



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 13, 2012
Minutes

Meeting Call to Order: 7:02 PM

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Don Stevens, Charles Pace, Jerry Arthurs, Mike Baker, Tim Dudley and Jennifer Stratton-Pies

Absent:

Staff Present: Clerk / Treasurer / Administrator John Spencer, Attorney Ken Woodrich

Guests Present

Approximately 11 guests were present, including Kevin Coombs of the Beacon Rock Golf Course and Renee Tkach of the Friends of the Gorge.

Agenda Changes and Additions

Mayor Stevens requested to move up the Beacon Rock Golf Course Driving Range discussion after the Towns to Trails presentation.

Public Hearings

Sewer Rates for Industrial Customers

The hearing was opened.

No comments were made.

The hearing was closed.

Medical Marijuana

The hearing was opened.

No comments were made.

The hearing was closed.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included the January Payroll, 1/24/12 Council Minutes, 1/31/12 Council Minutes, and 2/13/12 Vouchers.

- **Councilor Dudley moved to approve the consent agenda; 2nd by Councilor Stratton-Pies.**

Discussion ensued with questions on various vouchers.

Council recessed to executive session to consult on personnel issues in the presence of City Attorney Ken Woodrich for 5 minutes starting at 7:15PM. Council reconvened at 7:23PM with no decision having been made.

On the consent agenda:

Yes: Councilors Pace, Baker, Dudley and Stratton-Pies

No: Councilor Arthurs

Passed 4 – 1

Guest Presentations

Renee Tkach gave a presentation on the Friends of the Gorge Towns to Trails project, presenting a brief overview and map, and asking for the city's support of the vision. She also offered resources to the city to help it plan its portion of the trail. A question and answer session ensued with council concerns expressed regarding the extent of the vision and the potential impacts of trail users on the community.

Public Comment

Cheryl Jermann – Expressed concern about the payroll section of the audit and curiosity about how the city will handle it.

Paul Lambson – Asked whether the city had borrowed any money in 2010. Asked where the city's money has gone.

Josi Lambson – Asked why the city was seeking a contract for accounting services.

Tom Herzig – Expressed satisfaction with the quality of the audit report, but disagreed with the section that said the council had not provided adequate oversight on financial matters. He remembered that a previous auditor stated that internal controls were adequate.

Cheryl Jermann – Asked how much the city had to write off due to accounting errors.

Charles Pace – Commented as a resident on Ordinance 1007, noting that it only deals with collective gardens, and expressing his concern that the city should not continue renewals of the moratorium indefinitely.

Council Member Comments

Councilor Stratton-Pies – Provided a brief overview of the planning commission's activity.

Councilor Arthurs – Expressed reluctance to accept emailed files from the city after learning at an Association of Washington Cities training that such emails are public records. Ken noted that this issue can be avoided by setting up email accounts for council members on a city- or web-based server. Discussion ensued. Mayor Stevens will work on setting up email accounts for council members.

Councilor Pace – Thanked people in the audience for their input.

Mayor Stevens – Noted that Sawnet has begun offering high-speed internet over the city's former cable system.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report

Submitted. John additionally noted the release of the auditor's finding, and informed council of recent changes to the classification of roads that will better enable the city to receive grant funding. Discussion ensued regarding Gorge Days administration and city hall staffing.

Attorney Report

None.

Unfinished Business

Beacon Rock Golf Course Driving Range

Kevin Coombs presented his idea of placing a driving range on the city's M-19 lot. He discussed the possibility of using it to benefit the community through public golf classes and the like, and discussed the cost of set-up and maintenance. He suggested that he could put up signage to warn golfers from using regular balls, and offered to pay for any property damage himself.

Discussion ensued. Councilor Baker noted that no one along holes number 9 and 7 has ever presented a damage claim. Ken suggested that the "public space" use would need to be looked at by the planning commission. Kevin would need the project up and going by May in order to make it viable.

Consensus to remand the issue to Planning Commission and to request staff to work to further develop the proposal.

Gorge Days Funding / Coordination

No further discussion needed.

Ordinance 1004 – Utility Billing

- **Councilor Stratton-Pies moved to approve ordinance 1004, 2nd by Councilor Dudley.**

Councilor Pace expressed concerns regarding the ordinance and related fees.

Yes: Councilors Arthurs, Baker, Dudley and Stratton-Pies

No: Councilor Pace

Passed 4 – 1

Ordinance 1005 – Claims Payments

- **Councilor Stratton-Pies moved to approve ordinance 1005, 2nd by Councilor Baker.**

Councilor Arthurs – expressed concern about the council's ability to maintain financial oversight under this ordinance.

Yes: Councilors Pace, Baker, Dudley and Stratton-Pies

No:

Abstain: Councilor Arthurs

Passed 4 – 1

New Business

Ordinance 1007 – Marijuana Growing Moratorium

- **Councilor Stratton-Pies moved to approve ordinance 1007, 2nd by Councilor Dudley**

Discussion ensued regarding the removal and rewording of "Whereas" clauses.

- **Councilor Pace moved to amend ordinance 1007 as discussed, 2nd by Councilor Stratton Pies**

On Amendment

Yes: Councilors Arthurs, Pace, Baker, Dudley and Stratton-Pies

No:

Passed 5 – 0

On motion as amended

Yes: Councilors Arthurs, Pace, Baker, Dudley and Stratton-Pies

No:

Passed 5 – 0

Ordinance 1008 – Industrial Sewer Rates

John suggested that this ordinance is no longer necessary since its language was incorporated into ordinance 1004.

No action was taken.

Approval – City Engineer Contract

- **Councilor Stratton-Pies moved to approve the city engineer contract, 2nd by Councilor Dudley**

Councilor Baker asked if any applicants were local businesses (none were). Discussion ensued.

Yes: Councilors Arthurs, Pace, Baker, Dudley and Stratton-Pies

No:

Passed 5 – 0

Approval – BARS Restructure

John provided background, explaining that while he could do this work himself, contracting for it will save time.

- **Councilor Dudley moved to approve the BARS restructuring contract, 2nd by Councilor Stratton-Pies**

Yes: Councilors Arthurs, Pace, Baker, Dudley and Stratton-Pies

No:

Passed 5 – 0

Discussion – Finance / Audit Issues

Councilor Dudley – Discussed the over payment of staff issue. He suggested that the city needs to pursue repayment of this money and he went on to discuss the history affecting the city's current financial status.

Councilor Pace – Expressed his view that there was no apparent concern regarding previous employee's actions – that the payroll mistakes occurred because of human error, not because of intent. He argued against the idea of pursuing the over-paid money. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Arthurs – Asked what the city paid the CPA who looked at the books in 2010 and suggested that the city has reached the point where it does not make sense to spend more money looking for a more thorough explanation of the accounting errors.

Closing Comments

Cheryl Jermann – Noted that her husband’s pay was often miscalculated and that he was forced to repay all over-payments.

Tom Herzig – Said that failure to research the payroll errors would be dereliction of duty.

Paul Lambson – Asked how the city dropped from \$1.2 million to \$250,000 in 20 months. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment

- **Councilor Stratton-Pies moved to Adjourn; 2nd by Councilor Dudley.**
Yes: Councilors Pace, Baker, Dudley, and Stratton-Pies
No: None
Abstain: Arthurs
Passed 4 – 1

Adjourned 9:40 PM

Mayor

Clerk