

**CITY OF BLAINE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, January 14, 2019**

**6:00 PM**

**Bonnie Onyon - Mayor  
Steve Lawrenson – Mayor Pro Tem**

**A. STUDY SESSION – 4:34 PM – Commission and Board Interview**

4:30 PM – Janet Pickard – Park and Cemetery Board  
4:40 PM – Chris Monson – Park and Cemetery Board  
5:00 PM – John Lebrun – Planning Commission  
5:10 PM – Calvin Armerding – Planning Commission

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Eric Davidson, Charlie Hawkins, Bonnie Onyon, and Mary Lou Steward.

**STAFF:** City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Samuel Crawford.

**B. CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM**

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COUNCILMEMBERS:** Eric Davidson, Charlie Hawkins, Bonnie Onyon, and Mary Lou Steward. Steve Lawrenson and Alicia Rule requested to be excused.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO EXCUSE STEVE LAWRENSON, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO EXCUSE ALICIA RULE SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

**STAFF:** City Manager Michael Jones, Finance Director Jeffrey Lazenby, Chief of Police Allen Schubert, Public Works Director Ravyn Whitewolf, Acting Community Development Services Director Alex Wenger, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Samuel Crawford, and City Attorney Jon Sitkin.

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

1. Greg Wendt, President of the Semiahmoo Resort Association (SRA), regarding the interaction between the SRA and the City.

**D. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

1. North Whatcom Fire Update – Chief Hollander reported on the *January 2019 Responder* handout.

**E. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Email dated December 13, 2018, from Debbie Coleman, regarding the remaining seven acres for sale on the Gateway property.
2. Email dated December 14, 2018, from Linda Clark, regarding Chewters Chocolates.
3. Email dated December 15, 2018, from Dennis Olason, regarding the utility fee increase.
4. Email dated December 18, 2018, from Michael Jones, regarding the recent New York Times article on cross border shopping in Blaine.
5. Email dated December 20, 2018, from Debbie Harger, regarding the Blaine Holiday Harbor Lights.
6. Email dated December 20, 2018, from Mike Hill, regarding Chewters Chocolates.
7. Email dated December 21, 2018, from Bill Becht, regarding Chewters Chocolates.
8. Email dated December 21, 2018, from Paula Smith, regarding Chewters Chocolates.
9. Letter dated December 21, 2018, from Audrey Schroeder, regarding her utility bill.
10. Email dated December 23, 2018, from Dennis Olason, regarding the Airport Property.
11. Email dated December 27, 2018, from Chief Schubert, regarding the 911 call system.
12. Letter dated December 29, 2018, from Paula Smith, regarding Chewters Chocolates.
13. Email dated December 31, 2018, from Jeff Schumacher, regarding his interest in having a "Welcome Canadians" sign in Blaine.
14. Email dated January 2, 2019, from Mayor Onyon, regarding the Whatcom Council of Government's "Unfunded Transportation Needs of Whatcom County 2019" report.
15. Email dated January 8, 2019, from Dennis Olason, regarding applications for the vacant City Council position.
16. Email dated January 9, 2019, from Bonnie Onyon, regarding the *Community Health Snapshot* report provided by the Whatcom County Health Department.
17. New. Email dated January 14, 2019, from Micki Jackson, regarding Healthcare Decisions Day.
18. New. Email dated January 14, 2019, from Jeff Seiden, regarding the proposed B&O tax.

**F. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Voucher Memo:
  - Approval of Bills 12/30/2018: \$217,999.07, Wire Register: \$298,320.02
  - Approval of Bills 01/14/2019: \$119,592.43
  - Approval of Advanced Payment: \$5,209.64
2. Approval of Payroll: \$569,920.31
3. Approval of December 24, 2018, City Council Minutes
4. Approval of January 7, 2019, Special City Council Minutes
5. Approval of personnel contract with municipal judge
6. Approval of employee contract amendments
7. Approval of employee contract
8. Approval of Public Defender contract addendum

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

**G. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

1. Appointments to Park and Cemetery Board.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO APPOINT JANET PICKARD TO THE PARK AND CEMETERY BOARD, SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO APPOINT CHRIS MONSON TO THE PARK AND CEMETERY BOARD, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

2. Appointments to Planning Commission.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY ERIC DAVIDSON TO APPOINT CALVIN ARMERDING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO APPOINT JOHN LEBRUN TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION, SECONDED BY ERIC DAVIDSON, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

3. Re-Appointment of Annette Collins and Appointment of Mike Lucas to Public Works Advisory Committee – presented by Ravyn Whitewolf

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO RE-APPOINT ANNETTE COLLINS TO THE PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND APPOINT MIKE LUCAS TO THE PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

4. Ordinance 19-2923, Updating City Flood Hazard Regulations to comply with FEMA standards – presented by Alex Wenger

**MOTION WAS MADE BY ERIC DAVIDSON TO WAIVE THE SECOND READING AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 18-2923, UPDATING THE CITY FLOOD HAZARD REGULATIONS TO COMPLY WITH FEMA STANDARDS, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

5. Resolution 1750-19, Port of Bellingham Interlocal Agreement – Wharf District Design Standards – presented by Alex Wenger

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 1750-19, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM TO DRAFT BUILDING DESIGN STANDARDS FOR THE WHARF DISTRICT, SECONDED BY ERIC DAVIDSON, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

6. Consideration of a Letter of Intent to Purchase Property by Chewter's Chocolates – presented by Michael Jones

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO DECLINE THE OFFER AND REQUEST THAT CHEWTER'S PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE PURCHASE OF THE FIVE SOUTHERNMOST ACRES OF THE SITE, AS WELL AS DIRECT THE PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE A RETAIL AND CHOCOLATE EXPERIENCE/VISITOR CENTER COMPONENT OF A SUFFICIENT SIZE TO ATTRACT VISITORS TO THE COMMUNITY. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ERIC DAVIDSON, AND APPROVED 4-0.**

7. Boblett Properties (Yorkston) Purchase and Sale Agreement – Final Approval of Title Documents and Delegation of Authority – presented by Jon Sitkin

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO APPROVE THE FINAL STATUTORY WARRANTY DEED, THE SOUTH BOBLETT RIGHT OF WAY DEDICATION DEED, THE GAS STATION PROHIBITION COVENANT, AND THE RIGHT OF FIRST PURCHASE SUBJECT TO THE CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL OF THE SAME AT CLOSING, AND FULFILLMENT OF ALL CONDITIONS OF CLOSING AS SET FORTH IN THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO THEREAFTER EXECUTE THE SAME AND THE FINAL CLOSING DOCUMENTS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS.**

Mayor Onyon asked if a five year right of first refusal is long enough. City Attorney Jon Sitkin indicated that five years is sufficient time.

**MOTION WAS APPROVED 4-0.**

## **H. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

1. Committee Assignments from 2018 will remain the same in 2019.
  - a. Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee – Steve Lawrenson
  - b. Blaine Chamber of Commerce – Steve Lawrenson
  - c. Boys and Girls Club – Alicia Rule
  - d. Port of Bellingham – Alicia Rule
  - e. Drayton Harbor Shellfish Advisory Committee – Charlie Hawkins
  - f. Port of Bellingham Marine Advisory Committee – Charlie Hawkins
  - g. Library Committee – Mary Lou Steward
  - h. Senior Center Liaison – Mary Lou Steward
  - i. WTA Board – Eric Davidson
  - j. Small Cities Partnership – Michael Jones and Bonnie Onyon
  - k. Whatcom Council of Governments – Mayor Onyon
  - l. Public Works Advisory Board – Mary Lou Steward, Eric Davidson, and Ravyn Whitewolf.

## **I. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

1. Public Works – Ravyn Whitewolf reported on the potential issues surrounding the upcoming king tide, Public Works is working on recovering from the recent wind storm, and there is going to be a joint exercise between the Public Works department and the Police department on January 17<sup>th</sup> to enhance emergency response. Ravyn also reported on the impacts of the federal government

shutdown, quiet zones in the City, and the road work and closure on Pease Portal drive.

2. City Clerk – Samuel Crawford reported on the six candidates who applied for the vacant City Council position.

## **J. CALENDARS**

Unless noted, all meetings are held at City Hall, 435 Martin Street, Suite 4000, and are open to the public. Agendas can be found on the City's website.

Monday, January 21

City Offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday, January 24

7 pm – Planning Commission meeting

Public Hearing – Walsh Marine – Shoreline Substantial Development

Public Hearing – Verizon Bel Drayton - Shoreline Conditional Use and Variance

Monday, January 28

4:30 pm – Study Session – Vacant City Council Position Interviews

6 pm – Regular City Council Meeting

Thursday, February 7

7 pm – Planning Commission meeting

Monday, February 11

5 pm – Study Session – Business and Occupation Tax (B&O Tax) Proposal

6 pm – Regular City Council Meeting

Public Hearing: Proposed Business and Occupation Tax (B&O Tax)

Tuesday, February 12

8 am – Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 14

9 am – Park and Cemetery Board

Thursday, February 14

10 am – Public Works Advisory Committee

Location: PW 1200 Yew Ave.

Monday, February 18

City Offices will be closed in observance of Presidents Day

Thursday, February 21

7 pm – Planning Commission meeting

Monday, February 25

6pm – Regular City Council Meeting

Public Hearing: Proposed Business and Occupation Tax (B&O Tax)

**K.** Council convened in executive session at 7:05 PM, for 30minutes, to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), with no action to be taken.

Council reconvened in regular session at 7:35 PM, with no action taken.

**L. ADJOURNED: 7:37 PM**

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Bonnie Onyon, Mayor

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Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

Council minutes for January 14, 2019, were approved at the January 28, 2018, Council meeting.

DRAFT