



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 Agenda April 14, 2026 7:00 p.m.

A. Meeting Call to Order 7:11

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

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 253 570 667 557 24

Passcode: Hy6Ht3Ra

B. Roll Call

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Agenda Changes and Additions

E. Public Hearings

F. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the March 24th, 2026 meeting minutes.
2. Approval of the April first half vouchers.

On Motion by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Sabo, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, it was ordered that the March 24th meeting minutes and April first half vouchers in the amount of \$36,343.98 be approved.

G. Opening Public Comment

This is the time to comment on any matter falling within the purview of the North Bonneville City Council. There will also be time in conjunction with each action item for public comment relating to that item but you may only speak once per topic. 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 Mitch Patton on March 30, 2026. Subject: Complaint Regarding Apparent Abandonment of Sheriff Civil Service System – Skamania County.

H. Councilmember Comments

Councilor Sabo expressed excitement for the Council applicants.

Councilor Lee did not have a comment.

Councilor Helms thanked the community for attending the meeting.

I. Sheriff's Report

Skamania County Sheriff Summer Scheyer apologized for missing the previous two Council meetings and spoke in opposition of the Sheriff's qualification bill. She highlighted that several Washington counties had filed a litigation regarding the bill.

Mr. Jeff Blakeley wondered how the lawsuit would be funded and if residents could help. Sheriff Scheyer responded that the Sheriff's Association was the main funding source and she would have to investigate the lawfulness of independent funding from the public.

Councilor Helms inquired about the content of Mr. Patton's written public comment. Sheriff Scheyer responded that the Skamania County Commissioners were tasked with establishing the civil service commission, but there were no volunteers willing to sit on that board. She remarked that the reports she would have presented to the civil service commission if it was operational, were sent to the Skamania County Clerk of the Board.

J. Mayor's Report

Mayor Tennison reported that the City hired two employees at the beginning of the month, one a full-time maintenance worker and one a seasonal mower.

K. City Clerk Report

CAO Chambers announced that she planned to attend the Small City Connector's event put on by the AWC on April 21, 2026, and invited the Council to join her. She spoke about the AWC's annual conference and a scholarship that was available to first-time attendees. She provided clarification about the rules surrounding selling produce grown in the Community garden. She announced that she received her Washington Notary Commission and was available to provide notary services to the community at City Hall. She announced the retirement of Ms. Carol Korst and informed the community that she planned to hire a new Office Assistant in the coming months.

L. City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Dan Curtis provided clarification on how the Council would appoint the new Councilor, explaining that an appointment did not require a second.

M. Planner's Report

City Planner Richard Hall informed the Council that the April Planning Commission meeting was cancelled. He announced that the Planning Commission would hold a public hearing in May regarding a proposed childcare facility. He stated that there would be a public hearing before the Council during its next meeting regarding the Critical Areas Ordinance noting that

Paul Dennis with Jackson Civil Engineering would be available at the meeting to address questions and comments.

N. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Kalista Hamilton announced that the Fire Department was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the DNR for radios and pagers. She announced that the Department would undergo an inspection from the WSRB at the end of the week. She remarked that training was going well.

Mayor Tennison asked if the grant was only for pagers and radios.

Councilor Sabo stated that the grant was for pagers, radios, fuel, computers, and suction lines with valves for each brush truck.

Mayor Tennison asked if the computers were for mapping to which Chief Hamilton responded they were for training but could be used for mapping.

O. New Business

1. Appointment of vacant Council seat #4

On motion by Councilor Lee, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, Mr. Jeff Blakeley was appointed to fill vacant Council seat #4 with a term ending December 31, 2027.

2. Oath of Office for new Councilor

CAO Chambers swore Mr. Blakeley into office.

3. Approve Resolution 595 authorizing a day-to-day spending limit for the Chief Administrative Officer by Amending the Procurement Policy.

Councilor Sabo asked if the Council would still be made aware of any payments made to which CAO Chambers responded yes. Councilor Sabo remarked that there was a similar process in place for Skamania County and that she was comfortable with this Resolution.

Councilor Blakeley proposed some changes to the Resolution. His remarks and suggestions are outlined on a handout he provided to the Council which is attached to these minutes and titled *O.3 Supplemental Attachment*.

CAO Chambers requested that if the Council was going to agree to the sunset clause proposed by Councilor Blakeley, that only the portion about paying old bills be sunset.

Councilor Blakeley assured that the only portion he requested to sunset was the paying of old bills.

On motion by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Helms, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was ordered that Resolution 595 be approved.

4. Approval of Amendment to the Personnel Policy Manual

Mayor Tennison stated that this item would move the pay date for employees from the second of the month to the first of the month.

Councilor Sabo believed the reason for the pay date being on the second was that the payroll system previously employed by the City was not user-friendly.

CAO Chambers asserted that the new system was easy to use and she was confident she could have payroll run on the first of the month.

On motion by Councilor Helms, seconded by Councilor Sabo, which motion carried on a 4-0 vote, it was ordered that the Personnel Policy Manual be amended.

5. Approval of Ordinance 1176 – Mayor Compensation

Councilor Sabo asked Mayor Tennison to explain his thought process.

Mayor Tennison stated while he was not always in the office, he was available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. He declared that he communicated on a daily and hourly basis with staff and responded to the public in a timely manner. He believed he was doing the job that people voted for.

Councilor Blakeley provided a handout of his remarks which is attached to these minutes and titled *O.5 Supplemental Attachment*.

Councilor Blakeley asked Mayor Tennison what warranted such a large raise after only serving for three months.

Mayor Tennison responded that after he won the election, the Council passed an ordinance to lower the mayor's pay which he felt was out of spite. He believed he was doing a good job as the mayor and opined the Fire Department was thriving because of the resources and connections he made while serving as the Fire Chief.

Councilor Sabo clarified that the ordinance to lower the mayor's pay was passed prior to the election results.

Mayor Tennison responded that after the ordinance to lower the salary was passed, there was another ordinance placed before Council to increase the salary. Councilor Lee responded that the Council did not approve that ordinance.

Councilor Blakeley stated there was not an independent salary study performed and believed Zip Recruiter was not a reliable source for determining salary. He recalled a request he made for the Mayor and Councilors to track their time to show how much time they dedicated to their roles, which he opined would be helpful in establishing an appropriate mayoral salary. He asked if his request had been implemented to which Councilor Lee responded no.

Councilor Blakeley pointed out some discrepancies reported in the ordinance. He noted that the ordinance also noted that the Mayor was expected to expend a comparable amount of time to mayors in recent past which he opined was incorrect as the previous Mayor fulfilled

the role of a full-time staff member. He asked that the Council either refrain from acting on the ordinance or table the item.

Mayor Tennison disagreed with Councilor Blakeley's statement. He asserted that he was required to hire a CAO. He wondered what duties Councilor Blakeley felt the CAO was fulfilling in place of the Mayor.

Councilor Blakeley stated the Council was not here to answer Mayor Tennison's questions and opined Mayor Tennison should have recused himself.

Mayor Tennison asked Attorney Curtis to weigh in on Councilor Blakeley's request to which Attorney Curtis stated that the Mayor was not expected to vote on the item and it was not the place of the City Attorney to weigh in on policy. Mayor Tennison asked if he was allowed to discuss the item. Attorney Curtis stated that while it was not spelled out, it would be appropriate for Mayor Tennison to abstain from the discussion.

Councilor Sabo asserted that Skamania County typically paid much lower than comparable positions in the State. She thought people took pay cuts to work close to home and to serve their community. She did not think it was the right time to request a pay raise.

On motion by Councilor Helms, seconded by Councilor Sabo, which motion failed on a 0-4 vote, Ordinance 1176 was not passed.

6. Approve Well Pump and Motor Replacement

CAO Chambers stated this item was brought to her when she first started but she initially did not know how it would be funded. She stated this was a critical piece of infrastructure and explained if this equipment was to fail, it would be catastrophic for the community. She declared that emergency repairs would be quite expensive. She outlined that the budget did not allow for an expenditure that large, however there were funds in the City's Money Market account that could be allocated towards this project.

Mayor Tennison stated that the pump and motor that would be removed could be kept as a backup.

Councilor Blakeley clarified that the City would receive a new pump and the current pump would be reserved for emergencies. Mayor Tennison responded that it would cost \$9,000 to rebuild the current pump, but it could be kept on hand in its current state as a back up in the event of a catastrophic failure of the new pump. Councilor Blakeley asked how long the City could go without a functioning pump to which CAO Chambers responded it was about one day. She declared that the pump rebuild was not an option because the company would have to pull the pump, take it away to be serviced, then put it back and the City did not have a way to keep the City running.

Councilor Blakeley asked if there was a way to circumvent the pump to which CAO Chambers responded no.

On motion by Councilor Sabo, seconded by Councilor Lee, which motion carried on a 3-0 vote with Councilor Blakeley abstaining, it was approved that staff order the well pump and motor replacement from Mather & Sons Pump Incorporated for a total of \$38,873.91, be paid with the City's Money Market account.

P. Closing Public Comments

Andra Mobley inquired about the City's plan to deal with Blue Mountain to which Mayor Tennison replied that the company had just replaced some of the outdated infrastructure. Ms. Mobley opined that internet service was worse after the infrastructure replacement and wondered if the responsibility should fall to the City to fix the issue.

Councilor Lee stated that there had been past discussions about trying to get some grants to help offset the cost to replace outdated internet cables. Councilor Blakeley did not think grants were available because Blue Mountain reported that high speed internet was available to the City.

CAO Chambers called a point of order stating that the conversation was getting too robust for public comment. Attorney Curtis stated the Council should be careful and limit back and forth discussions as it was an item not on the agenda.

Chief Hamilton stated the outages were not only affected the internet, it was also affecting the fire alarms at Hamilton Park Apartments.

Councilor Sabo stated that internet had been a problem in North Bonneville for a long time and she wanted something to be done about it, she just did not know what.

Q. Closing Council Comments

Councilor Helms thanked the public for coming.

Councilor Lee thanked the public for coming to the meeting and thanked the candidates who applied to fill the vacant council seats.

Councilor Sabo thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Councilor Blakeley thanked the Council for putting their trust in him and hoped to live up to the Council's expectations.

R. Executive Session

The Council recessed into a 5-minute executive session from 8:25 to 8:30.

The Council extended the executive session from 8:30 to 8:35.

S. Adjournment 8:35

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

Resolution #595
CAO's Accounts Payable Policy Recommendation

This is a prudent move that will save the city money and help maintain financial integrity with our vendors. I agree with the first bullet point under the CAO's recommendations, however the second point deals with the broader issue of untimely bill payments. Once the current backlog is resolved, this should no longer be an ongoing concern.

However if our CAO feels strongly that this measure is necessary while addressing past issues, I would recommend attaching a sunset clause to its approval. It would be financially imprudent to establish a permanent policy to address temporary issues.

It should not be overlooked that relinquishing this control does not release the council from its duty to oversee all of the city's expenditures. Accordingly, I would propose that the council add the following safeguards to protect the city, the council members, and our CAO.

- 1. The sum of multiple invoices from the same person or business will be used to calculate the \$2,000 cap.**
- 2. Invoice splitting designed to remain under the \$2,000 cap will not be allowed.**
- 3. Any payments made, must conform to the approved budget.**
- 4. There should be a monthly cap on the total amount that can be paid.**
- 5. Require an itemization for each expenditure to include the vendor, the amount paid, and the reason why it needed to be paid outside of council approval.**

Ordinance #1176, Mayoral Compensation

1. This proposed ordinance will increase the mayors compensation by more than 114%.

What has changed that warrants such a large increase after just 3 ½ months?

2. No formal or independent salary study appears to have been conducted. Instead, the ordinance cites data from ZipRecruiter, which is not a compensation study. It just reports statewide averages which are heavily influenced by large cities with full-time mayors.

It should be noted that Stevenson, Washington's mayor earned \$600 a month as of 2024, and many Columbia River Gorge communities compensate their mayors at a similar level. Additionally, if the city intends to rely on Ziprecruiter as the authority when setting salaries, consistency would require that city councilors would see their pay increased from the current \$25 per meeting, to over \$33,000 per year.

3. I previously requested that the mayor and city counselors track their time to provide the voters with a clearer understanding of how much time was being dedicated to city business. I also noted that this information would be valuable in helping to establish an appropriate salary for the mayor, an issue he had previously expressed displeasure in.

Was this request implemented and if so are those records available?

4. This proposed ordinance reports that starting July 1st, 2018 the mayors salary was \$3,225 per month as set by ordinance #1090.

This is not correct. Ordinance #1090 actual set the mayors compensation at just \$1,025 per month and it went into affect on January 1st, not July 1st.

5. This proposed ordinance also reports that our current mayor "is expected to expend comparable time and resources to mayors in the recent past who were paid \$3,225 per month."

This too is incorrect. First, there is only one recent mayor and Mayor Tennison is neither expected to, nor does he spend a comparable amount of time engaged in his mayoral duties. In fact he has hired a full-time Chief Administrative Officer to preform the majority of the tasks our previous mayor handled personally.

Given the conflicting information, and the lack of a comprehensive salary study, I respectfully request that the council either refrain from taking action on this ordinance or table it until it has been given proper and thorough consideration.

**CITY OF NORTH BONNEVILLE
ORDINANCE NUMBER 1090**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH BONNEVILLE, WASHINGTON, AMENDING
CHAPTER 1.05 MAYOR AND COUNCILOR COMPENSATION.**

WHEREAS, the City of North Bonneville is an optional municipal code city organized and existing under the provisions of Title 35A of the Revised Code of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the mayor's salary has not been reviewed or updated for some time; and

WHEREAS, the mayor donates significant time and personal resources to promote the City's health, safety and welfare;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BONNEVILLE,
WASHINGTON DO HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1.

Legend: New language added = underlined
Old language deleted = ~~strikethrough~~

Amending

CHAPTER 1.05 Mayor and Councilor Compensation as follows:

1.05.010 Council Compensation.

Commencing with the calendar year ~~2016~~ 2018 or the commencement of a new term of office, whichever is later, councilmember's elected or appointed subsequent to the previous year's general election shall receive \$25 reimbursement per city council regular meeting attended, not to exceed two meetings per month.

1.05.020 Mayor Compensation.

Commencing with the calendar year ~~2016~~ 2018 and thereafter, the mayor shall receive a salary of ~~\$735~~ \$1025 per month. The mayor, serving in this capacity, shall not be eligible for overtime, holiday pay, medical benefits or other benefits.

1.05.030 Pro-Tem Compensation

In a case where a pro-tem mayor fills the mayor's position for at least one full month, the pro-tem shall receive the mayor's compensation in his/her stead for each full month served. For existing council members, this provision shall become effective during a new term of office.

1.05.040 Effective Date.

As provided in Washington State Constitution Art. 11§ 8, NBMC 1.05.010 does not permit an increase in the salary of any of the existing council members during their present term of office, but shall only establish a salary for those councilors during a subsequent term of office beginning from the time they take office.