



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor JB Tennison
Councilmember Emily Sabo
Councilmember Margie Lee

Councilmember Mary Helms
Councilmember #4 Jeff Blakeley
Councilmember #5 VACANT

City Council Meeting Minutes April 28, 2026 7:00 p.m.

A. Meeting Call to Order 7:00

This meeting will be held both in-person and using a video conferencing system. Click the following link to join the meeting online:

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Meeting ID: 253 570 667 557 24

Passcode: Hy6Ht3Ra

B. Roll Call

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Agenda Changes and Additions

On motion by Councilor Blakeley, seconded by Councilor Lee, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was approved that the Council amend the agenda to hold an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(f) to receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer.

On motion by Councilor Blakeley, seconded by Councilor Lee, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was approved that the Council amend the agenda to add an action item to New Business to appoint a temporary Mayor Pro Tempore as the first order of new business.

Councilor Sabo clarified that Councilor Blakeley would like to appoint a temporary Mayor Pro Tem prior to the appointment of the new Councilor to which Councilor Blakeley responded yes.

On motion by Councilor Blakeley, seconded by Councilor Lee, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was approved that the Council amend the agenda to add a discussion item to New Business to address the respective roles of the Mayor and City Council in regard to an email sent by the Mayor to a Councilor.

On motion by Councilor Blakeley, seconded by Councilor Lee, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was approved that the Council amend the agenda to add a discussion item to New Business to address how the agenda is set without running afoul of the OPMA.

Chief Administrative Officer Taylor Chambers informed the Council that she intended to bring in someone to train the Council on a similar subject to the requested discussion item and asked if the Council would like to wait to hold the discussion until after they received further training to which Councilor Blakeley responded no.

E. New Business

1. Appointment of Temporary Mayor Pro Tempore

Councilor Blakeley thought it was important that the Council always have a Mayor Pro Tempore and volunteered to serve in the temporary role.

On motion by Councilor Helms, seconded by Councilor Sabo, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was ordered that Councilor Blakeley be appointed as temporary Mayor Pro Tempore for a period ending May 12, 2026.

2. Appointment of vacant Council seat #5

CAO Chambers stated the process to appoint Councilor number 5 was the same as when Councilor Blakeley was appointed.

On motion by Councilor Sabo, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, Ted Salka was appointed to fill vacant Council seat #5 with a term ending December 31, 2027.

3. Oath of Office for new Councilor

CAO Chambers swore Mr. Salka into office.

4. Discussion to address the respective roles of the Mayor and City Council in regard to an email sent by the Mayor to a Councilor.

Councilor Blakeley spoke about an email sent from Mayor Tennison to a fellow Councilor and requested that the discussion not include the content of the email because it involved a member of the community. He opined that the email made him feel uncomfortable and felt that Mayor Tennison was scolding a Councilor. He asserted that Mayor Tennison was part of the Executive Branch of the City and the Council was the Legislative Branch. He declared that the Council did not answer to the Mayor and outlined the chain of command for complaints about Councilors. He requested clarification from counsel regarding how situations like this should be handled in the future.

City Attorney Dan Curtis stated he did not know how to advise the Council because he did not have enough information about the situation Councilor Blakeley was referring to and asked for more context.

Councilor Sabo stated the email was from Mayor Tennison correcting the conduct of a Councilmember.

Attorney Curtis remarked that the Mayor oversaw order during a meeting, so there was some ground for polite conversations about previous meetings and how to improve things for future meetings. He stated there was no binding authority that the mayor had over the Council that exceeded the duration of the Council meeting. He opined the Council was on the right track by discussing how to address these types of situations.

Councilor Blakeley clarified that he would not have had an issue with the situation if it was handled in a more positive manner.

Councilor Sabo stated that most of the Council was new and it was important to remember that they were all elected officials with responsibility to the community. She asserted that no one was above anyone else. She declared that she did not have a problem with respectful corrective communication between Councilors, however, it was important to remember that they were all working towards the same goal and none of them were each other's supervisors.

Councilor Helms opined there was a polite way to say everything.

Councilor Blakeley asked if there was need for further discussion or if there was a consensus on what direction Councilors should take in the future. It was determined that no further discussion was required.

5. Discussion to address how the agenda is set without running afoul of the OPMA.

Councilor Blakeley stated there was a determination made that an individual Councilor could not place items on the agenda, therefore he had to request items during Changes to the Agenda. He stated when that happened, Councilors did not have a chance to prepare for the item.

Councilor Lee stated that the Council had the authority to establish the council meeting agenda.

CAO Chambers pointed out that the specific language Councilor Lee was citing referred to the Council. She clarified that the decision to place an item on the agenda had to be made by the Council as a whole.

Attorney Curtis stated that commonly, Councilors would make requests for future agenda items during council meetings so it could be determined whether or not there was a general consensus among the body as a whole to add the item to an agenda. He stated the Council needed to be careful when adding items to the agenda as the City was subject to the OPMA and could not discuss part of a thing in public while keeping part of it private. He asserted that discussion of City business needed to happen in public to the extent possible. He requested that Council get into a rhythm where, during a Council meeting, Councilors presented items for the next Council meeting during Council comments, if it was determined that there was a general consensus, staff would place the item on a future agenda. He stated that the alternative was what Councilor Blakeley did at the beginning of the meeting when he amended the agenda with the consent of the entire Council.

Councilor Blakeley asked if it would be considered a serial meeting should staff make multiple contacts with each Councilor to which Attorney Curtis responded no. Councilor Blakeley asserted that under the Council Rules of Procedure Chapter 4.4, if a councilmember requests an item to be put on an agenda, the mayor must put the item on the agenda in a reasonable time.

Councilor Sabo stated that historically, if someone wanted something placed on the agenda, it was placed on the agenda.

CAO Chambers stated she had never seen agenda items done that way and had confirmed with Attorney Curtis that the proper procedure was what he had outlined. CAO Chambers thought it was important that Councilors not be permitted to make unilateral decisions about the agenda.

Attorney Curtis asked if Councilor Blakeley was trying to place items on the agenda in between Council meetings to which Councilor Blakeley responded yes. Attorney Curtis supposed it was possible but was typically avoided. He explained there was a lot of work to get the agenda put together. What could happen was that there might be one or two individual Councilors who had several things they would like added to the agenda, which could lead to one individual Councilor monopolizing the conversation when they may or may not necessarily have the consensus of the body. However, it was the Council's meeting, so it could decide as a group that they were okay with individual Councilors reaching out to staff in between meetings and staff could make their best effort to put individual Councilmember's items on the agenda.

Councilor Blakeley asked if the Council should vote to do it that way to which Attorney Curtis stated Councilor Blakeley could propose a motion.

Attorney Curtis clarified what section of the Council Rules of Procedure Councilor Blakeley was referring to. Councilor Blakeley stated it was Chapter 4.4 which was from an iteration of the Rules of Procedure dated October 6, 2016, but he only had the red lined version of that version online.

Attorney Curtis asked that a Councilor read that section into the record and stated staff would get the updated version of the Rules of Procedure published on the website so everyone had the correct version going forward.

Councilor Blakeley read Chapter 4.4 of the Council Rules of Procedure into the record which was approved by a 5-0 vote.

F. Public Hearings

1. Critical Areas Ordinance Draft Amendment Periodic Review

City Planner Richard Hall provided an introduction to the Critical Areas Ordinance Draft Amendment. He stated that the City received written comments from the Washington Department of Ecology and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife which were being reviewed to determine any changes that might be deemed necessary. He noted that he had not received any comments from the public to date. He introduced Paul Dennia and Allison Baker from Jackson Civil Engineering.

Planner Dennis stated that he received two agency comments that day. He remarked that the comments were at odds with one another and requested that the Council continue this item to the Council's first June meeting to allow staff time to review the agency comments.

Councilor Lee confirmed that the request was to continue the item to the Council's June 9th meeting to which Planner Dennis responded yes.

Attorney Curtis asked if the comments that Planner Dennis mentioned were reflected in the packet to which Planner Dennis responded no.

On motion by Councilor Helms, seconded by Lee, which motion carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the Public Hearing for the Critical Areas Ordinance Draft Amendment Periodic Review be continued to June 9, 2026.

Planner Hall outlined that staff would hold further discussions with the Department of Commerce to merge and incorporate the comments received from staff. He declared that at the June 9th meeting the public would have the opportunity to comment.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the April 14th special meeting minutes.
2. Approval of the April 14th Meeting Minutes.
3. Approval of the April second half vouchers.

On motion by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Sabo, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the April 14th Special Meeting minutes, the April 14th meeting minutes, and the April second half vouchers in the amount of \$13,803.85 be approved.

H. Opening Public Comment

This is the time to comment on any matter falling within the purview of the North Bonneville City Council. Please note, the City Council cannot take action on any item which does not appear on the agenda. RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits public officials and employees from using or authorizing the use of city facilities for the purpose of supporting or opposing any campaign or ballot proposition. The City therefore respectfully reiterates that public commenters are not authorized to make reference to such matters.

1. Written public comment received from Lisa Marie on April 20, 2026. Subject: Formal Complaint for Submission to City Council Public Record. (Redacted to remove vulgar language from the record.)
2. Written public comment received from Fred Dressler on April 24, 2026. Subject: Hamilton Island Exposed.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

I. Councilmember Comments

Councilor Lee stated she had nothing to add.

Councilor Helms stated she had nothing to add.

Councilor Sabo welcomed Councilor Salka and reminded the public that taxes were due on Thursday.

Councilor Salka asked if the City was responsible for anything mentioned in Mr. Dressler's public comment. Councilor Sabo stated that the topic had been a matter of public comment for a long time. She explained that there was a board that dealt with the matter.

Councilor Blakeley remarked that when he was a member of the public watching the Council meetings, he felt the Council was often unprepared. He stated that after being appointed to the Council, he quickly learned about the OPMA and that Councilors could not talk to each other. He declared that the public had better access to the Councilors than they did to each other.

J. Sheriff's Report

Skamania County Sheriff Summer Scheyer shared that she put two items before the Skamania County Commission were approved at their meeting earlier in the day. The first item was to formalize the Sheriff's Office Auxiliary which tied in existing volunteer groups associated with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, which the Commission approved. The second item was a workshop regarding an ordinance for the Skamania County Search and Rescue to allow the Sheriff's office to fine negligence. She declared there was nothing major going on in North Bonneville.

Ms. Mary Salka stated that there was a situation at the rock quarry and declared that she was impressed with the Sheriff's Office response.

Councilor Salka mentioned that there had been some creeping around his shop and at Silver Star after dark.

K. Mayor's Report

Mayor Tennison stated he had nothing to add and was waiting for some contracts to be finalized with the Attorney.

L. City Clerk Report

CAO Chambers stated that she met with the WCIA regarding the City's risk audit and annual review. She mentioned that the topic was contracts which she thought was relevant because the City was working on amending the contracts that were audited. She was working on the FEMA grant for damage from the December storm noting that she submitted the Request for Public Assistance the day before. She stated that she had been doing a lot of budget work and planned to have a quarterly report before the Council soon. She spoke about the Small City Connectors event she attended and recommended that Councilors attend some AWC training.

M. City Attorney's Report

Attorney Curtis stated that he was working with CAO Chambers to develop a single document for the City's fees. He noted that currently, the fees were listed in the code, but were updated by

resolution, which opened the possibility that two people could find inconsistent information. He hoped to get the item before Council for a first read shortly.

N. Planner's Report

Planner Hall announced that the Planning Commission had a meeting scheduled for May 5, 2026. He stated that he planned to hold a hearing for a conditional use permit, but the applicant had withdrawn. He stated that he received final drawings regarding engineering for utility upgrades at the Cascade Business Park and hoped development could start soon.

O. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Kalista Hamilton welcomed Councilor Salka. She stated that the Department got through its initial meeting with eh WSRB. She announced that during the meeting, she learned that the Department's current packs and bottles had not been flow or pressure tested and were now expired. She declared that she found a semi-permanent solution and could use some grant money to fix it. She remarked that she was working on the Gorge days event and had started updating the Gorge days website. She noted that there had been several complaints regarding the burn pile being closed and announced that the Public Works department was working to do some small burns to work on the issue.

Mayor Tennison clarified if Chief Hamilton was able to get turnouts with the recent grant she received to which she responded no, they were able to purchase packs, masks, and bottles.

Councilor Blakeley asked if the bottles were steel or composite to which Chief Hamilton responded they were composite.

P. Closing Public Comments

There were no requests to the call for public comment.

Q. Closing Council Comments

Councilor Lee stated that she had nothing to add.

Councilor Helms spoke about the emailed public comment regarding Mayor Tennison and opined he should have made a phone call to discuss the issue with the Councilors.

Councilor Salka had nothing to add.

Councilor Sabo thanked Chief Hamilton for mentioning the burn pile and declared that she received several phone calls about it. She knew there was public concern, especially in the spring, but she also understood the issue the City was having. She mentioned that she added some grass clippings to her compost pile and it started steaming and when she went to check on it, it seemed ready to combust. She reminded the public that things like that could happen.

Councilor Blakeley reminded people to be mindful of the wind when burning.

R. Executive Session:

pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(f) to receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer, the Council recessed to a 10-minute executive session from 8:15 to 8:25.

The Council extended the executive session from 8:25 to 8:35.

The Council extended the executive session from 8:35 to 8:45.

The Council extended the executive session from 8:45 to 8:48.

S. Adjournment 8:48

Note: During any public meeting, the Council may adjourn to an executive session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110.