



## NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Don Stevens  
Bianchi

Councilmember Bob

### Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday March 8, 2016 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:** All Members Present

**Continued Business:**

Steve and Richard Lafayette advised the Council that there were Transportation Improvement Board [TIB] grant monies available to replace the City's sodium street lights with LEDs at little to no cost to the City. The question for Council: Did they wish staff to evaluate this grant for its merit and procure the services of an individual or firm to assist the City in this pursuit through a competitive process? Council Bianchi inquired whether this proposal would also include the replacement of 4 street lights that had been knocked down and rendered useless. Richard replied no - this action is focused solely on lighting replacement. Cheryl Jermann said there were places where it was dark and consideration ought to be given to introducing new street lights in these locations. Mayor Stevens clarified this is a street lighting replacement program.

Devin Jackson said that the first step in this process was to approach Skamania PUD who is the City's electric provider and have them help us determine a rate schedule - showing how much energy savings will result from a change in lighting source. The quantified amount of energy savings needs to be provided to TIB which will assess the value added from this replacement action and determine whether it is sufficient to warrant their entering into a grant arrangement with the City. Devin advised that the City of Goldendale was switching out their streetlights relying on this type of grant and the City ought to inquire how they went about this process. Devin said, essentially you enter into a contract with TIB and put that out for bid – and TIB finances the most competitive bid but does not pay the administrative costs. Attorney Woodrich cautioned that the new lights would be a different color - so it was wise to understand what lighting coloration options were available to the City. After consideration, the Council agreed to explore this grant opportunity with the understanding they would review the contract.

A discussion followed on surplus the 2006 Pierce fire truck. Steve noted that JB Tennison, the fire chief, had been to the last Council meeting and provided a comparison/contrast between this truck and their older one. Steve noted that the 10 year old truck was hardly ever used based on the fact it only had 10,000 miles on the odometer after a decade of use. Further it was only used to fight structural fires which occurred in NB on average once or twice a year and the City has been advised that 4 firemen are required to fight a structural fire according to OSHA rules. The probability of four North Bonneville fire fighters available at a given time to fight a structural type fire was slim. Additionally, the City owes \$90,000 on this piece of equipment and could sell it and acquire other critically needed equipment such as a backhoe. Councilor Sabo asked if this was a good time to be discussing this matter with a pending fire rating evaluation. Steve said this was just a discussion item and even if Council directed staff to explore this action there would be a need for a public hearing and any final action would be out more than a month. Councilor Sabo said he was of a mixed opinion on how to proceed but suggested an advisory board be constructed to evaluate this matter and report its findings. Steve suggested that Council appoint 4 people to evaluate this item and other related items and report back their findings as soon as possible.

**Adjournment at 7.05 PM**



## NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

*Mayor Don Stevens  
Bianchi*

*Councilmember Bob*

### City Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday March 8, 2016 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting Call to Order** 7:10PM

**Roll Call: All Present**

**Audience: 16**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Changes & Additions** adding fire truck advisory panel and discussion of possible changes to City code title 2 relating to volunteer fire department to new business section of the agenda

#### **Consent Agenda**

##### **Approval of February 23<sup>rd</sup> Minutes**

Councilor Sabo made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Councilor Forster

A scrivener error was noted and will be corrected.

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Whitcomb and Forster

No

Abstain

Passed 5-0-0

#### **Guest Presentations:**

Richard Lafayette was present to provide a response to the comments that JB Tennison had made at the last Council meeting and noting he believed some of the message presented at that time was incorrect and wanted to be on the record with what he considered a corrected statement. Mr. Lafayette spoke at length with prepared notes and these are attached to these minutes rather than recreated for the sake of brevity. His presentation centered on a chainsaw that Glen Bell had borrowed from the fire department to help clean up the debris from the November 17<sup>th</sup> storm. He said that Glen had broken the chain saw and for whatever reason did not replace it even though he said he would. In summary: Richard noted – when the public works department borrowed equipment from the fire department they sought permission for its usage, took good care of the equipment and returned it in good shape or replaced it with better equipment. Richard noted that he had spoken to JB about the use of equipment the previous evening and they had come to some common understanding about how the chainsaw was damaged. The Council thanked Richard for his comments.

#### **Public Comment:**

**Daniel Myers** said he was a volunteer fire fighter and he spent considerable time at the fire station and believed there was a “them versus us” mentality and thought everyone should pull together. He noted that he had been a diesel mechanic for 40 years and the older fire truck had engine issues and he had put together some costs estimates to repair it. Daniel said the cost to rebuild the engine is estimated at \$8 to 10K. Steve inquired why the fire department was not reporting that potential expense to the City

so it could be budgeted especially if he was interested in opening the lines of communication.

**JB Tennison** said he had never been invited to a budget meeting ever and so there was no opportunity to share this cost information. He said his firefighters were not always paid when they should be. He said if the Council wanted information about his staff or equipment that information was available from the City. He said the information about the fire truck usage was available from the City on the Call reports. JB said he was deceived because he was not told why he was asked to provide comparisons between the fire trucks. He said had he known the basis he would have altered his testimony.

**Jim Duffus** introduced himself to Council and said he had previously served as North Bonneville's fire chief. He said he was on the fire department from 1981 to 2006 and during his fire related tenure the City had relied upon a lot of used hand-me-down equipment. He said the City ought to do a careful evaluation of all its assets before it determines to get rid of the fire truck or any other equipment for that matter.

**Glen Bell** recounted how he as a member of the fire department had assisted the days after the storm. He said he taken the initiative to borrow the fire department's chain saw and broke it. He said he assumed responsibility for its repair with the understanding he would be compensated for its repair. Thus he ordered new parts but they were not correct. He noted the 14 months he had served on the fire department he had attended multiple structural fires but always on the newer truck [the 2006 Pierce] stating he had never been on the old truck would not know how to operate it.

**Mayor Stevens** attempted to recount Glen Bell's testimony about use of the chainsaw. He inquired: after you sent the parts back why didn't you follow through? Glen replied: I took no further action because I was waiting to hear what was happening with the insurance company because I understood they would assume responsibility for the damaged equipment. The Mayor tried to determine why, if Glen broke the chainsaw, did he assume someone else would handle and pay for its repair.

**Cheryl Jermann** said everyone should cooperate and thanked the fire employees.

**Sherry Dudley** said she thinks the community needs a working fire engine because she is aware of 3 structural fires in her neighborhood in the last six years.

**Julie Sabo** noted that the City has been discussing the possibility of selling the fire truck and merging the North Bonneville fire department with another district for some time as evidenced by City documents.

**Cheryl Jermann** noted a variety of accidents that had occurred in the community over time that left everyone exposed and thus the sale of the fire truck would cause untold exposure.

**Jeb Miller** advised he has been on the fire department for 7 years. He said the fire truck was very important to this community.

#### **Councilor Comments:**

**Councilor Bianchi** noted since 2011 he had been trying to update the fire department's bylaws because they are outdated. He said that he had provided these to JB but got no feedback. He said the current bylaws were written in 1940 and many sections need to be changed because they do not comport with current laws and that creates liability exposure for the City. He cited several places where there were issues with the bylaws. He noted that lines of communication need to be clarified.

**JB Tennison** replied that he attempted to keep current with all procedures and laws but did not have the resources to do so nor did any other nearby community or district.

**Brian McKenzie** confronted Councilor Bianchi stating that he was getting his information from his son in law that worked for the Portland Fire Department and those rules do not apply here.

**Councilor Forster** said we have a lot of fence mending to do and he was available to help out.

**Councilor Whitcomb** said she was unaware there was a division but appreciated the firemen coming forward and sharing information.

**Councilor Norris** said he was receptive to construction of an advisory board to help reconnect us.

Councilor Sabo thanked the fire fighters for their service. He said there was a chasm and we may need to construct an advisory board to hammer out differences.

**Administrator’s Report:**

Steve noted that he was working with Councilor Bianchi to construct new fire bylaws because the ones we have now are in not in keeping with regulatory requirements and that causes liability exposure. He said the bylaws would be coming to Council within the next month.

Steve also advised that Portland Engineering, the firm hired to replace the damaged telemetry system for a sum not to exceed \$23,700, has run into a stumbling block, in that the well house where they need to connect the new system has a bad electrical box whose replacement is not a part of their work scope. Hence, they cannot proceed until that electrical system is corrected but are receptive to fixing it as a work change order. Steve said he would like to give them the green light to fix the well house power system so they can go on about their business but needs Council’s authority to spend more money in the instance when the contract is capped at a certain amount.

Councilor Foster made a motion to increase Portland Engineering’s contract ceiling by one thousand dollars to remedy the situation and seconded by Councilor Whitcomb.

- Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Forster and Whitcomb
- Abstain
- Approved 5-0-0

**City Attorney’s Report**

Attorney Woodrich provided Council members information to help them distinguish the difference between an ordinance and a resolution and situations when the Council would rely upon the one over the other.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Creation of a Fire District Advisory Board**

It was determined that the way to bring about better communication and improved relations between the Council, City Administration and the volunteer fire fighters was construction of an advisory committee that could meet for brainstorming purpose in a workshop like setting. The committee would be comprised of two [2] City councilors, two [2] fire fighters and a citizen at large. If the committee reached certain fire related conclusions they would have the prerogative to share this information with the Council and/or ask the Council to take certain actions. It was determined the membership would be comprised of Councilors Bianchi and Sabo, Jim Duffus who will serve in the capacity of citizen-at-large and volunteer firefighters Torey Baxter and Brian McKenzie. Meeting dates and time will be noticed by way of the kiosk, newsletter or other manners of posting. The group is not subject to Washington State’s Open Meeting Law so they may meet formally, informally, in public or private and by way of email – any option of their choosing. Attorney Woodrich noted an advisory committee cannot take public testimony.

**Expanding ASK’s Evergreen Drive project scope of engineering service work to provide for new water line construction and abandonment of a section of 14” Transite water main where it crosses under Evergreen Road.**

Steve noted the expanded scope of work contract had been placed in the Council packet and asked the Council to act upon this contract.

Councilor Forster moved for approving the contract and seconded by Councilor Sabo

- Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Forster and Whitcomb
- Abstain
- Approved 5-0-0

**Ordinance 1065 Amending NBMC Chapter 5.06 relating to mobile and itinerant vendors**

Steve explained that this ordinance would broaden mobile vendor’s opportunity to sell retail items in this community that are presently limited to the sale of food.

Councilor Sabo moved to approve this ordinance as constructed and seconded by Councilor Norris.

Mayor Stevens suggested the expanded mobile vendor language be expanded further by adding the term “other goods” after produce.

Council was receptive to the additional language.

Vote on the amendment

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Forster and Whitcomb

Abstain

Approved 5-0-0

Vote on the ordinance as amended

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Forster and Whitcomb

Abstain

Approved 5-0-0

**Request for one time reduction in water/sewer bill due to leakage - James Ferguson [seeking relief from a \$253.80 utility bill]**

Councilor Forster moved to approve a onetime reduction in the Ferguson’s utility bill – thereby reducing the amount due to \$156.30 and seconded by Councilor Whitcomb.

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Forster and Whitcomb

Abstain

Approved 5-0-0

**Closing Public Comments**

**Cheryl Jermann** noted that if there was a worry about having 4 volunteer fire fighters to fight a structure fire according to OSHA rules and there were not sufficient fire volunteers available - the City could always revert back to the way it did business years ago with the public works staff obligated to also serve as volunteer fire fighters when necessity dictated that action. Alternately, the City could use tourism money for that purpose or the firefighters association could have fund raisers.

**Closing Council Comments** – No final comments

**Adjournment**

Councilor Forster made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Sabo

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Whitcomb and Forster

No

Abstain

Approved 5-0-0

Meeting was adjourned approximately 9:00 PM

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**Mayor**

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**City Administrator**