

**CITY OF BLAINE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, December 12, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

**Harry Robinson, Mayor  
Paul Greenough, Mayor Pro Tem**

**A. STUDY SESSION – 5:02 PM – 2017 Budget, Petition for Vacation Process,  
and 2017 Legislative Agenda**

**PRESENT:** Charlie Hawkins, Paul Greenough, Steve Lawrenson, Dennis Olason, Bonnie Onyon, Harry Robinson, and Mary Lou Steward.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** City Manager David Wilbrecht, Finance Director Jeffrey Lazenby, Community Development Services Director Michael Jones, Police Chief Mike Haslip, PW Director Ravyn Whitewolf, Assistant PW Director William Bullock, and Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Sheri Sanchez.

**ADJOURNED: 6:01 PM.**

**B. CALL TO ORDER: 6:11 PM.**

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Charlie Hawkins, Paul Greenough, Steve Lawrenson, Dennis Olason, Bonnie Onyon, Harry Robinson, and Mary Lou Steward.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** City Manager David Wilbrecht, Finance Director Jeffrey Lazenby, Community Development Services Director Michael Jones, Police Chief Mike Haslip, PW Director Ravyn Whitewolf, and Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Sheri Sanchez.

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

1. Craig Stellpflug, 257 12<sup>th</sup> St., regarding traffic control in his area and possible solutions.
2. Sam Freeman, regarding the proposed street vacation for Paul Sall, and requesting that the council schedule a public hearing.
3. *At the end of the meeting*, Fred Blake, regarding request for assistance from staff to switch from propane to natural gas at his 4-plex off of Cherry Street.

**D. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Email dated December 1, 2016, from Alex Wenger, regarding the December 16, 2016, Drayton Harbor Shellfish celebration.
2. Email dated December 2, 2016, from Craig Stellpflug, regarding speeding traffic and speed limit signs.

**E. PUBLIC HEARING**

1. 2017 Budget – continued

Mayor Robinson opened the public hearing at 6:21 PM to receive testimony.

No testimony was given.

Mayor Robinson closed the public hearing at 6:21 PM.

**F. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Bills - \$333,847.22
2. Approval of Payroll - \$536,504.01
3. Approval of Council Minutes for November 28, 2016
4. Approval of Council Study Session Minutes for December 5, 2016
5. Approval of Special Council Minutes for December 5, 2016
6. Project Closeout – Well 8.1
7. Project Closeout – Seal Coat Construction
8. Resolution 1700-16, Setting the Schedule for the Regular Council Meetings for 2017
9. Resolution 1701-16, Legal Publication for 2017

Bonnie Onyon requested that the following council action items be moved to the consent agenda.

10. (7. on Council Action Items) Resolution 1694a-16, amending Legislative Agenda
11. (9. On Council Action Items) Request for Letter Regarding Holiday Light Display at the Peace Arch

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY STEVE LAWRENSEN, AND APPROVED 7 – 0.**

**G. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

1. Ordinance 16-2893, Amending the 2016 Budget – presented by Jeffrey Lazenby.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY DENNIS OLASON TO WAIVE THE SECOND READING AND ADOPT ORDINANCE 16-2893, AMENDING THE 2016 BUDGET, SECONDED BY STEVE LAWRENSEN, AND APPROVED 7 – 0.**

2. Ordinance 16-2894, Adopting the 2017 Budget – presented by Jeffrey Lazenby.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO WAIVE THE SECOND READING AND ADOPT ORDINANCE 16-2894, APPROVING THE 2017 BUDGET, SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD, AND APPROVED 7 – 0.**

3. Resolution 1698-16, To Initiate Review of Regulations for Temporary Structures – presented by Michael Jones.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVE LAWRENSEN TO DENY RESOLUTION 1998-16, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS, AND APPROVED 7 – 0.**

4. Resolution 1699-16, To Initiate Review of Regulations for Storage Containers – presented by Michael Jones.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVE LAWRENSEN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 1699-16, INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO BLAINE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF STORAGE CONTAINERS CITY WIDE, SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY COUNCILMEMBERS CHARLIE HAWKINS, BONNIE ONYON, AND MARY LOU STEWARD. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD AND APPROVED 7 – 0.**

5. Resolution 1696-16, Fixing the Time for Public Hearing on a Petition to vacate for Blaine Industrial Park – presented by Ravyn Whitewolf.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 1696-16, FIXING THE TIME FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON JANUARY 23, 2017, ON THE PETITION TO VACATE CERTAIN RIGHTS-OF-WAY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS OLASON, AND APPROVED 7 – 0.**

6. Petition to Vacate for Sall LLC – presented by Ravyn Whitewolf.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO DEFER THE PETITION BACK TO STAFF FOR FURTHER EVALUATION OF A MORE COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL PRESENTED DURING THE COUNCIL MEETING, AND SECONDED BY PAUL GREENOUGH.**

Steve Lawrenson asked which departments include “refer to staff” and staff responded all departments as well as the fire department. Bonnie Onyon commented that time is of the essence and staff responded that the pre-application process takes about two to three weeks, and will be dependent on the applicant providing the information in a timely manner.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 4 – 2-1 (Steve Lawrenson and Bonnie Onyon against, Dennis Olason abstained).**

7. Resolution 1697 – 16, Amending the Unified Fee Schedule – presented by Jeffrey Lazenby. 7:32

**Motion was made by Bonnie Onyon to approve resolution 1697-16 with modifications including no increases to the wastewater fees for single family, condominiums, and senior/disabled in the city and county, and seconded by Dennis Olason. The motion was denied 2 – 5 (Charlie Hawkins, Harry Robinson, Steve Lawrenson, Mary Lou Steward, and Paul Greenough against).**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 1697-16 AMENDING THE UNIFIED FEE SCHEDULE (AS PRESENTED) WITH CHANGES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017 AND THE UTILITY RATE CHANGES EFFECTIVE WITH THE MARCH 2017 BILLING CYCLE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD.**

Bonnie Onyon commented that she was surprised that she didn't get more support for her motion to not raise the sewer rate above \$100.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 4 – 3 (Steve Lawrenson, Bonnie Onyon, and Dennis Olason against).**

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

1. Blaine Economic Development Advisory Committee – David Wilbrecht reported – the next meeting will be January 3, 2017, at 3:00 PM.
2. Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee – Steve Lawrenson reported – the meeting scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup> has been canceled.
3. Blaine Chamber of Commerce – Bonnie Onyon reported – Steve Seymour with Drayton Harbor Shellfish gave a presentation on the health of the harbor. Bonnie encouraged attendance at “Shell-ebriation” event scheduled for Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM.
4. WTA Board – Paul Greenough reported – the annual meeting will be this Thursday at 8:00 AM in the county council chambers. The primary topic will be the business plan for the new strategic plan, and all are welcome to attend.
5. Drayton Harbor Shellfish Advisory Committee - Charlie Hawkins reported – the next meeting will be this Wednesday.
6. Library Committee – Dennis Olason reported – the committee will meet this Wednesday.
7. Planning Commission - Michael Jones reported – the December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting has been canceled and the city has received several applications for vacancies on the commission with interviews to be scheduled for January.
8. Public Works Advisory Committee – Ravyn Whitewolf reported – the last meeting was on December 1<sup>st</sup> and discussions included the 2017 budget and the TBD. A presentation on bicycle interaction was provided by one

- of the committee members, and upcoming discussions will include urban street guidelines and a crosswalk policy.
9. Small Cities Caucus - Harry Robinson reported – the December meeting was canceled and the next meeting will be in January.
  10. Finance Committee – Harry Robinson and Jeffrey Lazenby reported – the next meeting will be after the first of the year. Also, the city received a clean audit with minor recommendations.
  11. Whatcom Council of Governments - Harry Robinson reported – the next meeting will be on Wednesday.
  12. North Whatcom Fire Update – Chief Hollander reported – council was provided with copies of *The Responder*.

## **I. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

1. Public Works – Ravyn Whitewolf reported:
  - a. Project Updates – crews have been out deicing the streets; staff confirmed that the contract with Liz Loomis is a lump sum contract; staff was successful in getting additional funds of \$500,000 for the Hughes Ave. project; staff had a conversation with the state last Friday and they are open to additional signage on I-5 coming in to Blaine; there will be a meeting with Senator Ericksen this Tuesday and will include a review of legislative agenda; and BBWSD’s annual meeting has been moved to January.
2. Community Development Services – Michael Jones reported:
  - a. Shoreline Master Program Status Update – staff submitted additional information to the state which completed the review of the city’s Master Shoreline plan. The state will open a public notice period for January 3<sup>rd</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup>, and will provide their final findings to accept the program, which will then go before council for adoption.
  - b. Annual Audit – CDS and PW also had clean audits for development review process and fee structures.
  - c. GMA Status – in response to council, the city is no longer involved with the county as the city and county updated their respective comprehensive plans.
3. Public Safety – Chief Haslip reported:
  - a. Year-End Update – the police department received 3,224 calls for service as of December 12<sup>th</sup>, which is down 6% from five years ago, and down 7% from ten years ago.
  - b. Citizen Concerns about Speeding – the PD is working with Craig Stellpflug and PW on the speeding concerns. Offices in the area were contacted to target enforcement, as well as discussions regarding speed bumps.
  - c. Tsunami Speakers – PD is working with Alex Wenger in CDS for assistance with site and SEPA review for the tsunami speakers.
  - d. Staffing Update – after the first of the year, there will be two vacancies; Officer Torgeson will be leaving at the beginning of the year and Officer White will be leaving later in the year. Council was

provided with proposed changes in operations, included in the 2017 budget, in order to fund an additional position.

- e. Duck Hunters – council asked for an updated on the request to the county regarding the zone area for duck hunters and staff replied that a follow-up will be made to the county.
  - f. Armed Robberies – investigations continue on the armed robberies but no arrests have been made to date.
4. Administrative Services – Sheri Sanchez reported:
    - a. Time and Quorum for December 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting – the meeting time to approve the end of year consent agenda on December 27<sup>th</sup> will be at 9:00 AM, and councilmembers Hawkins, Olason, Steward, and Robinson will be in attendance.
  5. Calendars:
    - Tuesday, December 13, canceled - Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee meeting
    - Thursday, December 22, canceled - Planning Commission meeting
    - Monday, December 26, city offices will be closed in observance of Christmas
    - Tuesday, December 27, 9:00am - City Council meeting to approve payables
    - Monday, January 2, 2017, city offices will be closed in observance of New Year's Day

**J. COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS**

1. Charlie Hawkins asked about the closure on H Street due to snow and staff advised that they already spoke with the school district.

**K. CLOSED SESSION**

Council convened in closed session at 8:19 PM, for twenty minutes, to discuss collective bargaining pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a), with no action to be taken.

Council reconvened in regular session at 8:46 PM, with no action taken.

**L. ADJOURNED: 8:46 PM.**

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Harry Robinson, Mayor

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Sheri Sanchez, City Clerk

Council minutes for December 12, 2016, to be approved at the December 27, 2016, council meeting.