



NORTH BONNEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor JB Tennison
Councilmember Emily Sabo
Councilmember Margie Lee

Councilmember Mary Helms
Councilmember #4 VACANT
Councilmember #5 VACANT

City Council Special Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2026

6:00 p.m.

A. Meeting Call to Order 6:00

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: 229 637 575 261 06

Passcode: EG3Qo9D8

B. Roll Call

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. 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.

There was no response to the call for public comment in person or online.

E. New Business

1. Interview of Mr. Jeff Blakeley for vacant Council seat #4.

Why do you want to serve on the City Council?

Mr. Blakeley thought he had a lot to offer the City.

Councilor Lee asked what he meant by that.

Mr. Blakeley responded that he had a diverse background. He opined that his lifelong employment in the construction industry gave him a unique perspective on the matters addressed by the Council. He noted that he had served on three different boards which awarded him leadership, problem solving, and planning skills. He highlighted that he served as a church Elder which taught him dispute resolution. He remarked that he served as an auditor for his labor union which gave him some financial experience. He also served on the finance committee for the Portland Lutheran School Board of Directors. He declared that he was a fiscal conservative.

What experiences, talents or skills do you bring to the Council and the community that you would like to highlight?

Mr. Blakeley outlined his ability to separate his personal interests from those of the City. He remarked that trait frustrated his ex-wife when he sat on the Portland Lutheran School Board. He asserted that he always voted in the best interest of the school, regardless of how that impacted his family.

Are there any regional issues or forums in which you have a particular interest or expertise? (e.g. transportation, water supply, human services, water quality, fiscal management, parks and open spaces, etc.)

Mr. Blakeley outlined that there were three subjects that gave him great concern. His first concern was the threat of wildfire due to the mild winter. He declared that he started a fundraiser through his Union to help the Fire Department. He expressed concern regarding the Sheriff's Department and the capacity of its Search and Rescue program. He stated that he did not have any solutions at present, but planned to put some effort forward and see where he could lend help. He spoke about a legislative bill regarding Sheriffs and opined the bill would hinder the rights of voters. He declared if the effort was not overturned, the community needed to get involved.

Do you want to serve on the City Council because of a particular local issue on which you want to work, or are your interests more broadly distributed?

Mr. Blakeley stated he did not have a particular issue. He thought the position should be filled with someone who had a broad perspective. He mentioned the City's failing internet, which he thought needed to be addressed. He noted that he was working on a plan to solve the issue. He asserted it was a project he planned to work on regardless of whether he was appointed as a Councilor.

Councilor Lee confirmed there were many community members who would support that effort.

Mayor Tennison asked the Councilors if they had any additional questions to ask.

Councilor Sabo asserted if a question was asked of one candidate, it needed to be asked of all candidates, which Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Chambers confirmed.

Councilor Lee stated that she did not have any additional questions to ask.

2. Interview of Mr. Forest Hofer for vacant Council seat #4.

Why do you want to serve on the City Council?

Mr. Hofer declared it was not about want, it was about his reasons. He stated that the reason he applied to serve on the Council was because a community member whom he deeply respected contacted him to ask if he would consider serving on the Council. He said that he thought about the request, attended some meetings, spoke with other members of the community, and talked it over with his family. He remarked that his family and neighbors were supportive of him applying for the position. He believed he could contribute in a meaningful way.

What experiences, talents or skills do you bring to the Council and the community that you would like to highlight?

Mr. Hofer asserted that this would not be his first public office noting that he had served as a Hospital District Commissioner for five years. He stated that he became a Commissioner during a time when emergency services were poorly and he was able to provide stability and help to upgrade the services. He thought that gave him good insight into what public services and oversight was about. He declared that he had worked in healthcare his whole life. He noted that he previously served as a hospital administrator which provided him with managerial experience. After serving in that role he returned to clinical medicine. He opined that the same qualities that made him a good practitioner also made him a good public servant. He stated that he was a good listener, did his due diligence, and was not afraid to make decisions of consequence.

Are there any regional issues or forums in which you have a particular interest or expertise? (e.g. transportation, water supply, human services, water quality, fiscal management, parks and open spaces, etc.)

Mr. Hofer stated that he had experience in human services. He noted that his daughter was the Public Outreach Director for the largest drug and alcohol treatment facility in the State and that his wife was a clinical psychologist for the VA. He remarked that as a retired provider, he received daily phone calls from members of the community. He declared that he previously ran for Skamania County Commissioner and the main concern he had when running was that the community was badly underserved in regards to healthcare. He explained that the only reliable source of emergency medicine in the area was EMS.

Do you want to serve on the City Council because of a particular local issue on which you want to work, or are your interests more broadly distributed?

Mr. Hofer did not think there was a particular issue that drove him to apply other than wanting to be a member of the community. He opined that the Council took a hit when two members of the Council resigned. He thought Councilors should be people who could lend their personal integrity to the Council.

3. Interview of Mr. Charles Pace for vacant Council seat #4.

CAO Chambers disclosed that Mr. Charles Pace requested to have his name removed from consideration.

4. Interview of Mr. Ted Salka for vacant Council seat #4.

Why do you want to serve on the City Council?

Mr. Salka stated he had a desire to ensure the town could thrive and to establish a lasting future for the next generation.

What experiences, talents or skills do you bring to the Council and the community that you would like to highlight?

Mr. Salka stated in 2004 he purchased a shop from Petersen's, in 2011 he bought his home, and in 2013 he bought the Quarry from Warehouser. He declared that he spent 14 years on the Washington Contract Logger's Association's Credit Union, four of which he served as the Chairman. He announced that he had been in business for 30 years as of February

2026. He stated that he lived in the community and felt invested in it. He declared that he had a good handle on finances and building budgets. He noted that he served as a Board member and Outside Director at the museum.

Are there any regional issues or forums in which you have a particular interest or expertise? (e.g. transportation, water supply, human services, water quality, fiscal management, parks and open spaces, etc.)

Mr. Salka asserted that he had experience with equipment management. He stated that he knew how to set maintenance schedules and was proficient in time management and employee management.

Do you want to serve on the City Council because of a particular local issue on which you want to work, or are your interests more broadly distributed?

Mr. Salka stated that his interests were more broad. He thought he could adapt to most tasks that would be assigned to him.

F. Closing Public Comments

Fire Chief Kalista Hamilton asserted that she was very impressed. She thanked the applicants for stepping up and opined that each applicant had qualities that the City needed.

CAO Chambers announced that there were no online requests for public comment.

Mr. John Mobley echoed Chief Hamilton's comments. He expressed appreciation for the applicants who stepped up. He asked if there were two vacant positions.

Councilor Lee stated there were two vacant positions but she did not know why the Council was not able to appoint both in one meeting.

Mayor Tennison stated the Council had to fill the positions in order.

Mr. Mobley asked if the Council would be holding more interviews at the following Council meeting.

CAO Chambers stated the Council would hold interviews again on April 28, 2026. She stated that the reasoning behind filling the positions in this manner is because the Code outlined that because Council seat 4 was vacated first, it would need to be filled first, and the newly appointed Councilor had to be permitted to be part of the decision to appoint Council seat 5.

Councilor Lee clarified that there were no new applicants for the positions, so Council seat 5 would be filled from the current applicant pool.

G. Adjournment 6:40

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