

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, September 14, 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):
1-877-309-2073

Follow the instructions given by GoToMeeting. The Access Code is below:
713-590-757

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:00PM

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Mayor Onyon. Mayor Onyon dedicated the moment of silence to the passing of prior Blaine Police Chief Butch Hinchey.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO EXCUSE CHARLIE HAWKINS, SECONDED BY ERIC DAVIDSON, AND APPROVED 5-0.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ERIC DAVIDSON TO EXCUSE GARTH BALDWIN, SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD, AND APPROVED 5-0.

B. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. Email dated August 31, 2020, from Alex Wenger, regarding the Living Pantry Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
2. New. Letter dated September 11, 2020, from Kenneth Hertz, regarding the Grandis Pond development.
3. New. Email dated September 14, 2020, from Liz Thornton, regarding the Ribbon Cutting for Beach Cat Brewing.

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: \$559,828.97
Advance Pay: \$10,000
2. Approval of Payroll: \$631,966.49
3. Approval of August 24, 2020, City Council Minutes.
4. Approve renewal of franchise agreement with Comcast.
5. Award bid to General Pacific for the purchase of electric utility transformers.

6. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Financial Consultants International for the lease of four police vehicles.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD MAY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY ERIC DAVIDSON, AND APPROVED 5-0.

D. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

1. *None*

E. COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. Whatcom County Mayors Weekly Meeting – Bonnie Onyon reported on the request to extend the time allowed to spend the CARES Act dollars to June 2021 instead of December 31, 2020. There was also discussion on the current Cherry Point amendments. These amendments will allow what type of future use will occur at the Cherry Point site. This topic will be brought to the Whatcom County Council on September 15, 2020.
2. County-Wide Collaboration Meeting – Richard May reported on the feasibility of having a County-wide collaboration program where cities and Whatcom County could potentially share staff and resources. Mayor Onyon further discussed this topic.
3. Senior Center – Mary Lou Steward gave a report on the Senior Center’s picnic lunches. This is a drive through program.
4. Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee – Eric Davidson reported on grant strategies next year and long range planning ideas.

F. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Community Development Services – Stacie Pratschner reported on the 2020 Mid-Year Development Report. The PowerPoint presentation is available on the City’s website. Mayor Onyon asked about the possible new restaurants on 2nd Street. Stacie reported on them.
2. Finance – Jeff Lazenby reported on the current status of the Business and Occupations (B&O) tax revenue collections. Councilmember Davidson asked about reinstating the late penalty payment due to some businesses not remitting their B&O tax payment. Councilmembers and staff discussed the ways in which the late penalty should be reinstated. Council directed staff to add this to a future agenda as an action item. Jeff then covered the 2021 Budget projections.
3. Police – Chief Tank reported on issues stemming from officers being out.

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. Please check the agenda prior to each meeting as the call in number or location may change.

Thursday, September 10
9:00am – Parks and Cemetery Board Meeting

Thursday, September 10
6:00pm – Planning Commission Meeting *CANCELLED*

Monday, September 14
6:00pm – City Council Meeting

Thursday, September 24
6:00pm – Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, September 28
6:00pm – City Council Meeting
Public Hearing: Old Mill Street Vacation

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

H. COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS

1. 2021 City Council Meeting Calendar (Onyon) - Mayor Onyon discussed with City Council the idea of having a "City Council Vacation" which means Council would forgo one meeting next summer.

I. Council convened in executive session at 7:25 PM, for 30 minutes, extended 30 minutes, to discuss collective bargaining pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b), with no action to be taken.

Council reconvened in the regular meeting at 8:25 PM with no action taken.

J. ADJOURNED: 8:26 PM

Bonnie Onyon, Mayor

Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

Council minutes for September 14, 2020, were approved at the September 28, 2020, Council meeting.

DRAFT