

**NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 24, 2013
Finance Committee Minutes**

Meeting Call to Order: 6:00PM

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Don Stevens – Councilors: Charles Pace, Bob Bianchi, Craig Forster, Mike Hamilton and Mike Baker

Staff Present: Steve Hasson, Richard Lafayette, Tom Jermann and Ken Woodrich

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

John Spencer provided the finance committee members with a further refinement of his budget assumptions. He noted the revenue projections are less than expected and offered a host of strategies/options to remedy budget shortfall. The Council also heard from the city staff about equipment needs that should be factored into the budget approval process. The Council expressed interest in allocating sufficient revenue for the purpose of addressing road impacts and noted that timely chip and crack sealing applications will extend their longevity. The Council also noted that the sheriff has laid off a portion of his workforce and that has resulted in a decreasing law enforcement presence in North Bonneville and this circumstance should be addressed as part of negotiating the sheriff's budget.

Adjournment 6:57 P.M.



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 24, 2013
Minutes

Meeting Call to Order: 7:07 PM

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Don Stevens – Councilors: Charles Pace, Bob Bianchi, Craig Forster, Mike Hamilton and Mike Baker

Staff Present: Steve Hasson, Richard Lafayette, Tom Jermann and Ken Woodrich

Guests Present

Approximately 15 guests were present.

Agenda Changes and Additions

None

Public Hearings

Cheryl Jermann requested a clarification of 1% Ad Valorem tax. In response, staff provided an overview of the financial impact resulting to the average household arising from a one percent property tax increase - noting the average resident would incur a monthly increase ranging from .24 to .48 cents and depending on the property's assessed valuation.

No other person asked to speak to this action and thus, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Consent Agenda

The following items were presented for approval:

September 10th 2013 Council Minutes and September 14th Vouchers
After discussion about the vouchers- the Council took the following action.

Councilor Pace moved to approve the consent agenda; 2nd by Councilor Bianchi

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Forster, Hamilton, Pace and Baker

No

Abstain

Passed 5 – 0 -0

Guest Presentations

No guest presentation

Public Comment

Jane Jackson thanked the public works staff and the contractor for the work that was done on the trails to make them safe.

Cheryl Jermann suggested the City make a real effort to be business proactive and to enforce the City's nuisance laws.

Howard Westfall wished to understand how public water bills are paid. The Mayor read into the record a letter from Robert Miller concerning safety, health and appearance standards.

Council Member Comments

- Councilor Forster followed up on Robert Miller's comments by noting there is a disabled vehicle on his street, another disabled vehicle in a driveway and a dog that runs loose.
- Councilor Hamilton inquired about the status of the investigation concerning a former City Clerk/Treasurer and also commented on a letter constructed by the City attorney for the State Auditor's office. He also requested information about utility accounts that are in arrears.
- Councilor Pace commented on Mr. Miller's letter noting he would be leery of the City establishing internal benchmark values.
- Councilor Bianchi was surprised by Mr. Miller's comments and noted they had served together on the planning commission and the suggested standards outlined in his letter likely exceeded governmental authority.
- A general discussion followed on community standards and public limitations

Fire Chief

Fire Chief, JB Tennison, requested his monthly pay be increased from \$100 to \$500 and provided a basis for that request. The council conveyed their thanks for his efforts and said they would take his request and other concerns under advisement as part of the budget process.

Administrator's Report

Steve asked the Council whether they were receptive to meeting on November 26th and noting that Thanksgiving fell on November 28th. The Council affirmed they were receptive to meeting that day. Steve also advised the Council that after consultation with the Mayor it was decided to pay invoices on a monthly basis rather than twice a month to economize material and labors. He said a letter would be sent to our vendors advising them of this action prior to its implementation. Steve plans to initiate this payment restructuring in January.

Attorney Report

Ken advised he has met with Judge Reynier about the County assuming the City's municipal court services after Judge Nix retires. He is left with the impression the judge is receptive to assuming that obligation. He advised that there would likely be onetime costs associated with the transfer process because the city records would need to be transferred and integrated into the county system. The Mayor suggested using Donna Woods to help the City in that transition due to her familiarity with the city and county court systems.

New Business

Possible creation of a special purpose public corporation under the provisions of RCW 35.21.730

Steve explained this item dealt with the creation of a special purpose district that would be constructed for purposes of operating a retail outlet in North Bonneville to dispense marijuana and related products. This discussion results from recent passage of I-502 which allows for the licensing of marijuana businesses and knowledge that two [2] marijuana dispensaries will be permitted in Skamania County.

He noted that the impetus for contemplating this district's creation was for protecting the municipality from marijuana related liabilities and to assure public oversight in the dispensing of this product as a means to reduce illicit activity. If such a district were created, the oversight committee would seek a dispensary permit from the Washington State Department of Liquor

Control. He advised the item was before Council for discussion purposes only, however, should the Council determine to pursue this action - they should also contemplate next steps. Steve noted that time was of the essence as there is only a small window of opportunity for the City to meet the State's timetable [approximately 60 days].

The Council discussed the promises and pitfalls of this action. After deliberation, the Council directed staff to explore this proposal further. In arriving at this position the Council noted that the City needs to be in the driver's seat to control this process and that doing so serves the public purpose. The Council qualified that this exploration reflected more an absence of objection than an endorsement of this action.

Approval Ordinance 1025:

This ordinance has two [2] purposes: It adopts the latest edition of the International Building Codes and increases the amount of square footage of accessory storage unit allowable without the need to obtain a city building permit – increasing the square footage from 120 to 200.

Mike Baker moved to approve and seconded by Bob Bianchi

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Forster, Hamilton, Pace and Baker
No
Abstain
Passed 5 – 0 -0

Adoption of Resolution 462:

Steve explained this is a resolution affording the City of North Bonneville the opportunity to participate in a joint self insurance health and welfare benefit program whereby the AWC Trust medical and dental [WDS] and vision programs will transition from fully Insured to self insured with no likely increase resulting from this action. This action essentially creates a new interlocal agreement.

Councilor Pace moved for approval, contingent upon attorney review and acceptance and/or modification to make the health insurance plan compatible with city interests also predicated on having both options available to the City

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Forster, Hamilton, Pace and Baker
No
Abstain
Passed 5 – 0 -0

Adoption of Resolution 463:

The council has previously requested staff take the City's existing hotel/motel lodging tax policy and amend it so that the staff review component was replaced by a tourism committee review. Accordingly, the supporting resolution has been modified to reflect Council's request. Steve asked the council to review the modified language and determine if it is acceptable.

Council Pace moved for approval of the new policy language with the striking of the sentence that reads: *The city may only choose recipients from the list of candidates and recommended amounts provided by the LTAC.* Seconded by Bob Bianchi

Vote to amend

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Forster, Hamilton, Pace and Baker
No

Abstain
Passed 5 – 0 -0

Vote on the motion as amended

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Forster, Hamilton, Pace and Baker
No
Abstain
Passed 5 – 0 -0

Tourism Committee recommendations on use of hotel/motel tax proceeds for 2014:

Steve noted that the newly formed lodging tax advisory committee had met to review the three hotel/motel funding applications that had been timely received. And now that the Council has adopted a new policy on hotel/motel lodging tax policy [by its prior action] that places responsibility for the review of hotel/motel funding proposals with the lodging tax advisory committee – the Council is in a position to receive and act upon their recommendations.

Request from the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce for hotel motel funds

Skamania County Chamber has requested \$22,000 in tourism funds to sponsor tourism promotional events. Additionally, they are seeking \$10,000 in revenues for Gorge Days promotional activities.

The committee noted a key component of Gorge days, not a part of the \$10,000 request, is a supporting car show. Thus, the committee is also recommending that up to \$5000 be set aside for car show sponsorship with those parties interested in providing this activity be obligated to bring their auto display proposal to the committee for evaluation and Council recommendation.

The Council chose to take the Chamber items separately starting with the \$22,000 request:

Councilor Pace Move to approve Councilor Bianchi seconded
Yes Councilors Bianchi, Forster, Pace and Baker
No Councilor Hamilton
Abstain
Passed 4 –1 -0

With respect to the \$10,000 request for Chamber sponsorship of Gorge Days:
Councilor Bianchi moved to approve Councilor Baker seconded

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Forster, and Baker
No Councilor Hamilton
Abstain Councilor Pace
Passed 3 –1 -1

The Council took no action on the \$5,000 car show component associated with Gorge Days, determining to wait until a proposal was presented to the tourism advisory committee for recommendation to the Council.

Request from the Bigfoot Discovery Trails Committee for hotel/motel tax proceeds

Councilor Hamilton moved to approve Councilor Bianchi seconded

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Forster, and Baker
No Councilor Pace

Abstain Councilor Hamilton
Passed 3 –1 -1

It should be noted that the committee's request was for \$20,000 [19+1] but the motion was for a \$19,000 allocation and no one chose to amend the number

Request from Wind River Publishing LLC for hotel/motel funds

Councilor Hamilton moved to approve Councilor Bianchi seconded

[the generalized motion was support for placement of an ad in all three periodicals not to exceed \$3500]

Yes Councilors Bianchi, Forster, Hamilton and Baker
No Councilor Pace
Abstain
Passed 4 –1 -0

Unfinished Business

None

Closing Citizen Comments

Cheryl Jermann inquired about hotel motel funding for the Bonneville Hot Springs.

Closing Council Comments

- Councilor Hamilton urged the public to attend one of County Sherriff Dave Brown's presentations on the Principals of Liberty
- Councilor Pace noted that he has provided the Council a brochure form Sherriff Dave Brown concerning ATV use in Skamania County and noting the City would need to address this issue at some point. He had also attended the Cascade Locks Port Commission meeting and provided the Council a written report on the status of the Bridge of the Gods.
- Councilor Baker requested information at the next Council meeting on the hotel/motel proceeds that were recently provided the Bonneville Hot Springs for advertising purposes.

Adjournment

Councilor Pace moved to Adjourn; 2nd by Councilor Baker
Yes Councilors Bianchi, Pace, Forster and Hamilton
No
Abstain
Passed 5-0-0

Adjourned 9:17 PM

Mayor

City Clerk