



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor JB Tennison
Councilmember Emily Sabo
Councilmember Margie Lee

Councilmember Mary Helms
Councilmember #4 VACANT
Councilmember #5 VACANT

City Council Meeting Minutes
February 24th, 2026
7:00 p.m.

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Meeting Call to Order 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: All Councilmembers were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Changes & Additions: None

Consent Agenda: Approval of the meeting minutes of February 13th meeting minutes and February 24th second half vouchers.

On Motion by Councilor Sabo, seconded by Councilor Lee, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, it was ordered that the February 13th meeting minutes and February 24th second half vouchers in the amount of \$26,144.68 be approved.

The motion was amended by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Sabo, and duly carried on a 3-0 vote, to correct the date of the minutes from February 13th to February 10th.

Public Comment:

Written public comment received from Mitch Patton on February 7, 2026, Subject line: Request for Public Review of Civil Service Commission Oversight for SCSO Policing Services, was included in the meeting packet.

Councilmember Comments:

Councilor Sabo welcomed Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Taylor Chambers to the City. Councilor Lee expressed gratitude that CAO Chambers had been onboarded. Councilor Helms welcomed CAO Chambers and thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Sheriff's Report:

Skamania County Sheriff Summer Scheyer said she reviewed the calls for the month of February and noted several traffic stops within City limits. She expressed concern regarding forward movement of the Sheriff's Qualification Bill and mentioned that she attended the Washington Sheriff's Association Meeting in Ellensburg the previous week where the Bill was discussed. She reiterated that her major concern with the Bill was the threat it posed to local voter rights.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor JB Tennison thanked the public for being present at the meeting. He expressed gratitude that CAO Chambers had joined the City. He announced two special meetings on April 18, 2026, and April 28, 2026, both beginning at 6:00 p.m. to be immediately followed by the regularly scheduled Council Meetings. He explained that both special meetings were in place to allow the Council to interview candidates for the vacant council seats.

Forest Hoffer inquired about the term length for the vacant positions.

Councilor Lee thought that newly appointed candidates would carry out the existing terms, which City Attorney Dan Curtis confirmed.

City Clerk Report:

CAO Chambers stated that she was happy to be part of the City and looked forward to doing a good job.

City Attorney's Report:

City Attorney Dan Curtis welcomed CAO Chambers to the City. He stated his office worked closely with City staff and thought a capable administrative officer was pivotal in his ability to advise the City.

Planner's Report:

City Planner Richard Hall welcomed CAO Chambers to the City. He announced that the Planning Commission intended to hold a public hearing to review the City's Critical Areas Ordinance on March 3, 2026, but the meeting was not properly noticed in the *Skamania Pioneer*, so that meeting was cancelled. As a result, the Planning Commission scheduled a special meeting on March 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. He pointed out that a draft copy of the Ordinance was available on the City's website. He noted that Paul Dennis from Jackson Civil Engineering would attend the meeting and be available for comments and questions. He reviewed the next steps of the Critical Areas Ordinance, if approved by the Planning Commission. He mentioned a conversation he had with Cindy Bradley of the Skamania County Economic Development Council and noted he was provided with an informational document which he forwarded to the Councilmembers. He spoke about a letter he and Mayor Tennison received from the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council regarding an opportunity for the City Council to appoint a representative to weigh in on the Cascade Renewable Transmission Project. He stated that Planning Commissioner Harold Cook had expressed interest in being considered for that role. He stated that he was still waiting on a document from City Engineer Devin Jackson regarding updates to the City's General Sewer Plan.

Fire Chief report:

Fire Chief Kalista Hamilton stated she was working with CAO Chambers to troubleshoot some budget issues. She noted that she may need to submit a budget amendment and was working to obtain some grants. She remarked that training was going well and expressed gratitude for the outpouring of support and services offered by members of the community.

Mayor Tennison asked Chief Hamilton what upcoming training she was most excited about.

Chief Hamilton responded that she was very excited about the pump training that had just been completed and that she had recently attended a ropes course with Search and Rescue. She announced that the department was awarded funds to continue its mitigation efforts throughout the City.

Unfinished Business:

- Excuse counselor Helms from the January 13th meeting.

On Motion by Counselor Lee, seconded by Counselor Sabo, with Counselor Helms abstaining, which motion duly carried on a 2-0 vote, it was ordered that Counselor Helms be excused from the January 13, 2026, City Council meeting.

- Approval of the Planning Commission's recommendation to appoint Suzanne Bradshaw to Planning Commission Position #4 with a term ending in 2029.

On Motion by Counselor Lee, seconded by Counselor Sabo, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, it was ordered that Suzanne Bradshaw be appointed to the Planning Commission Position #4 with a term ending in 2029.

- Approval of the Planning Commission's recommendation to appoint Julie Dallas to Planning Commission Alternate #1 with a term ending in 2030.

On Motion by Counselor Lee, seconded by Counselor Sabo, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, it was ordered that Julie Dallas be appointed to the Planning Commission Alternate #1 with a term ending in 2030.

- Approval of the Planning Commission's recommendation to appoint Sean King to Planning Commission Alternate #2 with a term ending in 2030.

The motion by Counselor Sabo failed for lack of a second.

New Business:

- Approval of Resolution 594 approving Taylor Chambers, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Jeremy Tennison, Mayor, as signers on all financial accounts.

On Motion by Counselor Lee, seconded by Counselor Helms, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, it was ordered that Resolution 594 be approved.

- Approval to open recruitment to fill vacant Council Seat #4 with a term ending December 31, 2027, and vacant Council Seat #5 with a term ending December 31, 2027.

On Motion by Counselor Helms, seconded by Counselor Lee, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, it was ordered that recruitment for the vacant Council Seats #4 and #5 be opened.

Closing Public Comment:

Jeff Blakeley asked for clarification regarding the vote to excuse Councilor Helms. He declared that there was a quorum of three and just because Councilor Helms abstained, did not mean that there was no longer a quorum. He thought all that was necessary to pass the motion was two votes.

City Attorney Dan Curtis stated he was having an audio issue during the vote to excuse Councilor Helms and initially thought it was a tied vote. Since there were two votes in favor, the motion carried.

Mary Salka pointed out a clerical issue on the agenda noting that the minutes to be approved should have been for February 10, 2026, not February 13, 2026.

Attorney Curtis told the Council they could vote to amend the date of the minutes to reflect correctly.

Forest Hoffer asked if the Council was allowed to make nominations to fill the vacant Council seats. Mayor Tennison responded that the process the Council would use to appoint new members was based off approved recruitment methods from 2016.

Councilor Lee stated that the law permitted the Council to interview candidates, but it was not required. If the Council chose to hold interviews, it would have to be in a public capacity. She noted that after interviews, the Council would recess to an executive session to determine who would be selected for the position.

Mary Salka asked if a candidate interviewed and was not chosen for the first position, if they could return and interview for the second position to which Councilor Lee responded yes.

Attorney Curtis clarified that the purpose of the optional executive session would be to discuss qualification of candidates only, the final decision had to be made in a public setting.

Closing Council Comments:

Councilor Helms thanked the public for attending the meeting and expressed pride in staff's hard work.

Councilor Lee thanked the public for attending and announced that there would be a meeting on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the events center for the North Bonneville Neighborhood Watch.

Councilor Sabo thanked the public for attending. She expressed gratitude for Fire Chief Hamilton's hard dedication and organization. She announced that the Fire Department planned to stop the Monday night drill siren because it was recently discovered that it costs money to run the siren.

Adjournment: 7:38 p.m.

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