

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL
MEETING – PLANNING
RETREAT**

**January 23, 2016
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 8:30 a.m. Mayor Neil Johnson, Jr. called the business portion of the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

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

II. MEETING AGENDA:

A. Introduction to Retreat and Council Background.

City Administrator Don Morrison briefly outlined the proposed agenda for the day's working session. He then invited the City Council and Mayor to briefly share their motivations for running for office and what they hoped to accomplish in the remaining months of their terms. Most of the elected officials used a few minutes to describe their interests.

B. City's Goals and Projects – Visioning and Update of List from 2015.

Pursuant to discussion at the prior Council workshop, City Administrator Morrison presented an updated list of twenty-five of the Council's Goals and Projects. He asked the Council to suggest updates and new items to add to the list.

Councilmember Evans pointed to the percentage makeup of the General Fund for the Police Department, and suggested a review of the department during the upcoming biennial budget process. Councilmember Minton-Davis spoke of the need to establish an identity for Bonney Lake that would attract tourism and make Bonney Lake a destination. She mentioned the possibility of a minor-league baseball team in the City.

Councilmember Watson addressed the need for improved transportation and remediation of traffic congestion on SR410. Councilmember Minton-Davis suggested the removal of the historical museum as a development goal for the City. She urged continued support of the historical society, but felt it was not the City's responsibility to locate or provide a permanent home/museum. She felt the City should develop a policy addressing how the City will support community organizations. The Council concluded with a discussion

about annexations, comprehensive urban growth areas and water rights. At the conclusion of their discussion, the Councilmembers “voted” on individual items of interest to establish priorities for the Council.

C. Budget and Finance Presentation and Discussion.

Chief Financial Officer Cherie Gibson reviewed the latest version of the City’s financial forecast. She noted the stress on the City’s finances while waiting to sell property previously declared surplus by the Council. City Administrator Morrison noted the administration’s reduced operating expenditures in 2015 by approximately one million dollars. Councilmember Swatman expressed concern that the City would balance its operating budget on the sale of a surplus property. He added there appears to be significant gaps between anticipated expenditures and revenues in the 2017-2018 biennium.

The Council discussed new sources of revenue to support the service levels provided by the City. Discussion centered on a transportation benefit district. A majority of the Council expressed interest in moving forward with a transportation benefit district. The Council also discussed the potential for pending development to have a positive impact on revenues in future years.

D. The Legislative Agenda of the City.

The City Council discussed a list of items/issues for a legislative agenda. From the draft list, they concluded by common consent to remove the Urban Growth Area amendments and the annexation of Tehaleh from the legislative agenda. It was acknowledged that work will continue on those issues at a staff level. The Council invited Mr. Shawn Bunney, representing Tehaleh and having previous experience on the Pierce County Council, to address the Council from the audience on his knowledge related to the Rhodes Lake Road corridor as a future means of access/egress to and from the plateau area. Mr. Bunney expressed confidence that this was still the main plan anticipated to enhance travel between the plateau and valley.

At 12:30 p.m., the City Council recessed their meeting for lunch. The meeting discussion started again at 1:15 p.m.

E. Merger of the Public Works and Community Development Departments/Other reclassifications.

City Administrator Morrison outlined the Mayor’s proposed reorganization combining the Public Works and Community Development Departments into a Department of Public Services. He explained the general purpose for the reorganization as follows:

1. To increase staffing flexibility to mix and match skill sets as needed to meet workload demands;
2. To focus more attention on public works operations to further improve operating systems to meet service demands;
3. To improve infrastructure communication, coordination and staff utilization by putting all infrastructure development (public and private) under a single umbrella;

4. To streamline operations and reduce the number of direct reports; and
5. To dedicate engineering support to the operating utilities.

City Administrator Morrison explained that two additional positions are proposed for changes in their salary ranges. He explained that the administration would like to give greater responsibility to Susan Haigh, the current Records and Information Specialist, by reinstating the position of Deputy City Clerk. He noted that she had recently completed a Master's Degree in records and archives management. The other salary range to be moved is for the position held by Human Resources Manager, Jenna Richardson. Administrator Morrison explained that her position had originally been incorporated into the organization's table of positions at a lower range than was general for similar positions in comparable cities. He said that the duties of the administration public information officer are also being added to her position, further justifying recognition in an increased salary range. He added that details would first be submitted to the Finance Committee before further action of the Council.

F. New Public Works Center.

City Administrator Morrison described the current planning for a new public works center. The Council reviewed the options before them and by majority consensus expressed a desire to finalize and move forward with the 96th St. site, as well as taking advantage of the continuing low interest rates for bonds to complete the projects. Administrator Morrison indicated that the size of the administrative building would be reviewed in light of the department reorganization discussed earlier.

G. Economic Development – WSU Forest/Tarragon/Visconsi.

City Administrator Morrison discussed some of the proposals being put forward by developers of the WSU Forest property. The Council discussed possible inducements to encourage the proposed developments.

H. The Future of Parks and Recreation in Bonney Lake.

Mayor Johnson briefed the Council regarding ongoing discussions with the Sumner School District about the tripartite recreation agreement and how it may be modified in the future to better address the needs of the participating entities. These changes may impact the City's plans for Allan Yorke and Midtown Parks. He advised putting further development of these parks on hold until conversations and decisions are made regarding the joint park and recreation program.

At 3:40 p.m., the City Council recessed in order to change the venue and reconvene at Duke's for a retreat summary dinner. Less than a quorum of the City Council participated at 5:30 p.m. for the dinner portion of the meeting. In attendance were Mayor Johnson, Deputy Mayor McKibbin and Councilmembers Evans and Lewis. City Administrator Morrison and Community Development Director Vodopich also participated.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Without a Council quorum present at the retreat summary dinner, the special meeting concluded at 3:40 p.m. by common consent.



Haywood Edvalson, MMC
City Clerk



Neil Johnson, Jr.
Mayor

Items presented to Council at the January 23, 2016 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.