



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Don Stevens
Councilmember Charles Pace
Councilmember Michael Hamilton

Councilmember Bob Bianchi
Councilmember Mike Baker
Councilmember Craig Forster

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday March 24, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee:

Meeting called to order 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call All finance committee members present with the exception of Craig Forster

Unfinished Business

New Business

- Rental agreement with PDA for use of City Hall space to accommodate part time office business needs

The City has been approached by the PDA about use of the City Hall for purposes of conducting their bimonthly evening business meetings. The PDA envisions use of the City Hall's prominent council table and 100 square feet of office space for placement of some files and a table. At present, the PDA is renting space elsewhere for \$500 per month. They are willing to pay the City \$100 per month for use of this public space with the savings they realize providing an opportunity to facilitate retirement of their debt obligations. The income generated from this transaction would also provide the City another revenue stream to help with our finances. An interlocal agreement has been constructed that outlines the request in greater detail.

- Letter of Interest from Ron Broersma to serve on City's tourism committee

Ron Broersma has provided a letter offering to serve on the tourism committee should the Council be receptive to having him serve in this capacity.

- Note from Bev Charlton on behalf of the Community Garden seeking \$250 to purchase equipment and material to help sustain the garden operation

The garden club is an affiliate City operation. The Club members pay the City \$25 per year for a small garden plot. The club is requesting that some of the revenue the members pay to the City be available for purchases of equipment and materials to help prepare the plots for spring planting.

- Lease of City property for development purposes

A couple of I502 Businesses have expressed interest in leasing the approximately one acre M-19 city property that is adjacent to the golf course. The golf course presently uses the property as a driving range. The City recently renegotiated the golf course agreement shortening it from an annual to a monthly agreement. The agreement was modified for purposes of making this City property available for lease or sale.

Adjournment: 7:00 P.M.



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City Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday March 24, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Call to Order 7:05 PM

Roll Call: Craig Forster was absent

Audience: 7 visitors

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Changes & Additions

Excusing Craig Forster

Councilor Pace moved to excuse Councilor Forster and seconded by Councilor Hamilton

Yes Councilors Baker, Bianchi, Hamilton and Pace

No

Abstain

Passed 4-0-0

Note: the Mayor adjusted the Council agenda to accommodate the two [2] guests speakers

Guest Presentations

- Amanda Hoey providing an annual MCEDD update

Amanda explained how the Mid Columbia Economic Development District provides regional coordination and business and technical assistance to a five [5] county region located in Washington and Oregon. The agency has been able, over the past year, to offer 13 loans to a variety of business concerns totaling more than \$1.2 million in financial assistance. The agency's aim is to assure the region's economy thrives and also to raise the Gorge's visibility.

- Casey Roeder – Skamania County Chamber quarterly report

Casey noted that the number of visitor's to Skamania County has increased and exceeds both Washington State and National tourism averages by a considerable percentage and hence more people are spending tourism dollars in the local economies. Casey provided an update on various tourism products and noting that coverage of North Bonneville features has been expanded as well as NB membership. Councilor Baker requested that the Chamber emphasize the ADA accessibility of the City's trail system.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Sierra Springs Invoice #22997

Councilor Baker made a motion to approve this voucher and seconded by Councilor Bianchi

Yes Councilor Baker, Pace, and Bianchi

No Councilor Hamilton

Abstain

Passed 3-1-0

Approval of March 10th Council Minutes and March 24th Invoice/Vouchers less invoice #22997
Councilor Baker made a motion to approve and seconded by Councilor Bianchi
Councilor Hamilton asked that a portion of the minutes be altered because he viewed the characterization as incorrect.

Yes Councilor Baker, Pace, Bianchi, and Hamilton
No
Abstain
Passed 4-0-0

Public Comment

Ron Broersma said his business was struggling and he believed, in part, because the Chamber was not doing its best to promote the community, rather its emphasis was on Skamania County and Stevenson. He wanted an accounting of how the \$22,000 the City gave the Chamber via tourism dollars was helping this community.

Councilmember Comments

Councilor Hamilton "The crux of my comments were the loss of freedoms to real property owners and control issues by our governments...., we are living with a great deal of situational ethics and if you review last meetings recording you will hear more than one person using situational ethics. What I found interesting was our own City attorney using situational ethics...., who decides what laws to follow and what laws to break?"

Councilor Baker thanked Ron for his comments and said he wanted him to succeed in his business. He said brochures were expensive and it was unlikely that one could be constructed solely for North Bonneville. He said Casey Roeder did point out that the City interests are well represented in the various products they construct.

Councilor Bianchi said he agreed with much of what Councilor Baker said about the City's interests being represented in the brochures. Admittedly, the Roadhouse is not listed in any of the brochures. I believe we do need to come up with a brochure in order to get people to stop here in North Bonneville. Who is going to do that I am not sure. I think that form of advertisement is the only thing viable at this stage other than what Casey is doing.

Mayor Stevens acknowledged there was a difference in the level of advertising but part of that disparity is the fact the other communities contribute more than we do to the Chamber. The Skamania Lodge has the capacities to accommodate individuals because of its convention space. You should work with the Chamber to gain their support of your business and as an alternative you can help establish a business association.

Administrator's Report

Steve noted that the Department of Commerce has reviewed how we attended to the environmental review process associated with replacement of the lift station 3. They determined we have done a good job in that review and satisfied their requirements. Completion of this action affords the City an opportunity to apply for CDBG revenues.

City Attorney's Report Attorney Woodrich responded to Councilor Hamilton's comments. He said he did not see a parallel between what was required by a State Agency to enter into a grant versus a decision of the Council to move forward with creation of the PDA which is allowed by state statute.

Unfinished Business – None
New Business

Interlocal Agreement with PDA for use of City Hall space to accommodate their business needs.

This item was continued to the next meeting [April 14] to provide an opportunity for the Council members to review the interlocal agreement.

Providing the community garden with revenue to purchase equipment and material to sustain the garden operation

Councilor Pace made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$250 for this purpose and provided the Community Garden's financial requests do not exceed the revenue this group provides to the City and seconded by Councilor Baker

Yes Councilor Baker, Pace and Bianchi
No
Abstain Councilor Hamilton
Passed 3-0-1

Closing Public Comments

Ron Broersma – my earlier comments were not directed personally at Casey Roeder – I am here looking out for my business interests because I am financially struggling. I believe the Mayor and the Council need to be looking out for the City's retail interests. Now that it has been explained to me how much money the Chamber receives each year from various sources I would like to know how much of that is invested back into NB. I am not alone in my concerns.

Casey Roeder – I would love to come back to the tourism committee with promotional proposals specific to NB in line with Councilor Bianchi's comments. I think we could construct a good NB brochure and perhaps a FB page to heighten awareness about the community.

Closing Council Comments

Councilor Bianchi said we did not receive a budget request from the trails committee to construct a brochure this year. At this point there is little or no money available for tourism proposals. It is important to understand those tourism proceeds can only be used for tourism proposals that generate overnight stays in NB.

Councilor Baker – I reviewed the information supplied by the Sherriff's office and it appears to me we are getting our money's worth. I appreciate the information they are providing.

Councilor Hamilton – I also want to thank the sheriff's office for their report and I do appreciate Ron's comments.

Adjournment

Councilor baker moved to adjourn and seconded by Councilor Pace

Yes Councilor Baker, Bianchi, Hamilton and Pace
No
Abstain
Passed 4-0-0

Adjourned approximately 8.32 P.M.

Mayor

City Clerk