



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, March 5, 2011
Council Retreat
Minutes

Meeting Call to Order: Noon

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Don Stevens, Councilors BreAnna Porter, Jim Runkles, Tim Dudley, Jennifer Stratton-Pies
Absent: Councilor Herzig
Staff Present: Clerk / Treasurer John Spencer
Facilitator: Jeanne Harris, C3 Consulting

Guests Present

Jennifer McDonald

Introduction

Council members introduced themselves to Jeanne Harris, facilitator. Jeanne and Don Stevens discussed ground rules.

John noted that no official decisions were to be made during this meeting and that he would bring potential decisions identified today to future council meetings for discussion and approval.

Vision

John gave an overview of the 5-Year Outlook, its history and major themes. Don discussed highlights of the document, noting that the Beacon Rock Golf Course is not adequately promoted.

Discussion ensued. Among the comments were:

- We need better signage for business
- We wish to maintain a safe, quiet community
- We need a theme (a look) for downtown
- We would like to engage the community more
- We need to reevaluate our Cable TV – does it make sense to be in this business? Would it make sense for the city to provide cable internet?

Next Steps:

- Perform a thorough community survey to gather their ideas on what they want for the city. Take advantage of Gorge Days to reach out to the community and gather information.
- Use this information in a council-led process to create a vision statement.
- Jeanne noted that the Association of Washington Cities has a power-point based survey tool that may come in handy for this effort.

Budget

John reviewed summaries of year-to-date expenses, revenues and existing loans. He then discussed the over-all state of the city's budget and the need in Washington state for cities to have a vibrant retail/business sector.

Discussion ensued. Among the questions discussed were whether we should begin charging use fees, and whether or how to fund street maintenance.

Among the upcoming capital needs are:

- Upgrading the Cable TV system
- Replacing aging sewer pump stations
- Adding a secondary well
- Resurfacing Evergreen
- Continued Street and Paths maintenance
- Remodel the Public Works shop
- Remodel City Hall

Next Steps:

- Bring budget ordinance to Council to approve use of Real Estate Excise Tax to support on-going capital expenditures in the street fund.
- Create a policy statement regarding the level of service the city will provide for street and paths maintenance.
- Continue on a pay-as-you-go budgeting system, focus efforts on paying down debt.
- Research the option of a Transportation Benefit District.

Hotel/Motel Fund

John reviewed a summary of historical expenditures and discussed the possibility of using hotel/motel tax monies more strategically.

Discussion ensued, especially regarding the appropriate uses for this funding.

Appropriate uses include: bringing people into town who do not normally visit, obtaining a good return on investment, and making long-term improvements.

Next Steps:

- Bring to Council a resolution that directs staff to set aside 60% of hotel/motel funds (after subtracting staff expenses) each year to build up a capital fund for an eventual large project.
- Use results of community survey to lead discussion toward choosing an appropriate hotel/motel tax capital project.
- Make sure the city is receiving business license revenue from vendors participating in Gorge Days.
- Create a policy/process for scoring hotel/motel tax funding request applications.

Economic Development

John discussed possible outcomes of development on parcel 2.

Discussion ensued.

Next Steps:

- Direct Planning Commission to develop sub-area plans for the Central Business District (this is a priority) and for the North side of Greenleaf Lake.
- Look into Tax Increment Financing and other funding options for the City to take a more direct role in guiding the future of the Central Business District.

Adjourned: 4:30 PM