

**NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 13, 2012
Finance Committee Minutes**

Meeting Call to Order: 6:02 PM

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Don Stevens, Councilors Charles Pace, Jennifer Stratton-Pies, Patience Udall, Jerry Arthurs, and Mike Baker

Absent:

Staff Present: Clerk / Treasurer / Administrator John Spencer

Unfinished Business

2013 Budget

John reviewed the 2013 budget and remaining issues. Discussion ensued regarding staffing and tax and rate increases.

New Business

Adjournment

6:55



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 13, 2012
Minutes

Meeting Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Roll Call

Present	Mayor Don Stevens, Councilors Charles Pace, Mike Baker, Patience Udall, Jerry Arthurs and Jennifer Stratton-Pies
Absent	
Staff Present	Clerk / Treasurer / Administrator John Spencer, City Attorney Ken Woodrich

Guests Present

Approximately 15 guests were present, including Robert Waymire of the Skamania Economic Development Commission (EDC), Casey Roberts of the Chamber, John Nelson of Nellie's Pies, Brad Anderson Chair of the EDC.

Agenda Changes and Additions

Don asked to move Robert Waymire before the Public Hearings.

Councilor Baker asked to add Mayor Pro-Tem vote to the agenda at the beginning of new business.

Councilor Pace asked for a discussion on replacing council members.

Councilor Pace asked to separate payroll from the consent agenda.

Guest Presentations

Robert Waymire – EDC

Robert provided a presentation on Skamania Economic Development Commission services. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed contract and services.

Public Hearings

Resolution 450 – Property Tax Levy

Mayor Stevens reopened the public hearing on Resolution 450.

No comments were made.

Hearing closed.

Ordinance 1015 – Water/Sewer Rates

Mayor Stevens open the public hearing on Ordinance 1015.
John provided an overview of the ordinance.
Cheryl Jermann – Spoke in favor of the ordinance.
Hearing Closed.

Ordinance 1016 – Utility Tax Rate

Mayor Stevens open the public hearing on Ordinance 1016.
John provided an overview of ordinance 1016.
Cheryl Jermann – Asked what the total increase will be.
Rob Babcock – Asked for clarification on the total increase.
Jim Runkles – Spoke in favor of the ordinance.
Hearing closed.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included the 10/2/12 Council Minutes, 10/23/12 Council Minutes, October Payroll and 11/13/12 Vouchers.

- **Councilor Stratton-Pies moved to approve the October Payroll; 2nd by Councilor Udall.**

Councilor Pace stated that the CBA requires part-time employee’s benefits be pro-rated. Mayor Stevens pointed out that the CBA does not recognize the existence of a ½-time position for the Deputy Clerk, thus leaving the city no option but provide full-time benefits to her. Discussion ensued.

Yes	Councilors Udall and Baker
No	Councilors Pace and Stratton-Pies
Abstain	Councilor Arthurs
Failed	2 – 2 – 1

- **Councilor Pace moved to approve the payroll except for the accrual of leave for the Deputy Clerk position.**

Discussion ensued regarding the proper way to formulate this motion.
Failed for lack of a 2nd.

- **Councilor Arthurs moved to approve the entire October payroll, with the Deputy Clerk’s benefits pro-rated; 2nd by Councilor Baker.**

Yes	Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Pace and Stratton-Pies
No	Councilor Udall
Passed	4 – 1

- **Councilor Baker moved to approve the rest of the consent agenda; 2nd by Councilor Stratton-Pies.**

Councilor Pace asked a couple questions regarding vouchers.

Yes	Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Pace, Udall and Stratton-Pies
No	
Passed	5 – 0

Public Comment

Dianne Hamilton – Thanked John for the various attachments he added to the council packets. She also praised the budget format. She expressed frustration in her inability to contact all council members to discuss city issues and asked how best to contact

council members.

Cheryl Jermann – Expressed frustration that the public is not always fully informed of issues before the council.

Council Member Comments

Councilor Arthurs – Announced that he is resigning as of November 14th; he expressed disappointment that he is unable to do more for the city and that he hasn't received adequate financial reports from staff. He recommended the approval of budgets by line-item.

Councilor Udall – Asked why the council doesn't approve the budget by line-item. Discussion ensued. She thanked Councilor Arthurs for his time and effort. She also expressed her conflicted feelings regarding the payroll vote. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Baker – Thanked Councilor Arthurs for his time on council. He also thanked the audience for their support of the rate increase.

Councilor Stratton-Pies – Thanked Councilor Arthurs for his work. She noted that the planning commission had no quorum for its last meeting.

Councilor Pace – Referred to the November newsletter article regarding council protocol and expressed concern about the council meetings getting out-of-hand if conversation with the public was allowed. He also expressed:

- Concern about the mechanics of a line-item budget,
- His opinions regarding parts of the draft water system plan,
- Dissatisfaction with the departure of Councilor Arthurs, and
- Concern regarding the planning commission and heritage trails issues that Jim Runkles brought up at the last meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report

John provided the report in written format, and discussed the following:

- Whether the council would like to set an Exempt Meeting regarding labor negotiations. Discussion ensued.
Consensus to hold an exempt meeting regarding labor negotiations on Tuesday, November 20th.
- Clarified discussion from last meeting: there are no plans to change the entrance sign. A sign reading "The Bigfoots Welcome You" has been ordered for placement beneath the Grand Elder.
- 2011 Audit is complete except for internal review. We anticipate it to be a clean audit with one finding regarding the city's low fund balances.
- Chamber report was attached to his report late.
- October financials were attached late as well:
 - Reconciliation problems largely resolved.
 - Property Tax suspiciously high – almost 5% more than assessed. Have asked for review.

Discussion ensued.

Attorney Report

None.

Unfinished Business

Resolution 450 – Property Tax Levy

- **Councilor Baker moved to approve resolution 450; 2nd by Councilor Udall**
Councilor Pace expressed dissatisfaction with the level of justification for the property tax increase. Discussion ensued.

Yes **Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Udall and Stratton-Pies**
No **Councilor Pace**
Passed **4 – 1**

Councilor Stratton-Pies left the meeting at about 8:40 PM.

Nellie’s Sign Request

John Nelson asked for permission to put a sign on the white sign out by Highway 14. Discussion ensued.

- **Councilor Arthurs moved to approve the sign contingent on sign relocation in an acceptable manner to both the city and the Department of Transportation, and that it be made to be usable by multiple businesses; 2nd by Councilor Baker.**

Discussion ensued.

Consensus that specific location can be sited by the planner.

Yes **Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Udall and Pace**
No
Passed **4 – 0**

Residency Requirement for Council

John provided background, suggesting that the council could put it in the code of ethics.

Consensus to drop this issue

New Business

New Mayor Pro-Tem

- **Councilor Baker moved to designate Councilor Stratton-Pies as Mayor Pro-Tem; 2nd by Councilor Udall.**

Discussion ensued.

Yes **Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Udall and Pace**
No
Passed **4 – 0**

Ordinance 1013 – Year End Budget Adjustment

John provided background.

Baker asked for further explanations on revenues and increased expenditures.

Discussion ensued.

- **Councilor Baker moved to pass ordinance 1013; 2nd by Councilor Udall**
Yes Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Udall and Pace
No
Passed 4 – 0

Ordinance 1015 – Water/Sewer Rates

- **Councilor Baker moved to approve Ordinance 1015; 2nd by Councilor Arthurs**
Yes Councilors Arthurs, Baker, and Udall
No Councilor Pace
Passed 3 – 1

Ordinance 1016 – Utility Tax Rate

- **Councilor Baker moved to approve Ordinance 1016; 2nd by Councilor Arthurs**
Yes Councilors Arthurs, Baker, and Udall
No Councilor Pace
Passed 3 – 1

2013 EDC Contract

- **Councilor Pace moved to table the contract until the next meeting; 2nd by Councilor Udall.**
Yes Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Udall and Pace
No
Passed 4 – 0

Attorney Fee Agreement

Ken provided background on the agreement.

- **Councilor Arthurs moved to approve the contract with the amendment to have his attendance at planning commission meetings on request; 2nd by Councilor Udall.**
Yes Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Udall and Pace
No
Passed 4 – 0

2013 Skamania County Visitor Guide

John provided background.

Discussion ensued.

- **Councilor Baker moved to approve the purchase of a 1-page ad in the Visitor Guide; 2nd by Councilor Arthurs.**
Yes Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Udall and Pace
No
Passed 4 – 0

Replacement Strategies for Councilor Arthurs' position

Discussion ensued regarding how best to advertise for the position.

Closing Comments

Bob Bianchi – Expressed the need for volunteers for the planning commission and discussed issues regarding signage.

Cheryl Jermann – Expressed support for the EDC contract and concern regarding the morale of the planning commission.

Jim Runkles – Noted that the sign that was ordered for the Grand Elder was not specifically requested in the 2012 budget request and suggested that the sign should not be placed at the entrance to the city.

Bob Bianchi – Noted that the planning commission approved the sign for bigfoot last year in a public meeting.

Cheryl Jermann – Expressed concern about negative comments about the work of the planning commission.

Jim Runkles – Stated that when the heritage trails plan was attached to the comprehensive plan, it came under RCW rules.

Council recessed to executive session for 10 minutes under RCW 42.30.101 to discuss potential litigation at 9:30. Council returned at 9:40 without having made any decisions.

Adjournment

Councilor	Arthurs moved to Adjourn; 2nd by Councilor Baker.
Yes	Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Udall and Pace
No	
Passed	4 – 0

Adjourned 9:28 PM

Mayor

Clerk