



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, November 25, 2014 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Call to Order 6:02 PM

Roll Call Finance Committee members Mike Baker; Charles Pace, Craig Forster and Don Stevens
Absent: Mike Hamilton and Bob Bianchi

New Business

BreAnna Mendoza addressed the Council with concerns she had about the Sheriff's budget and supplemented her concerns with a written statement. She wondered how the City Council could substantiate paying the Sheriff \$6000 per month for law enforcement services when his department provided little in the way of community services. She noted her property taxes were intended to pay for County law enforcement services and yet the City also paid for the same law enforcement. Essentially, City citizens were paying twice for law enforcement. Meantime, unincorporated Carson with a larger population than North Bonneville received County Sheriff services at no additional costs to Carson residences. Hence, the County not only charged North Bonneville residents twice for the same service but also asked the community to subsidize the rest of the County. She expressed the concern there was no cost analysis that defended how the Sheriff determined to charge the City \$72,000 each year nor documentation how much time his deputies spent in the community and also noting she rarely saw a sheriff deputy. She said the Sheriff's contract should be subject to competitive bidding procedure to assure the City paid the least cost for services rendered. She said the Sheriff's office had a history of misappropriating revenues by using them for other than their intended purpose. Worse, the County Commissioners encouraged the Sheriff to fleece North Bonneville residences as a means to help fund his operation.

The Finance committee thanked her for expressing these concerns and asked Administration to look into these matters.

Unfinished Business – Continuation of budget discussion

John passed out a new budget document. He said we should end the year with every fund balanced. The general fund has been tightened down to the extent it has the capacity to loan or gift revenue to the sewer fund next year, which will balance out the sewer reserve fund. He said the City has \$18,000 in the street repair fund that was not used so the intention is to roll it over in 2015 for that purpose. John said the general fund should remain viable next year because of Council's determination to increase sewer and water taxation for one year with those proceeds dedicated to the general fund [approximately \$50,000]. John also noted because of the strength of the general fund we could repay the three interfund loans whose payment was set aside due to budget concerns. The finance committee said they would contemplate loan repayment action in January after the dust settles.

Adjourned at 6:55 P.M.



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Councilmember Bob Bianchi
Councilmember Mike Baker
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City Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 11, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Call to Order 7:01 PM

Roll Call: Mayor Don Stevens, Councilors Mike Baker, Charles Pace, and Craig Forster

Audience: about 7 visitors

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Changes & Additions

Mayor Stevens suggested Council entertain a motion to excuse Councilors Bianchi and Hamilton as well as provide him the opportunity to discuss procurement of a pet chip scanner under new business with Council concurring

2015 Budget Hearing Ordinance 1043 [this is a second public hearing on this matter]

Mayor Stevens opened up the hearing for public comment:

Cheryl Jermann said there was considerable public support for the City's law enforcement operation as they provide good service at a reason price and their budget should not be cut. There being no further comments the hearing was closed.

Consent Agenda

Approval of November 11th Council Minutes and November 25th Invoices

Councilor Forster moved to approve the minutes and invoices and seconded by Councilor Baker

Yes Councilors Pace, Baker and Forster

No

Abstain

Passed 3-0-0

Guest Presentations

No presentations

Public Comment

Cheryl Jermann said the Council should make no effort to get rid of the Sheriff's office or seek alternative law enforcement strategies without public input. She felt Mrs. Mendoza should have been placed on the City Council meeting for better public exposure.

BreAnna Mendoza said that City staff had determined to place her on the finance committee agenda. She noted her concerns with the City's law enforcement contract were primarily related to lack of documentation about the time and energies the Sheriff's office expended in North Bonneville.

Craig Forster said it was important the City have adequate documentation to qualify law enforcement

expenditures. He did not think the Sheriff's office provided good law enforcement response based on personal observation.

Cheryl Jermann added that the Sheriff has a shortage of officers and has to respond to the most pressing public needs. She said, rather than criticize him we should be supporting his efforts to acquire the manpower he needs.

Councilmember Comments

Councilor Pace noted that it was he who requested Mrs. Mendoza be afforded the opportunity to express her concerns to the Council - but left it to administration to determine her placement on the agenda. He felt it was appropriate she was placed on the finance agenda as she is a city resident, a fraud examiner, CPA and a former City Council person and was well qualified to identify public concerns needing attention.

Councilor Baker said it was appropriate to have Mrs. Mendoza speak at the finance committee meeting because her concerns related to the budget.

Mayor Stevens noted that he placed Mrs. Mendoza on the finance committee agenda because her concerns related to finance issues.

Administrator's Report

Steve said he intended to contact the State Auditor's office and share concerns that had been expressed about the law enforcement contract and gain their perspective whether the City's current contractual approach was sufficient.

He also advised that City staff has researched the street light issue and was in a position to recommend turning off 64 street lights at an annual cost saving of \$2500, provided the Council was receptive to that action. If so he would bring this recommendation and a location map to the next Council meeting.

City Attorney's Report

Attorney Woodrich said it was appropriate for Steve to call the State Auditor's help line to gain their perspective on the City's law enforcement contract.

Unfinished Business

Hotel/Motel Tax Funding Agreement – Skamania County Chamber of Commerce - the sum of \$22,000

Councilor Forster moved to approve the funding agreement and seconded by Councilor Baker

Yes Councilors Pace, Baker and Forster

No

Abstain

Passed 3-0-0

Economic Development Council [EDC] Contract for Economic Development Services

2015 – EDC is seeking \$6500 to provide for its services in 2015

Robert Waymire, Executive Director Skamania County EDC, provided an overview of EDC and outlined the scope of work contemplated with the proposed contract.

After much discussion Councilor Pace made a motion to continue this item to the next Council meeting and seconded by Councilor Forster.

Yes Councilors Pace, Baker and Forster

No

Abstain

Passed 3-0-0

Ratifying a contractual arrangement with Washington State Department of Commerce for receipt of a CDBG grant in the sum of \$350,000 to replace a sewer lift station in accordance with a scope of work and budget noted in attachment “A”

Councilor Baker made a motion to ratify the CDBG contract for the sum of \$350,000 with Councilor Forster providing a second
Yes Councilors Pace, Baker and Forster

No
Abstain
Passed 3-0-0

New Business

Excusing Councilors from this evening’s Council meeting

Councilor Baker made a motion to excuse Councilors Hamilton and Bianchi from this evening’s Council meeting and seconded by Councilor Forster
Yes Councilors Pace, Baker and Forster

No
Abstain
Passed 3-0-0

Discussion concerning procurement of a pet microchip scanner

Mayor Stevens noted that several dogs have shown up at City Hall recently without identification and he had taken the initiative to drive them to Stevenson so they could be scanned at a veterinarian clinic as a means to find their rightful owner. He would like to purchase a pet microchip scanner for approximately \$300 to facilitate reconnection of owner and pet.

Council by consensus concurred in this matter

Staff Appreciation

Councilor Forster suggested and effort be made to thank staff during the holiday season for all the hard work and dependability they demonstrate throughout the year
Council by consensus concurred in this matter

Possible adoption of Ordinance 1043 – an ordinance adopting the annual budget for fiscal year 2014

Councilor Baker made a motion to table this matter until the next Council meeting and seconded by Councilor Forster

Yes Councilors Pace, Baker and Forster
No
Abstain
Passed 3-0-0

Adoption of Resolution 482 – establishing a code of conduct for administering federal grants

Councilor Forster made a motion to approve and seconded by Councilor Baker
Yes Councilors Baker and Forster

No Councilor Pace
Abstain
Passed 2-1-0

Closing Public Comments

Cheryl Jermann said she thought it appropriate that Steve consult with the State to assure our contractual arrangement with law enforcement is correct.

BreAnna Mendoza noted that federal accounting standards were considerably more stringent than state standards and that in our accepting a \$350,000 federal grant we would be held to a higher accounting compliance standard.

Closing Council Comments

Councilor Baker said he did not agree with Mr. Waymire’s characterization of EDC’s assistance in procuring the CDBG grant and therefore would not support the present contract.

Councilor Pace said we should look forward and focus on what EDC can contribute to the City as we want them to succeed; however, we need to establish performance expectations. He also expressed concern over the language found in the code of conduct. He said it is our responsibility to comply with CDBG requirements but it is that agency’s responsibility to comply with federal requirements - not our job to do that on their behalf.

Adjournment

Councilor Pace moved to adjourn and seconded by Councilor Baker

Yes Councilors Pace, Baker and Forster

No

Abstain

Passed 3-0-0

Adjourned approximately 8.10 PM

Mayor

City Clerk