

CITY OF BLAINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

This meeting occurred via teleconference.

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

Monday, April 13, 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 teleconference. Councilmembers will separately call into the meeting and the public will be able to listen live as the meeting happens. All callers will be muted during the meeting. All City Council meeting recordings are on the City's website. Instructions on how to listen live to the City Council meeting are below:

For members of the public who want to listen to the meeting, call the number below (Toll-Free):
1-888-585-9008

Follow the instructions given by OpenVoice. The Conference Room number is below:
521-101-670

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:01 PM

Mayor Onyon introduced the format of the meeting and how Councilmembers will be able to participate in discussion.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF: City Manager Michael Jones, Finance Director Jeffrey Lazenby, Police Chief Donnell Tanksley, 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. Emails dated March 24, 2020, from Michael Jones and Bonnie Onyon, regarding SSC's donation of sani cans to Blaine during a scheduled water shut-off.
2. Email dated March 26, 2020, from Michael Jones, regarding "Stay Home, Stay Safe" guidance.
3. Email dated April 2, 2020, from Jay Taber, regarding Old City Hall and the Senior Center.
4. Emails dated April 5, 2020, from Garth Baldwin and Amy Ernlund, regarding Public Works employees working during the stay home order.
5. Email dated April 6, 2020, from Michael Jones, regarding his letter to Blaine citizens.
6. Email dated April 7, 2020, from Michael Jones, regarding Blaine Police Department's "Salute to Medical First Responders" on April 8, 2020.

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.

Per the Governor's Proclamation, City Council can only take action on items that are necessary and routine, or are COVID-19 related. The items listed below meet the requirements set forth by the Proclamation.

1. Voucher Memo:
Approval of Bills: \$337,539.46
2. Approval of Payroll: \$654,748.26
3. Approval of March 2, 2020, Special City Council Minutes (Council Retreat)
4. Approval of March 23, 2020, City Council Minutes
5. Interlocal jail facility use agreement for corrections services between Whatcom County and the City of Blaine. (Crawford)
6. Resolution 1808-20, waiving late fees for quarterly tax remittance. (Lazenby)
7. Engineering Program Director employment contract. (Jones)
8. Contract with Prothman Company for Placement of an Interim Public Works Director.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALICIA RULE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD, AND APPROVED 7-0.

D. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

Per the Governor's Proclamation, City Council can only take action on items that are necessary and routine, or are COVID-19 related. The items listed below meet the requirements set forth by the Proclamation.

1. Ordinance 20-2944, to approve the Gateway North General Binding Site Plan. (Pratschner)

MOTION WAS MADE BY ERIC DAVIDSON TO WAIVE THE SECOND READING AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-2944, TO APPROVE THE GATEWAY NORTH GENERAL BINDING SITE PLAN, SECONDED BY GARTH BALDWIN, AND APPROVED 7-0.

2. Resolution 1809-20, to confirm, reject, or amend emergency orders issued since last Council meeting. (Jones)

MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD MAY TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 1809-20, TO CONFIRM, REJECT, OR AMEND EMERGENCY ORDERS ISSUED SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS, AND APPROVED 7-0.

3. Resolution 1810-20, recommencing the Rural Economic Development Revolving Fund Loan Program in response to COVID-19 and in the support of business development and business retention established by Ordinance 99-2430. (Pratschner)

MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 1810-20, RECOMMENCING THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND IN THE SUPPORT OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS RETENTION ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE 99-2430. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RICHARD MAY AND APPROVED 7-0.

E. COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

No reports were given.

F. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. City Manager – Michael Jones reported on how City staff is conducting business during the COVID-19 outbreak, Police Chief Donnell Tanksley did a good job coordinating the “Salute to Service event”, and Community Planner II Stacy Clauson is currently working with the Whatcom Unified Command in response to COVID-19. Michael also discussed the current budget and revenue situation due to the pandemic. A memo was provided to Council.
2. Finance – Jeff Lazenby reported on an update for the 2020 budget forecast. A memo was provided to Council.
3. Public Works – Ravyn Whitewolf reported on changes in staffing in the Public Works Department. These changes include Civil Engineer, Temporary Engineering Technician III, two Maintenance Worker positions, and Assistant Public Works Director. Current Assistant Public Works Director Sam Castro’s last day is next week. Ravyn also discussed current public works projects including the maintenance of street trees, the electric vehicle charging station, and the emergency water line repair that happened last week. A memo was provided to Council.
4. Community Development Services – Stacie Pratschner reported on a potential Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee meeting for April 22nd. The reason for this meeting would be for rescinding some of the agreements for events that will not be able to happen this year due to COVID-19.
5. Police Chief – Donnell Tanksley gave a status update on the LEMAP report. A memo was provided to Council.

G. 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.

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

Monday, May 11
6:00pm – Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 26 (Monday the 25th is Memorial Day)
6:00pm – Regular City Council Meeting

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

H. ADJOURNED: 7:14 PM

Bonnie Onyon, Mayor

Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

Council minutes for April 13, 2020, were approved at the April 27, 2020, Council meeting.