provide copies of the various applications for public review at City Hall and elsewhere, as in previous years.

Legal Counsel

Deputy Mayor Swatman noted the City Attorney was not in attendance at the workshop. Mayor Johnson said there was no executive session planned and it was not felt he needed to attend, noting the City pays to have an attorney attend Council meetings and workshops.

Garbage Service Fines

Councilmember Decker said citizens have spoken with him regarding garbage service fines. He said they propose that because the city's code requires regular garbage service, if D.M. Disposal trucks do not pick up garbage from people who have not paid their bills, D.M. would be violating the municipal code. He said because liens are filed against delinquent accounts, the company will get its money later so it must provide service. Deputy Mayor Swatman said the Finance Committee is discussing garbage fines, and has proposed that the city not pursue liens. He said the city is negotiating with D.M. on various options to for payments on delinquent accounts.

Budget Updates

Deputy Mayor Swatman said the July 14, 2009 Finance Committee meeting was very lively, and the members are very concerned about the budget. Mayor Johnson said his meeting with the Police guild and union was rescheduled to July 29, 2009. City Administrator Morrison said he will be meeting with Community Development staff on Thursday, July 23rd, as well. Mayor Johnson said sales tax figures for March and April were up slightly, though they are 17% below the previous year's revenues. Councilmembers discussed the economic conditions and expectations for the coming months. Chief Financial Officer Juarez said based on June figures, he thinks the economic downturn may have bottomed out. He said he will continue to update the 6-year financial model each month for review. Councilmembers said the economy will recover very slowly and decisions must

be made about the future budget. Councilmember Carter thanked the CFO and his staff for their work to keep the Council and citizens informed about the status of the budget.

Special Events

Councilmember Carter said the Missoula Children's Theater productions on July 18, 2009 were wonderful. She said attendance at Kids Club at Cedarview on Tuesdays is high, with 300 participants earlier in the day. She reminded everyone that Tunes @ Tapps is on Wednesday nights, Friday Night Flix begins on July 28, Wooden 'O' Theatre is August 2, and National Night Out is August 4, 2009. Councilmembers Carter and Rackley and Mayor Johnson said they plan to attend National Night Out activities. Chief Mitchell said NNO is somewhat different this year, with several smaller gatherings in communities and activities at Cedarview Park.

Deputy Mayor Swatman asked about the city's participation in Beautify Bonney Lake this year. He said BBL is a non-profit and should seek funding from various partners, and the City should minimize its expenditures. Community Services Director Gary Leaf said this year only Community Services staff would take part in the event, and Public Works staff would not be used and work overtime as in past years. He said the City will provide fewer resources, though a recent \$1,500 gift card from Home Depot and other funding resources will help the 2009 event. He said the city also received a \$5,000 grant from the Mukcleshoot Indian Tribe for Tunes @ Tapps, and local businesses help sponsor other events.

Councilmember Carter suggested the city could consider asking for donations at free special events, or help with gas money for the Senior Center shuttle, etc. She said the donations would be voluntary, but could help mitigate costs so the city does not have to cut programs. Mayor Johnson said he feels that community programs should be the last thing cut. He said these free events and activities are very important for the community, and encouraged ideas to cut costs or increase funding.

Upcoming Community Meetings

Councilmember Rackley said he plans to attend a meeting on water quality and river dredging this week. Councilmember Carter said she plans to attend the Puyallup River Watershed Council Forum on July 22nd, and a Water Garden workshop in Buckley on July 25th.

Posted Signs

Councilmember Carter said she has seen many signs for businesses recently posted off-site on poles, trees, etc. She said she notified the Community Development Department and the Code Enforcement Officer will be removing the illegal signs

6:37:51

B. Review of Council Minutes: July 7, 2009 Council Workshop and July 14, 2009 Council Meeting.

Councilmember Carter asked the July 7, 2009 Workshop minutes, p. 3, be revised from "approval to replace" to "approval to line" the other tanks. The Minutes were forwarded to the July 28, 2009 Meeting for approval with corrections.

6:38:41

C. Discussion: AB09-116 - Sewer SDC Rate for Multi-Family Housing.

Public Works Director Grigsby said the Council briefly discussed System Development Charges (SDCs) for multi-family residences at the July 7th workshop. He said the FCS Group consultants used an average rate of 73% for multi-family units for calculations in their SDC study. The city currently charges the same rate for multi-family units as single-family residential units, but could charge a different rate if Council so chooses. He provided the Council with information on SDCs and sewer rates in other cities, including Sumner. He said other cities that use a special multi-family rate charge between 57% to 80%, and the consultants found only one city that charged SDC rates based on the number of bedrooms.

Director Grigsby said the Council asked why Sumner's SDC fees are so much lower than Bonney Lake's at the previous workshop. He said he has reviewed Sumner's fee structure and found that they do not have a cap on water use for calculating sewer charges, while Bonney Lake caps water consumption at 10 ccfs. The maximum rate is therefore higher for Sumner customers. In addition, Sumner charges more for sewer customers outside city limits. Sumner also has higher utility taxes overall. He said though these may seem like small differences, the charges accrue each month for all customers and can add up quickly. Councilmembers discussed rates and future concerns for expanding the Sumner Sewer Treatment facility. Deputy Mayor Swatman says there are both practical and political concerns involved, and both cities should be preparing for future facility expansion needs.

Councilmembers next discussed multi-family rate options. Mayor Johnson said a lower SDC rate for multi-family units could serve as an incentive for multi-family development, which the city needs. Councilmember Hamilton suggested a substantially reduced SDC fee which would sunset after a few years, to encourage development now. Council consensus was to bring forward an ordinance setting multi-family SDC rates at 65% for a period of three years. Director Grigsby said he would bring the proposal to the July 28, 2009 Meeting.

7:08:02

D. Discussion: AB09-117 - Cancellation of August 4th Council Workshop.

Councilmember Carter said National Night Out will be held during a regularly scheduled Workshop on August 4, 2009. She suggested the Council cancel the workshop so councilmembers can participate in events around the city.

**Councilmember Rackley moved to cancel the August 4, 2009 Workshop.
Councilmember Decker seconded the motion.**

Motion approved 7 – 0.

Mayor Johnson noted the Ball Park Well tour has been scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Bowen and Rackley and Deputy Mayor Swatman plan to participate in the tour.

IV. Executive Session: None.

7:09:23

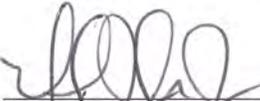
V. Adjournment:

**At 7:09 p.m., Councilmember Rackley moved to adjourn the workshop.
Councilmember Decker seconded the motion.**

Motion approved 7 – 0.



Harwood T. Edvalson, CMC
City Clerk



Neil Johnson, Jr.
Mayor

Items submitted to the Council Workshop of July 21, 2009: *None.*