

**CITY OF BLAINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 23, 2020

6:00 PM

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance ***Please turn off all cell phones and other electronics that may interfere with the sound system***

ROLL CALL

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

**MOTION WAS MADE BY GARTH BALDWIN TO EXCUSE ERIC DAVIDSON,
SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS, AND APPROVED 6-0.**

Councilmembers Hawkins, Rule, and Steward called into the meeting.

STAFF: City Manager Michael Jones, Finance Director Jeffrey Lazenby, Public Works Director Ravyn Whitewolf, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Samuel Crawford, City Attorney Jon Sitkin, and Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator Alex Wenger.

B. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. Email dated March 10, 2020, from Daniel Deibert, regarding a concert tour.
2. Email dated March 18, 2020, from Timery Thompson, regarding utility shut-offs and late fees.
3. Email dated March 20, 2020, from Jay Taber, regarding Old City Hall and the Senior Center.
4. New. Email dated March 20, 2020, from Dennis Olson, regarding need for housing in Blaine due to the Coronavirus.

C. 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: \$274,623.69
2. Approval of March 9, 2020, City Council Minutes
3. Approval of March 16, 2020, Special City Council Minutes
4. Bid award for the Wastewater Dechlorination System (Whitewolf)
5. Resolution 1803-20, Authorizing utility account credit adjustments (Lazenby)
6. Resolution 1801-20, Temporary Cancellation of Non-Essential Board and Commission Meetings and New Rules to allow remote meeting attendance for Commission/Board Members for Essential Meetings. (Clauson)

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

D. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

1. An amendment to the existing purchase and sale agreement between the City of Blaine and White-Leasure Development to extend the agreement timeline by six months. (Jones)

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT AND EXTEND THE SIX MONTHS WITHOUT THE CONVERSION OF THE NOTE TO CASH. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GARTH BALDWIN AND APPROVED 6-0.

2. Resolution 1804-20, Suspending Blaine Municipal Code Section 13.18.050, Suspension of service-reinstatement-reconnection. (Lazenby)

MOTION WAS MADE BY GARTH BALDWIN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 1804-20 AS WRITTEN, WITH THE AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE ALL LATE FEES TO EVERYONE DURING THE EMERGENCY PERIOD UNTIL IT IS RESCINDED BY RESOLUTION OR OTHERWISE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RICHARD MAY AND APPROVED 6-0.

3. Resolution 1802-20, Authorizing the City Manager to initiate an interlocal agreement with the Port of Bellingham to facilitate use of Rural Economic Development funds to implement a small business bridging loan program. (Wenger)

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALICIA RULE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 1802-20, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO INITIATE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM TO FACILITATE USE OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT A SMALL BUSINESS BRIDGING LOAN PROGRAM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS AND APPROVED 6-0.

4. Resolution 1805-20, for Council to approve City Manager actions per proclamation and resolution.

MOTION WAS MADE BY GARTH BALDWIN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 1805-20, FOR COUNCIL TO APPROVE CITY MANAGER ACTIONS PER PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD AND APPROVED 6-0.

E. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. City Manager – Michael Jones reported on the actions he has taken so far during the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes the Declaration of Emergency report.
2. Public Works – Ravyn Whitewolf reported on Peace Portal Way and Bell Road lane improvements, the possibility of addressing complaints about semi-truck traffic on Bell Road with future stimulus money, the availability of new state funds for Hughes Avenue improvements, progress on the installation of new electric vehicle charging stations, and upcoming water main repair work.
3. City Clerk – Samuel Crawford reported on the newly created rule, Rule 38, in the City Council Rules of Procedure. The two rules removed from this meeting is Rule 15 which involves the topics on the City Council agenda, and Rule 20 which involves the ability of Councilmembers to call into City Council meetings.
4. City Attorney – Jon Sitkin reported on the roles of staff and City Council during the COVID-19 outbreak.

F. CALENDARS

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

Monday, March 23
6:00pm – Regular City Council Meeting

Thursday, March 26
6:00pm – Planning Commission Meeting
Public Hearing for the Gateway North General Binding Site Plan

Monday, April 13
6:00pm – Regular City Council Meeting

Monday, April 27
6:00pm – Regular City Council Meeting

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mayor Onyon is asking staff to encourage people to pay utility bills online since they will not be charged credit card fees for doing so during the emergency.

H. COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

J. ADJOURNED: 7:18 PM

Bonnie Onyon, Mayor

Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

Council minutes for March 23, 2020, were approved at the April 13, 2020, Council meeting.