

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

**NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Finance Committee Minutes**

Meeting Call to Order: 6:30 PM

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Don Stevens – Councilors: Mike Hamilton, Bob Bianchi, Mike Baker, Charles Pace and Craig Forster

Staff Present: Steve Hasson

Unfinished Business

New Business

Discussion on amending City code Title 13 relating to sewer and water

Steve advised the finance committee that in addition to efforts to raise sewer and water rates to bring in new revenues to help sustain these operations it was also important to beef up the City's utility collection policies that likely contributed to there being a large amount of payments in arrears. Accordingly, he was modifying the collection policy language found in City Code Title 13 and intends to bring it Council for review. He advised that, in general, the language in Title 13 is old, inconsistent, fraught with legalese and full of poorly constructed verbiage. Thus, he plans to clean up the whole chapter for Council review.

In response to an inquiry by Mayor Stevens about rates – Steve advised he intends to remove all the various utility fees and rates the City charges that are buried in City code and place them together in a separate document to make them accessible.

Adjournment

The Committee adjourned about 6.58 P.M.



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 25, 2014
Minutes

Meeting Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Don Stevens – Councilors: Charles Pace, Michael Hamilton, Bob Bianchi, Craig Forster and Mike Baker

Staff Present: Steve Hasson

Guests Present

Approximately 12 guests present

Agenda Changes and Additions

None

Public Hearings

Ordinances 1034 an ordinance amending the established monthly sewer base rate from \$24.25 to \$26.75 effective March 1, 2014

Ordinance 1035 – an ordinance amending the established monthly water base rate from \$21.74 to \$24.24 effective March 1, 2014

Steve provided an overview of the basis for the proposed sewer and water rate increases. His comments were followed by several speakers that expressed mild concern about rate increases but considerably more concern about the lack of aggressive billing collection and asked the City to tighten its collection procedures. Also, there was a collective sentiment that the billing statements be clarified for ease of understanding.

Consent Agenda

The following item was presented for approval:

- February 11 Council Minutes
- Vouchers February 25th

Councilor Hamilton asked that the February 11 meeting minutes be amended to reflect his comments. After much discussion about the vouchers, Councilor Baker made a motion to accept the consent agenda and seconded by Councilor Bianchi

Yes Councilors Pace, Baker, Bianchi, Forster and Hamilton

No

Abstain

Passed 5-0-0

Guest Presentations

None

Public Comment

John Mobley inquired how the PDA paid the \$250 License application fee.

Council Member Comments

Councilor Hamilton said he was interested in seeing the 2013 billable water records and the City's cumulative costs for labor negotiations. He suggested that as the revenue associated with bills in arrears is collected it should be directed towards paying down the \$40,000 sewer and water loan obligation as a first priority use of those proceeds.

Councilor Bianchi advised the planning commission intended to revisit the purpose and location of a potential blockhouse.

Councilor Forster would like to see the utility billing in arrears amount at the next meeting.

Councilor Pace said it was important we craft a competitive CBGD grant application because there may be a new political direction concerning how these monies are earmarked for projects. He noted that a contributing factor relative to our financial situation is lack of a viable commercial business sector.

Administrator's Report

Steve restated his intent to clean up the language in Municipal Code Title 13 and bring that back to the Council for their review and particularly the sections dealing with billing collection processes

Attorney Report

Ken Woodrich was not present

Unfinished Business

Councilor Hamilton said the city should make the utility bill terminology understandable to the lay person.

New Business

Ordinance 1034 – an ordinance amending the established monthly sewer base rate from \$24.25 to \$26.75 effective March 1, 2014

Councilor Forester made a motion to approve and seconded by Councilor Baker

Yes Councilors Pace, Baker, Bianchi, Forster and Hamilton

No

Abstain

Passed 5-0-0

Ordinance 1035 – an ordinance amending the established monthly water base rate from \$21.74 to \$24.24 effective March 1, 2014

Councilor Bianchi made a motion to approve and seconded by Councilor Forester

Yes Councilors Baker, Bianchi, Forster and Hamilton

No Councilor Pace

Abstain

Passed 4-1-0

PDA Board Member: Accepting Tanya Knight application to serve on the PDA Board

Councilor Pace made a motion to approve and seconded by Councilor Baker

Yes Councilors Pace, Baker, Bianchi, Forster

No Councilor Hamilton

Abstain Councilor Bianchi

Passed 3-1-1

Closing Public Comments

Roger Knight said he did not believe his meter has been read since he moved into this residence in October. Mayor Stevens said he would personally look into the matter. John Mobley inquired how the City charged the RV Park and the Bonneville Hot Springs for sewer and water.

Closing Council Comments

Councilor Baker commented that we should not rely too heavily on the belief we will greatly improve our collections as a revenue source. He inquired whether the City could add a place on the utility bill where City residents could contribute more than their billing amount to assist those who are financially strapped.

Adjournment

Councilor Pace moved to adjourn and seconded by Councilor Hamilton

Yes Councilors Pace, Baker, Bianchi, Forster and Hamilton

No

Abstain

Passed 5-0-0

Adjourned approximately 8:27 PM

Mayor

City Clerk