



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

*Mayor Don Stevens
Bianchi*

Councilmember Bob

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday April 12, 2016 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: all present

Status update: compliance with Washington State Labor and Industries

Councilor Norris had requested an update on the City's efforts to comply with issues called to the city's attention by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries [L&I]. Steve said the city had invited L&I to North Bonneville and relying on their amnesty program that minimizes the City's financial liability by this proactive approach. Essentially, the City staff invited this agency to review how we address safety issues and call problems to our attention for resolution. Richard advised that L&I had limited their review to the public works operation and they had come up with quite a laundry list of items needing fixing. Richard advised that he had all but completed the list of items needing attention and would be calling them back soon for a re-inspection. Richard advised that the fines associated with the items needing correction could have totaled more than \$60,000 had that agency come to North Bonneville in response to a complaint instead of an invitation. Steve said the City intended to invite them back to North Bonneville from time to time to assure our equipment and practices remain compliant. Steve said this is another City risk management strategy intended to protect the City's pocketbook while also assuring our Citizens remain safe.

Status update: preserving the City's "5" fire insurance rating

Steve noted that Councilor Norris had also requested this rating update. Steve said the City has been working diligently since last fall to preserve its fire insurance rating because a "5" rating is a good rating that reduces business fire insurance costs and also serves to attract investors to North Bonneville. He noted we have been working with a gentleman named Eric Cunningham who is with this rating bureau. Steve said when we first encountered Mr. Cunningham this past last fall - he was skeptical we could keep our current "5" rating because of the many deficiencies he observed. Since that time the City has worked to improve our fire equipment and inspection processes with considerable volunteer community input. Richard provided the specifics of what has been accomplished to keep the present rating and noting a tremendous amount of time has been dedicated to revamping the City's fire hydrants. Councilor Bianchi inquired about the need to have the pumper trucks inspected. Steve noted that arrangements have been made to have them inspected at the end of the month. Mr. Cunningham will be evaluating our efforts April 19th or 20th and we will update the Council of his review.

Discussion: is the Council receptive to signing [or having the Mayor sign] a letter on behalf of this City asking the Port of Vancouver to terminate its lease with Tesoro – Savage?

Steve noted that the Port of Vancouver is exploring whether or not to escape its Tesoro-Savage Vancouver Energy Project lease. If that lease is not terminated there is the prospect of increased oil rail transportation in the Columbia Gorge, which, in turn, increases the potential of fires, explosions and pollution. The City Council is asked to weigh in on this matter. After deliberation, the Council unanimously authorized the Mayor to sign a letter encouraging the Port to end this lease arrangement.

Steve quickly ran through items in the Council packet noting that we had submitted our accounting compilation report to the State Auditor's Office, that core sampling of Evergreen Drive is underway as the first step in the rebuilding of that roadway, that the damaged telemetry system has been rebuilt and is operational and finally noting this month's budget to actual report suggests that the City's finances remain sound.

Adjournment at 6:58PM



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Don Stevens
Bianchi

Councilmember Bob

City Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday April 12, 2016 7:05 p.m.

Meeting Call to Order

Roll Call: All present

Audience: Approximately 20

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Changes & Additions Councilor Forster requested that Council set aside time to discuss Steve Whitcomb's request that the Council consider providing the planning commission with a small financial stipend to compensate them for their work. Councilor Bianchi requested that the discussion also look at the Council's stipend.

Consent Agenda

Approval of March 22 Minutes

Mayor Stevens noted the new fire chief had been identified in the minutes as Jeb Miller instead of Jed Miller – this will be corrected.

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

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Whitcomb and Forster

No

Abstain

Passed 5-0-0

Guest Presentations:

Casey Roeder- quarterly chamber meeting update

Casey introduced herself to the new councilors and provided an overview of what the chamber does for the North Bonneville community. She noted its primary mission was tourism promotion. She said among its many duties was the operation and development of Gorge Days and specifically noted the many actions underway to bring about that July event. She also noted the Chamber was working with the Mayor to sponsor the 5k Color Dash run scheduled for May 28. Casey noted that the chamber advertises Skamania County in a number of publications and she provided some sample advertisements for the Council's review. She noted the chamber staff attends a number of trade shows to help promote the region. Casey said another chamber focus is promotion of economic development to include advocating for positions that might impair area growth such as increasing the toll on the Bridge of the Gods. Council thanked Casey for her presentation.

Public Comment:

Julie Stevens introduced herself and advised Council members she hosted the city's website and if there were issues or concerns with that effort she was here to address them.

Mike Hamilton commented on the Councilor Bianchi's conduct letter that is found in the Council packet. Mike noted that when he was a council member he was attacked on two occasions by Charles Pace and Councilor Bianchi had not seen fit to write a letter at that time concerning this type of inappropriate

council conduct, which then begs the question: does Councilor Bianchi just defend the City administrator?

Rick Lawrence observed that the city spends considerable time and energies on maintaining the many parking islands and perhaps a better strategy would be to gravel them over and keep them green free with Roundup and/or cover these islands with chipping material.

Glen Bell inquired if fire volunteers desired to improve the City's landscape could they unilaterally initiate that action or would they need to coordinate that activity through City Hall.

Councilor Comment:

Councilor Sabo wished to use this time to address a pending invoice 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. Councilor Sabo said he found a Columbia Gorge Information Services listed in the Mayor's name but not "System". Councilor Sabo wished to know who was primarily responsible for the City website and noting that Council action to correct minutes were not reflected in the website minute postings. Councilor Sabo said he did not have concerns about the contract the City had with Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, rather the manner in which items are updated for example the website still lists the former Councilors.

Mayor Stevens and Julie Stevens addressed Councilor Sabo's concerns noting that they have filed a new business name with the Department of Revenue to be known as Stevens IT Services to remedy the invoicing concerns. Mayor Stevens advised once the new name is finalized they will acquire a new City Business license. Meantime, Steve will work with Attorney Woodrich to update the existing contractual agreement to address the naming as well as confusing contract language found in section 5. There appeared to be general satisfaction with the Mayor's responses.

Councilor Norris suggested instead of turning the parking islands into barren gravel areas that perhaps they could be converted to community garden areas.

Councilor Forester commented on Steve's Facebook access records request – stating if that if you are trying to gain access to that closed site it's not going to happen.

Councilor Bianchi asked for clarification on the process whereby the council minutes are constructed, vetted, approved and posted on the City's website. In response to Mike Hamilton's comments – Councilor Bianchi noted his letter was responding to employee's rights as noted in the personnel manual rather than Councilor conduct concerns.

Mayor Stevens following up on Councilor Bianchi's letter and comments noted that he had not been in attendance at the last meeting where Councilor Forster served as Mayor Pro Tempore. He said he did not wish to dredge up that meeting but would be totally remiss if he did not defend the way Steve was treated. He said the words that come to mind to describe the proceedings were "kangaroo court"; and by that – I mean where folks come to a meeting with their minds already made up about the outcome and where they spend the whole meeting defending their position. The fact that Steven was accused by a number of people and jumped on by even more people without any opportunity to give his side of the story or defend himself was reprehensible. After I listened to all the accusations made against Steve I went over to the RV Park and met with the new manager and he could not recall that Steve had made any disparaging remarks against Glen Bell. I suggest we put this behind us and move on.

Glen Bell I think this issue needs to be dealt with because it has been an ongoing issue with more than one person in the community.

Mayor Stevens cautioned Glen- you're levying some pretty big charges and I hope you can back them up.

Administrator's Report: Steve said he wanted to revisit the March 22nd Council meeting and noting that Glen Bell had come to him with a number of concerns he had with the RV Park and in response, he had launched an investigation to address these concerns. He noted at the time of the Council meeting he had the City's building inspector review RV Park's building code issues and was getting ready to have Richard Lafayette evaluate possible drinking water concerns. Yet, certain Council persons took it upon themselves to interfere with that investigation and in doing so compromised the outcome. He suggested

the new councilors spend a little more time understanding the nature of their public role.

City Attorney's Report

Attorney Woodrich asked the council members if they have taken any of the many training opportunities available to new councilors and noting there were statutory obligations to gain this training within 90 days of their election. He said the training was intended to provide practical information about the councilor's roles, duties and limitations as well as how to relate to staff. He cautioned if they had not availed themselves of this training they were overdue. He said, if the Councilors have a question about their role they could certainly contact him and also noted he did not represent any of the Council or staff individually rather he represented the City as a whole.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Stevens noted there is a need to address the Columbia Gorge Information Systems invoice if all the associate issues have been resolved.

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

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, Whitcomb and Forster

No

Abstain

Approved 5-0-0

Discussion on a stipend for the planning commission and/or a revisiting of the Councilor's stipend

Councilor Forster wanted to gain the Councilor's perspectives on providing the planning commission with a stipend in response to Steve Whitcomb's inquiry. Councilor Bianchi also questioned whether the Council should receive a \$25 per meeting stipend. Steve noted that the council recently approved Ordinance 1054 that provided council members a monthly stipend and that actions to amend or alter it would necessitate a new ordinance. Steve noted the stipend was not automatic rather a councilor had to submit an invoice to receive it and was not aware anyone had done so. Attorney Woodrich noted that the City of Stevenson compensated their Councilors \$114 per month. After deliberation the Council determined to leave alone the issue of rescinding compensation and/or providing compensation to the planning commission.

Executive Session: Attorney Woodrich requested a brief executive session to address Steve's record request. Mayor Stevens reconvened the meeting at 8:12 noting no decision had been reached.

Note: Councilor Forster left the meeting during the executive session.

Closing Public Comments

Casey Roeder noted that her property had been impacted by the November 17th storm and Richard Lafayette and his staff had come in and cleaned up her property and she was thankful for that act.

Diane Hamilton said that her property was still in precarious circumstances from the storm and there are some trees leaning towards her property that need to be removed. She also commented on the Council stipend and noting that action opens up a whole can of worms to other volunteer committees wanting similar consideration. She expressed concern about Steve's spin at the last meeting suggesting folks go back and listen closely to what he said.

Mike Hamilton offered the opinion the Council should bring an ordinance to the next meeting that would rescind the stipend the Council approved last September.

Closing Council Comments

Councilor Bianchi noted that he intended to meet again this week or next with the volunteer firefighters to go over the bylaws.

Councilor Whitcomb thanked Casey Roeder for her presentation and public service.

Councilor Sabo said the reason he took the position he did at the last Council meeting is based on an email Steve had sent him, advising that two of the fire fighters from the RV Park were candidates for eviction and that action contributed to an overall concern about the fire department's survival, which was a bigger issue than the fire truck. He said he was not sure why on that Wednesday Steve had shut

the door saying these guys were basically gone. He said there was nothing in the email to suggest an investigation was underway; and there was never any retraction stating these guys were staying. He noted when he received the email it looked pretty severe. He was truly of the impression these people were gone and that view started the ball rolling and then things progressed.

Councilor Bianchi said he had read the same email that Councilor Sabo was referring to and took it differently in that the fire truck was one item and the City needed to talk about the broader issues of the fire department. Essentially, the email was not saying that being down two persons was terminating the fire department.

Mayor Stevens said the reality is that one of the firemen came to City Hall and advised of the evictions at the RV Park. He said nothing about the possible eviction was instigated from this side – there was no spin going on.

Adjournment

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

Yes Councilors Sabo, Norris, Bianchi, and Whitcomb

No

Abstain

Approved 4-0-0

Meeting was adjourned approximately 8:24PM

Mayor

City Administrator