

**CITY OF BLAINE**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

*This meeting occurred via Zoom.*

*All recordings, minutes, and documents associated with Council meetings can be found on the City's website.*

**Monday, November 9, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

**Bonnie Onyon - Mayor**  
**Mary Lou Steward – Mayor Pro Tem**

**Due to Governor Inslee's proclamation in response to COVID-19, this City Council meeting will be conducted entirely through Zoom Meetings; a teleconference application. The public will be able to participate in the public hearing and listen live to the meeting. Instructions for how to participate in the public hearing can be found in the meeting details at the end of the agenda (after "Adjourn"). If you do not want to give testimony during the public hearing, please email your testimony to [CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com). All City Council meeting recordings are on the City's website.**

**For members of the public who want to listen/watch the meeting, click on the link below:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87956557075?pwd=Z2JlQXpkTWVhNjJFY2dEejRwV1c3Zz09>

**Follow the instructions given by Zoom. The Meeting ID and Password are below:**

Enter the Meeting ID: **879 5655 7075**

Enter the Password: **0435**

**A. STUDY SESSION: 4:00PM – Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee (BTAC) 2021 Budget  
4:50PM – 2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

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

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Mayor Onyon

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS: Garth Baldwin, Eric Davidson, Charlie Hawkins, Richard May, Bonnie Onyon, and Mary Lou Steward. Alicia Rule requested to be excused.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO EXCUSE ALICIA RULE, SECONDED BY ERIC DAVIDSON, AND APPROVED 6-0.**

**C. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

1. North Whatcom Fire Update – Fire Marshal Hollander reported that they will be hiring four firefighters, and there will be a turkey fest for this Thanksgiving. He gave Council the monthly *The Responder* newsletter which is located on the City's website.

**D. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Email dated October 29, 2020, from Bob Hammond, regarding a presentation from RH2 Engineering on the East Blaine sewer and power cost allocation analysis.
2. New. Email dated November 3, 2020, from Steven Lutz, regarding Blaine's audit exit summary.
3. New. Email dated November 9, 2020, from Dennis Olason, regarding proposed Ordinance 20-2951.

**E. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda at the request of a Councilmember.*

1. Voucher Memo:  
Approval of Bills: \$211,414.95
2. Approval of Payroll: \$632,863.00

3. Wire Register: \$316,309.87
4. Approval of October 26, 2020, City Council Minutes
5. Approval of November 2, 2020, Special City Council Minutes

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ERIC DAVIDSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY RICHARD MAY, AND APPROVED 6-0.**

**F. PUBLIC HEARING**

*\*\*Please Note\*\* Persons speaking on any issue will be allowed five (5) minutes. Additional, non-repetitive testimony will be allowed after all testimonies have been heard. Testimony can also be sent to [CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com).*

1. 2021 Revenue and Property Tax Levy (continuation from the October 26, 2020, public hearing) – presented by Jeffrey Lazenby.

Jeffrey Lazenby gave a brief report on the 2021 Revenue and Property Tax Levy, as well as responded to the questions asked in Dennis Olason's letter regarding the 2021 Revenue and Property Tax Levy.

The public hearing was opened for testimony at 6:07PM.

No Testimony was given.

The public hearing was closed at 6:08 PM.

2. 2021 Budget – Presented by Jeffrey Lazenby.

The public hearing was opened for testimony at 6:11PM.

No Testimony was given.

The public hearing was continued to Monday, November 23, 2020 at 6:00pm.

**G. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

1. Ordinance 20-2951, setting forth the increase for the 2021 regular and excess property tax levies.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD MAY TO WAIVE THE SECOND READING AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-2951, SETTING FORTH THE INCREASE FOR THE 2021 REGULAR AND EXCESS PROPERTY TAX LEVIES BY TAKING THE 1% INCREASE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ERIC DAVIDSON AND APPROVED 6-0.**

2. Public Works Director Employment Contract.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH BERNARD ZIEMIANEK FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR POSITION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ERIC DAVIDSON AND APPROVED 6-0.**

**H. COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS**

1. Whatcom Council of Governments – Michael Jones reported on the special meeting that occurred last week regarding the transportation requests for 2021. The Bell Road intersection project rose to the top of the list as a top three projects for the County.
2. Whatcom County Mayors Weekly Meeting – Bonnie Onyon reported on the current COVID numbers for Whatcom County. The Mayor also spoke with an individual with the Border Task Force and they indicated that they don't anticipate the border opening up until the spring at the earliest. The Port of

Bellingham has said there is still interest among Canadian businesses to expand and/or relocate to Whatcom County.

3. Charlie Hawkins reported on a Port of Bellingham meeting on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.
4. Drayton Harbor Shellfish – Charlie Hawkins reported that the State is trying to get some more testing of shellfish at Drayton Harbor.

## **I. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

1. City Manager – Michael Jones introduced Gordon Thomas Honeywell’s update on Washington State’s Legislative Session. Holly Cocci and Briahna Murray gave a presentation on the update. The presentation is available on the City’s website. Michael Jones reviewed the draft 2021 Legislative Agenda. These items include Bell Road intersection improvements, downtown Blaine Revitalization (capital), Marine Drive Reconstruction (Transportation), local transportation revenue (border gas tax authority), flexibility with REET revenues, and RCO Aquatic Lands Enhancement Program (Marine Park). The draft 2021 Legislative Agenda is included on the City’s website.
2. City Clerk – Samuel Crawford reported on the proposed amendment to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) by Governor Inslee.

## **J. CALENDARS**

*Due to COVID-19 and the Governor’s Proclamation, meetings are now only open to the public telephonically. Information on how to listen to the meeting live will be on the City Council agenda which is located on the City’s website homepage under Your Government, City Council, City Council Agenda. Please check the agenda prior to each meeting as the call in number or location may change.*

Monday, November 9

4:00pm – Study Session – Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee (BTAC) 2021 Budget

5:00pm – Study Session – 2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

6:00pm – City Council Meeting

Public Hearing (continued) – Proposed Property Tax Levy

Public Hearing – 2021 Budget

Tuesday, November 10

8am – Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 11

City Offices are Closed – Veterans Day

*All City offices are currently closed to the public. Contact information for staff and Councilmembers can be found on the City’s website.*

- K.** Council convened in executive session at 7:11 PM, for 15 minutes, extended 10 minutes, extended 5 minutes, to discuss performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), and collective bargaining pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b), with no action to be taken.

Council reconvened in the regular meeting at 7:41PM with no action taken.

## **L. ADJOURNED: 7:41 PM**

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Bonnie Onyon, Mayor

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Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

*Council minutes for November 9, 2020, were approved at the November 23, 2020, Council meeting.*