

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL
MEETING – PLANNING
RETREAT**

**February 21, 2015
8:30 A.M.**



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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MINUTES

Location: C.I. Shenanigans, 3017 Ruston Way, Tacoma, Washington and Duke’s, 3327 Ruston Way, Tacoma, Washington

I. CALL TO ORDER – The Council and staff were served breakfast at 8:40 a.m. Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr. called the business portion of the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

A. In attendance: Mayor Johnson, Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, Councilmember Mark Hamilton, Councilmember Donn Lewis, Councilmember Randy McKibbin, Councilmember Katrina Minton-Davis, Councilmember James Rackley, and Councilmember Tom Watson.

Staff members in attendance were City Administrator Don Morrison, Community Development Director John Vodopich, Police Chief Dana Powers, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Harwood Edvalson, Chief Financial Officer Cherie Gibson, Assistant Public Works Director Charles Simpson, Court Administrator Kathy Seymour and Facilities and Special Projects Manager Gary Leaf.

II. MEETING AGENDA:

A. How to Make Toast – An exercise in Systems Thinking.

City Administrator Don Morrison played a short TED video demonstrating a process for developing nodes and links in a systems model for decision making.

B. Vision Update – Parks and Community Center.

Using a large scale printout of the Council’s current vision statement related to parks and a community center, the Council used the “making-toast” systems model to identify essential elements and changes to the vision statement. The vision statement was broken down into the following six representative concepts: parks, community center/recreation center, trails, recreation, open space, and finally, special events. After Council discussion, it was determined that City Administrator Morrison would take the feedback given regarding the six representative statements and propose to the Council a refined vision statement for future discussion.

C. Vision Update – Transportation.

The Council followed the same process used in the previous vision statement to give descriptions of their vision related to transportation as represented by the following concepts: streets, corridors, public transportation, non-motorized transportation, streetscapes, as well as, street lights. Based on the pattern established with the first vision statement, City Administrator Morrison took the Council’s comments for further development of a draft updated vision statement.

- D. Recap of 2013-2014 Biennium; Caveats for 2015-2016 Biennium; Forecast for 2017-2018 Biennium.

Finance Director Gibson and City Administrator Morrison reviewed the ending General Fund balance for the past biennium with the City Council. They noted that the expenditures were very close to the adjusted budget allocations. They also noted that with some revenue assumptions coming to fruition in the current biennium they felt comfortable projecting a balanced budget at the close of the 2015-2016 Biennium. They expressed concern for the 2017-2018 biennium, suggesting the Council would need to consider new sources of revenue, or be prepared to make some changes or cuts to current service levels.

Running slightly ahead of their planned schedule for the retreat, the City Council took the opportunity to expand their discussion regarding revenue sources. They discussed the concepts of contracting services to other jurisdictions, possible new sources of revenue and the need to develop a plan now. There was a consensus that the City's core identity and mission should not be diluted as service cuts may be considered, and that new revenue sources will require public engagement.

At 12:30 p.m., the City Council recessed their meeting for lunch. The meeting discussion started again at 1:30 p.m.

- E. Post Inaugural Review of the Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) Meetings and the Economic Development Committee.

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Edvalson facilitated a discussion with the Council about the expansion of the Council Finance Committee meetings into a special meeting of the Council known as the Committee-of-the-Whole. The Council discussed the origin and the purpose of the special meetings and concluded to take finance-related items that would have generally been discussed at the Finance Committee/COW meeting to the regularly scheduled workshops. The Finance Committee will continue to perform its function to review the expenditure vouchers/checks, and will meet as needed to consider personnel and other items not requiring the initial attention of the full Council.

City Administrator Morrison led the Council in a review of the accomplishments of the Economic Development Committee. The Council remains supportive of the Committee in its current structure, but can envision a change in the future which might reshape the Committee to include representation from the business community.

- F. Vision Update – Community Outreach.

Following the same format as the other vision update items on the agenda, the City Council wrote their brief thoughts about community outreach focusing on the following representative concepts: outreach, access, engagement, participation, transparency and sense-of-community. The Council directed that the vision statement be renamed to "community engagement" or some name other than outreach. The City Administrator was again tasked with synthesizing a new vision statement for the Council to consider.

G. General Council Discussion.

1. Revenue Sources. The City Council discussed possible new revenue sources and encouraged staff to research a Transportation Benefit District, reviewing the potential for bringing business licensing back in-house and requiring that all businesses doing business within the City of Bonney Lake be required to have a local business license. Creative uses of the water/sewer/storm water utilities to accomplish some needed improvements in the City was also discussed.

2. City properties. The City Council discussed the current state of the Reed Farm and prior direction to sell the house and a portion of the property. They also asked that the Mayor and staff have discussions with the Food Bank about the use of the City's building and the plans for relocation to allow for the demolition of the existing building.

3. Status of UGA and Joint Planning with Pierce County. City Administrator Morrison and Community Development Director Vodopich updated the City Council on the current status of the City's requested urban growth area changes and the joint-planning efforts with Pierce County. The Council was reminded of the County Executive, Pat McCarthy's direction that no further joint-planning on these issues occur prior to resolution of a dispute with the City over the relocation of water lines in 198th Ave. E.

At 4:45 p.m., the City Council recessed in order to change the venue and reconvene at Duke's for a retreat summary dinner. The Council reconvened at 5:30 p.m. for the dinner meeting. Councilmember Rackley participated in the earlier portion of the retreat, but did not attend the dinner.

H. Retreat Summary Dinner. The City Council held their retreat summary dinner and had small group discussions on issues related to the retreat.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

At approximately 7:30 p.m., the City Council adjourned the planning retreat by common consent.


Harwood Edvalson, MMC
City Clerk


Neil Johnson, Jr.
Mayor

Items presented to Council at the February 21, 2015 Special Meeting:

- Don Morrison, City of Bonney Lake – *Retreat Agenda Packet.*

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.