



## 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, August 26, 2014 6:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Call to Order 6:30 PM**

**Roll Call** Mayor Don Stevens; Council Members Bob Bianchi; Michael Hamilton; Charles Pace, Craig Forster and Mike Baker

#### **Unfinished**

#### **New Business Preliminary Budget Discussion**

John Spencer was present to share information about the budgeting process. He provided a budget handout that compared current City expenditure to revenue. His initial assessment of the budget is not good. He forecasts a budget shortfall by year's end in the general, water and sewer funds. At this point in time he is forecasting an \$88K deficit in the general fund, a \$2.5K shortfall in the water fund and \$26.5K deficit in the sewer fund.

He believes that Council needs to initiate certain actions to reconcile the shortfalls and noting the City is obligated to conclude the year with a balanced budget. He suggested that we suspend our law and justice contract with the Sheriff after providing 30 days notice as a starting point to budget resolution. He suggested a number of other financial remedies including the combining of the general fund with the street fund, consolidating fire services with District 5, pursuing a levy lift lid, raising water and sewer fees, furloughing employees, selling community assets, curtailing park maintenance, initiating an interfund loan from the water reserve and possibly holding off payment of interfund loans for a one year period as possible means to resolve the budget deficit.

John said he would provide a list of options for the Councilors to consider at their September 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

The Councilors asked many questions about the budget and methods of trimming costs but were not keen on the idea of reducing law and justice services.

Councilor Pace observed that this budget situation will continue until such time as we have a viable business district.

There was a discussion whether the City had the authority to cancel the Sheriff contract if that action was deemed necessary, and after some research, it was determined the City could do so with proper notice of that action.

Adjourned at 7:08 P.M.



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### City Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 26, 2014 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting Call to Order** 7:15 P.M.

**Roll Call** Mayor Don Stevens; Council Members Bob Bianchi; Michael Hamilton; Charles Pace, Craig Forster and Mike Baker

**Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **Agenda Changes & Additions**

Councilor Baker recommended that the finance committee meetings start at 6:00 P.M. until we approve the budget – it was agreed to discuss this suggestion under new business

#### **Public Hearings**

None

#### **Consent Agenda**

##### **August 12 Minutes August 26 Invoices**

Councilor Pace moved to approve the minutes and invoices as presented and seconded by Councilor Forster

Councilor Hamilton asked a number of questions about the invoices and in particular, why we would continue using the Chevron credit card and maintain a line of credit at the Chevron?

Councilor Hamilton asked that invoice 22652 be withdrawn from the invoice packet because of a belief the City should not be purchasing bottled water for public consumption.

Councilor Hamilton made a motion to amend the consent agenda to vote separately on invoice 22652 seconded by Councilor Pace

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Pace, and Hamilton

No Councilor's Baker and Forster

Abstain

Passed 3-2-0

Motion on the consent agenda less invoice 22652

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Pace, Hamilton, Baker and Forster

No

Abstain

Passed 5-0-0

Motion to approve invoice 22652

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Pace, Baker and Forster

No Councilor Hamilton

Abstain

Passed 4-1-0

### **Guest Presentations**

#### **Sheriff Dave Brown addressing law and justice issues**

The Sherriff passed out a report that provides information about his operation and the differing services it provides. He said that he had come this evening to discuss service delivery issues and financial concerns but not to negotiate his budget. Among the items he intended to address was the incarceration contract that is on this evening's Council agenda for approval. He said this contract was intended to cover the year 2014 and the rate should be modified in the contract to reflect a daily bed cost of \$55. He said that when an inmate becomes ill to the extent they need medical care and unless they pose a danger or some defined risk they are usually let out of jail because the County and its Cities can not afford to address their health care costs. He said - If need be the inmate could be reissued a warrant or summons at a later date. Sheriff Brown also advised the Council they may wish to have a discussion with the prosecuting attorney and judge about placing these inmates on a work release program because that reduces the City's incarceration costs and is a better use of an inmate's time.

Another issue the Sherriff wished to discuss dealt with his costs to provide emergency EMS and fire dispatch services to all County jurisdictions. He has not charged for this service, yet his costs are mounting and he needs to distribute them in some fair and equitable manner. He suggested a need to charge North Bonneville \$47 per dispatch call out and that sum reflecting an average county wide cost. He said that some of the entities confronted with this cost impact are looking at other jurisdictions but everyone now charges for this service. Finally, he noted that the cost of law enforcement services continues to increase and yet the County's budget is retreating. Thus, he is looking elsewhere to distribute the cost impact. He said he was obliged to provide for North Bonneville's law enforcement needs in the absence of the City having its own law enforcement presence and regardless of whether the City compensated that service or not. He said, if the City cannot afford to provide more compensation then we need to have a discussion what level of service we can provide for the monies available.

Mayor Stevens assured the Sherriff there was no desire to start hacking at the Sherriff's budget to reconcile City costs but to carefully look at a level of law enforcement service delivery relative to dollars available.

#### **Public Comment**

Fire Chief JB Tennison cautioned against the prospect of merging North Bonneville's Fire Department with Fire District 5 as a cost savings measure and noting that Fire District 5 is also a volunteer fire department with limited resources.

Cheryl Jermann said she very much supported the services the fire and sheriff department's provided the community and would ask that they not be subject to cost cutting measures.

#### **Councilmember Comments**

Councilor Bianchi noted that even though we have addressed parking issues in the Central Business District there remained a number of parking issues City wide needing attention. He passed out pictures that reflected on some of these parking concerns.

He also noted there were related land use issues needing attention. This parking issue will be discussed further at the next Council meeting.

Councilor Hamilton said if the Council was unwilling to cut back on bottled water then what was the Council willing to cut to address budget conflicts?

Councilor Pace said the real financial issue confronting the City was lack of resources and commerce. He said that one of the reasons he supported the Public Development Authority [PDA] had to do with the fact they could provide public dollars to help pay for police and fire services.

Councilor Baker said this evening's budget discussion was intended as food for thought and no one should leave with the impression that the Council was out to cut back on critical services without much deliberation and public input.

It should be noted that Councilor Forster left the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

### **Administrator's Report**

Steve suggested a special meeting be held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the many items discussed this evening and start to sort through them prior to the public hearing on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

### **City Attorney's Report**

None

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business**

### **Councilor Baker's recommendation the finance committee meetings start at 6:00 P.M. until we approve the budget:**

The Council agreed by consensus to modify the start time for the finance meeting that precedes the Council meeting to 6:00 P.M. until the budget process is concluded and providing that action is legal. Mayor Stevens will contact MRSC to assure there are no problems associated with that action.

### **Contract for Cleaning Services Sherry Hughes**

Councilor Pace made a motion to approve the contract and seconded by Councilor Baker

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Pace and Baker

No Councilor Hamilton

Abstain

Passed 3-1-0

### **Contract for Incarceration Services City of North Bonneville with Skamania County**

Councilor Pace made a motion to approve the incarceration contract with clarification the daily bed rate will be \$55 and the contract be in effect for the time period January 1, 2014 to December 31 2104 and seconded by Councilor Bianchi

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Hamilton, Baker and Pace

No

Abstain

Passed 4-0-0

**Resolution 475 Adopting the 2014 Solid and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan**

This item was tabled until the next Council meeting to give Council members time to review the document

**Approval of a solid waste and moderate risk waste plan through an interlocal agreement constructed between Skamania County, the City of Stevenson and North Bonneville**

This item was tabled until the next Council meeting to give Council members time to review the document

**Personal Services Contract with Reliable Diving for inspection of Sewer Effluent Outfall Pipe**

Councilor Pace made a motion to approve this contract and seconded by Councilor Hamilton

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

**Closing Public Comments**

None

**Closing Council Comments**

Councilor Hamilton requested an accounting of total costs expended for labor attorney services associated with negotiating the union agreement

Councilor Pace commented that the amount paid the attorney for his services was justified.

Mayor Stevens noted that all the money the City lent to the Public Development Authority has been repaid with interest

Councilor Bianchi asked that his concerns with parking be placed on the next Council agenda.

**Adjournment**

Councilor Baker moved to adjourn and seconded by Councilor Bianchi

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

Adjourned approximately 8.50 PM

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**Mayor**

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**City Clerk**