



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

*Mayor Don Stevens
Bianchi*

Councilmember Bob

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday March 22, 2016 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Mayor Stevens is absent – Craig Forster – serving as Mayor Pro Tempore- all others present

Continued Business:

General discussion concerning the City's fire operation and review of draft fire operation bylaws and code of conduct

Steve advised the Council and audience he had contacted the City's insurance provider, WCIA, as part of helping Councilor Bianchi construct bylaws and a code of conduct to guide the volunteer firefighter operation. He said the nature of his inquiry was to identify possible fire related liabilities for purposes of risk mitigation. In response, Tanya Crites the City's insurance representative had sent him a position paper outlining possible vulnerabilities.

Steve noted that the position paper was in the packet and he would also make it available to the audience. He said he had incorporated this language in the bylaws to minimize these noted risks. Steve said the City had constructed bylaws on three different occasions over the past 75 years with the latest version dating to 2003. He said the 2016 version reflects a number of changes that have occurred in the workforce since that time. The intent is to bring these bylaws back to Council at the April 12th meeting for adoption. Once the Council adopts them they will be incorporated into the firefighter's application packet and likely into the City's personnel policies. Steve noted he had made copies for the audience if they were interested in its contents. Councilor Bianchi said he was satisfied with the bylaws but recommended an additional item be inserted to address the need for a fire marshal or arson investigator through interlocal agreement.

Steve passed out a document called Fire Service Options he had received from Nick Hogan, Stevenson's City Administrator. Steve noted this document provides citizens a variety of option show to assemble a fire department. As he reviewed this document he noted it referenced an RCW that spoke to fire department performance measures. Accordingly, he downloaded this statute and its provisions and notes a need for the City, as part of its fire department revamping efforts, to develop service delivery objectives. He said he was hopeful as time allows the City could come up with appropriate policy statements and incorporate the substance of all these documents into our personnel policies. Councilor Sabo noted that the fire committee met and they too are looking at the bylaws.

Adjournment at 6:47PM



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City Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday March 22, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Call to Order

Roll Call: Mayor Stevens is absent – Craig Forster will be serving as Mayor Pro Tempore

Audience: 17

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Changes & Additions Councilor Sabo requested an opportunity to discuss the February 9th minutes

Consent Agenda

Approval of March 22 Invoices and March 8 Minutes

Councilor Bianchi made a motion to approve the minutes and invoices and seconded by Councilor Whitcomb

Councilor Sabo inquired about an invoice for payment to Columbia Gorge Information Systems. He noted that an online search had not revealed a registration of this business in either Washington or Oregon. Steve noted this was Mayor Steven's business. Councilor Sabo said he found a Columbia Gorge Information Services listed in the Mayor's name but not "System". After discussion it was agreed that Steve would research and authenticate the business registration.

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Whitcomb and Forster

No

Abstain

Passed 5-0-0

Guest Presentations:

Ben Shumaker – Stevenson's land use planner was present to provide a staff report on air quality. Ben is Skamania County's Liaison to Southwest Washington's Air Quality Authority and wished to share information about this agency's air quality efforts. He explained how this agency monitors air quality and discussed some current concerns. Ben is the go to guy if there are air quality issues needing review. The Council thanked Ben for his comments and his public service.

Public Comment:

Glen Bell noted that he was a North Bonneville resident for the past 14 months. He had come this evening to seek information or explanation [from the Council] why someone with the City had determined him to be an undesirable so he could fix that assessment. He said he was not sure what he had done wrong to gain that status and noting he had a family and loved this community. He said that when someone from the City goes to a person's local business and residence and discusses with them his being undesirable - that makes that person feel a little afraid of what's to come. He said I am not sure I am safe and I do not know who will be next. I don't know if this has happened before but I do not know what to tell my wife and son about why this happened? He noted his volunteer services to the fire department and admitting he smashed a chainsaw but did not know if that had anything to do with this assessment. Councilor Sabo asked for clarification, "What I hear you say is that someone from the City

went to where you reside and told the manager you were undesirable and should go.” Councilor Sabo said he talked to the manager and confirmed this portrayal. He said, what I found out [from the manager] is that Steve told him Glen was an undesirable person in our community and should not be there [should be evicted]. The manager said he would not take anyone’s word for anything and in fact that Glen was a valued person who worked there and he would not accept any [City] retaliation because he didn’t do what was requested of him. Brian said I don’t understand why [Steve] would deem someone undesirable? Glen Bell said that others in the community had told him the same thing about being designated undesirable. Councilor Forster said this is really disturbing and that he had just learned about this earlier today. Diane Bell asked “Are you saying [Glen] this designation of undesirable has happened to others in the community” to which Glen replied yes. Councilor Sabo said the good news is Glen gets to stay [in the R.V. Park] because the community stood up for him and thus he will also keep his status as a volunteer fire fighter and also the other volunteer firefighter living in the RV Park gets to stay and that is wonderful, however to be labeled an undesirable is not cool especially when they wanted that person booted out of the community. Councilor Forster said to Glen, “I apologize that this happened to you. Unfortunately, I am the Mayor Pro Tempore and so there is not a whole lot I can do about it - but I do want to talk to our attorney.” Councilor Forster continued by noting that Councilor Sabo and he had spoken about this earlier and had attempted to determine where to go from here. Councilor Sabo said on behalf of council he was sorry for Steve’s actions and this was very unacceptable. He said he appreciated the fact the manager took the stance he did. Glen Bell noted that the bylaws said that volunteers were not to bring discredit on the City which I believe I have never done but other City employees ought to be held accountable to the same standard.

Brian Dudley if I understand correctly, Glen lives over at the RV park and so if people from the City are singling him out for removal and he is a firefighter and thus cannot continue to serve in this capacity [because he has to move] and therefore there are not enough people to drive the fire truck and because there are not enough people for that purpose we have a basis for selling out fire tuck [this looks like a conspiracy]. He turned to Steve and said this singling out reminds me of the time you told me I could not single out a sex offender walking through my property and yet you are singling people out.

Steve Whitcomb introduced himself as a member of the City’s planning commission and requested that that public body be afforded the same stipend as is provided the City Council.

Diane Hamilton said she had never seen where the City Administrator sat at the table with the elected officials, rather he should set back in the audience where he belongs and only speak when spoken to.

Mayor’s comments:

Mayor Pro Tempore Forster said he was really appalled this [action toward Mr. Bell] had come up and he was really disappointed in Steve.

Council Whitcomb said this is the first that she had heard of this. She said she was getting blindsided by this and didn’t know what the public was talking about. She said this was all she would comment until she got more information.

Councilor Bianchi this is totally news to him. He noted he had attended the fire meeting and it had gone well and they were close to updating the bylaws.

Administrator’s Report:

Steve asked for a moment to get some paperwork to counter the accusations levied by Glen Bell and certain Council members and noting there were two sides to every story and he ought to be heard [before being chastised]. Steve returned with a complaint form that had been turned into him by Glen Bell. Steve noted that Glen had come to City Hall a week earlier on 3/13/16 [and before he had an opportunity to meet with the new RV manager]. Steve said that Glen had advised him that he and 9 other people were to be evicted from the park for complaining about the conditions there. Steve said that Glen had complained about the water and building codes at the park and the fact that there was some kind of financial hanky-panky going on over there. Steve advised him he would look into this

complaint if he would reduce it to writing which he did do. Steve proceeds to read Glen's complaint into the record [which is also attached to these minutes]. Steve noted the reason for the filing the complaint was the fact he and others were being evicted from the RV Park by the new management [as a form of retaliation] and he was going to push back by filing a complaint against them.

Steve said in response to the complaint that he called up Karl Russell, the City's building official, and asked him to look into this matter and advise if there were code violations or health issues and report back his findings [Karl's initial findings are attached]. Steve noted he went over to the RV Park Friday the 18] and introduced himself to the new manager but primarily to make him aware he needed to provide certain utility information to the City for billing purposes. He noted that while he was there Glen had come in the manager's office and said hello and left. Steve said in response to the complaint he asked the new manager if he intended to evict some of the residents and was advised yes because he was trying to improve the park by that action. Steve said he did not recall asking if he was specifically intending to get rid of Glen or anyone else for that matter. Steve said he had told the manager that he had one chance to leave a first impression and there were things at the park that were out of sorts. Steve said these are the facts – Glen had come to me saying he was being evicted several days before I went over there. So if he is being evicted and the reason he is being evicted is because of something disparaging I said – please be advised that I did not go over there until he first filled out a City complaint form several days earlier [advising of his pending eviction] and asked me to look into it. I am very comfortable looking all of you in the eye and saying my motivation was to follow up on Glen's complaint, nothing more.

City Attorney's Report None

Unfinished Business:

Councilor Sabo noted that the minutes from the February 9th meeting were mismarked and we all agreed they needed to be changed. I looked on line and they have not been changed so they need to be changed on line. Councilor Sabo said if there are corrected minutes they should be brought back to the next meeting for review. Steve said that the minutes were updated and available through City records and it was the City's IT services that placed them on line but he was receptive to this change.

New Business:

Closing Public Comments

Glen Bell advised that he had been hired by the park management to address all of the complaints he had called to the City's attention and so he will be working to fix these concerns and violations he had initiated.

Councilor Sabo restated his claim that the park manager had told him yesterday and confirmed again today that Steve had slandered Bell and this had nothing to do with the fact he was being evicted and the manager was not happy about Steve wanting Bell gone [even though he had intended to evict him].

Nathan Dudley said he has wondered about all that is going on with the sewer and fire the past six months thinking it is weird all of this stuff is going on at once and then I come here and find out that we are paying the Mayor for a business we don't even know exists. I think that is a conflict of interest. I think that everyone that works for the City should live here in this 3 mile area or they have no idea what is going on. And then there is this bike stuff going on so if the Mayor is paying himself what else is going on.

Attorney Woodrich said there was an RCW that allowed an elected official to receive payment up to \$1500 a month or \$18,000 a year for services rendered without having a conflict of interest and provided they had a contractual arrangement with the City.

Taurus Baxter said that he was a volunteer firefighter and had some good news in that the fire fighters had elected a new fire chief to replace JB Tennison and that was Jeb Miller. He also asked if he could get

a voucher for a pump test on the fire trucks. Steve responded that he just needed to come over to City Hall with the invoice. Steve also noted that according to the bylaws the Council needed to ratify the firefighter's action to elect a chief.

Ken Woodrich advised that because this was a regular Council meeting the Council could take an action by a motion to confirm.

Daniel Myers said that he was a volunteer fire fighter and also was to be evicted from the park but was able to come to some agreement with the manager and so he will be staying.

Councilor Sabo made a motion to confirm Jedidiah Miller as the new fire chief and seconded by Councilor Bianchi

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Whitcomb and Forster

No

Abstain

Approved 5-0-0

Closing Council Comments

Councilor Norris; Council Whitcomb and Councilor Bianchi said they were disturbed by the things that had been said this evening.

Council Sabo said he was appreciative of what the fire volunteers did for this community.

Council Forester advised that he was available to help anyone with their issues.

Adjournment

Councilor Bianchi made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Whitcomb

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Whitcomb and Forster

No

Abstain

Approved 5-0-0

Meeting was adjourned approximately 8:42 PM

Mayor

City Administrator