



**MINUTES OF
JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**NORTH BONNEVILLE,
STEVENSON, AND CASCADE LOCKS**

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Meeting Call to Order: 7:02 PM

Roll Call

Stevenson

Present

Mayor Frank Cox, Councilors Monica Masco, Robert Muth, and Julie Mayfield

Absent:

Councilors Moli Thomas and Amy Weissfeld

Staff Present:

Administrator Mary Ann Duncan-Cole

Cascade Locks

Present

Mayor Thomas Cramblett, Councilors Bruce Fitzpatrick, Glenda Groves and Richard Randall

Absent:

Councilors Jeff Helfrich and Bobby Walker

Staff Present:

Administrator Gordon Zimmerman

North Bonneville

Present

Mayor Don Stevens, Councilors Charles Pace and Mike Baker

Absent:

Councilors Patience Udall and Jennifer Stratton-Pies

Staff Present:

Clerk / Treasurer / Administrator John Spencer

Guests Present

Approximately 10 guests were present, including Gorge Commission Executive Director Darren Nichols, theGorge.com co-founder Kenny Bravoso, Pioneer Editor Philip Watness, Port of Cascade Locks Interim General Manager Paul Koch, Cascade Locks Port Commissioner Joeinne Caldwell, and Don and Gyda Ann Haight of Cascade Locks.

Presentation

Draft White Paper: Outline of the Three Partnership Initiatives

John Spencer gave an overview of the draft white paper. Discussion ensued.

Discussion on Strategic Priorities

Wastewater Treatment

Mayor Stevens discussed the status of the three cities' sewage plants. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a feasibility study on transporting Stevenson and North Bonneville sewage to Cascade Locks for treatment and/or processing.

Emergency Response Services

Discussion ensued regarding ways in which fire departments could work more closely together, particularly holding joint training sessions. Discussion included cities cooperation in fighting fires in state and national forests.

Education and Schools

Discussion ensued on possibilities of using a voucher program to enable Cascade Locks students to attend the Stevenson schools. The new Clark Community College extension in Carson which will accept Oregon residents was discussed as an example of interstate cooperation in education. It was suggested that cities could work with school districts to create an interstate Running Start pilot program with a couple Cascade Locks students attending Clark College. Discussion also included uses for the Cascade Locks school.

Other Discussion

Mary Ann Duncan-Cole has been encouraging the Skamania Chamber to advertise Cascade Locks' events in its newsletter and to work with the Cascade Locks Downtown Association.

Darren Nichols discussed the structure of laws creating the Gorge Commission under the National Scenic Area act, noting that the laws creating the Gorge Commission have the stature of federal law, and that the Gorge Commission has the ability to assist in interstate agreements.

Councilor Pace discussed the legal basis of the partnership, emphasizing the need for clarity and detail in the white paper. Mr. Pace also noted the importance of maintaining a complete and accurate record of activities and documents produced by the partnership.

John Spencer noted that cities can and already do share staff. Similarly, both Stevenson and Cascade Locks contract with OMI to run their sewer plants.

Darren Nichols asked for attendance at the Gorge Commission's April 9th meeting during which they are going to discuss the results of their 2012 survey. He also asked for support in obtaining state funding, which would help in the Commission's ability to assist in this partnership.

The Gorge Commission will provide the following to city councils:

- **A recreation study**
- **An Economic Development study**
- **A letter written by Darren Nichols committing the Commission to support the three-city partnership.**

Creation of Taskforce

Discussion ensued on how to go about this project.

While no vote was taken and no commitments were made, there was a general consensus to:

- 1) Co-sponsor a grant application for funding for a feasibility study on joint waste-water operations.**
- 2) Draft and approve two resolutions supporting these partnership efforts:**
 - a) Separate city council resolutions supporting the regional partnership; and**
 - b) A joint resolution approved by each council as well as the Gorge Commission the regional partnership.**
- 3) Have the Gorge Commission be the repository of record on these partnership efforts.**
- 4) Create a taskforce, each city to volunteer members through discussion at their council meetings, potentially including citizen volunteers.**

Other Matters

None.

Closing Public Comment

None.

Adjourned at 8:33