

**CITY OF BLAINE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, September 13, 2010**

**7:00PM**

**Bonnie Onyon – Mayor  
John Liebert – Mayor Pro Tem**

**A. STUDY SESSION – 5:36pm – Capital Improvements Plan**

**PRESENT:** Scott Dodd, Charlie Hawkins, John Liebert, Bonnie Onyon, Jason Overstreet and Harry Robinson.

**ABSENT:** Paul Greenough.

**STAFF:** Gary Tomsic, Steve Banham, Mike Haslip, Michael Jones, and Sheri Sanchez.

**Adjourn:** **6:57pm**

**B. CALL TO ORDER: 7:05pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Scott Dodd, Paul Greenough via conference call, Charlie Hawkins, John Liebert, Bonnie Onyon, Jason Overstreet and Harry Robinson.

**STAFF:** City Manager Gary Tomsic, PW Director Steve Banham, Police Chief Mike Haslip, CDS Director Michael Jones, City Clerk Sheri Sanchez, and City Attorney Jon Sitkin.

**C. RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Yard of the Week Awards: August 24<sup>th</sup> – 5492 Canvasback Rd. – Edward and Carolyn Crouch, August 31<sup>st</sup> - 714 H Street – Bayview Plaza Apartments, September 7<sup>th</sup> – 719 C Street – Red and Sylvia Goodwin.
2. Certificates of Appreciation – Yard of the Week Committee – presented by Debbie Harger to Cheryl Fischer, Sandi Miller, Sue Cushman, June Auld, Wally Greenough, and Bob Hendricks.
3. Certificate of Appreciation – Jouko Noso – Planning Commission.

**D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

1. J. R. O'Reilly, Harborview Drive, regarding his property not being included in the H Street construction project, which included discussion with Council and staff. Jon Sitkin advised that there is the legal requirement, which the staff followed, versus the practical course which is not legally required. Jason requested that, in the

future, staff communicate with affected homeowners, even if their property is not included in the project.

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

1. Blaine Economic Development Advisory Committee – no report.
2. Whatcom Economic Development Board –no report.
3. WTA Board – no report.
4. Marine Resources Committee – no report.
5. Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee – Harry Robinson reported - the committee met and all applications have been reviewed for the 2011 grants. Harry and Debbie Harger will meet with Gary on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, to review the applications.
6. Tsi'litch Transition Group –Gary Tomsic reported – another meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. The group is making good progress and has moved ahead significantly with hope to have an agreement ready soon for the attorneys to review.
7. Chamber of Commerce – no report.
8. Drayton Harbor Shellfish Advisory Committee – no report.
9. Library Committee – no report.
10. R.E.D. Loan Committee – Jason Overstreet reported – the committee approved a \$10,000 loan to Tabletop Gourmet in the Loomis Building.
11. Planning Commission – no report.
12. Park and Cemetery Board – no report.
13. Law and Justice Council – Mike Haslip reported – the first meeting of the season will be next Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.
14. Small Cities Caucus –Gary Tomsic reported – there were no meetings in August, but there will be a meeting in a week or so.
15. Whatcom Council of Government – Bonnie Onyon reported - the Council of Governments received significant grant funding of \$200,000. The Cascadia Center will be doing a study on extending commuter rail from Everett to the border which will be completed next year. Blaine will have a stop and it has been suggested to leave the train station where it is for this purpose. Bonnie provided information to the Council on a study done by Mike Skehan. Bonnie will write a letter on behalf of the Council to Burlington Northern requesting that they not make a final decision on the train station for at least a year while the study is done.

**F. CITY MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

1. Public Works – Steve Banham reported
  - a. State & Federal Projects Update – DOT has been debating how to do treatment in the turning apron of the roundabout. Their plan calls for striping in a radial pattern in white stripes. Bonnie asked about plans for landscaping besides grass at the first southbound exit and whether the area can be adopted by a

citizen group. Steve provided input on what WSDOT is doing with the area along the highway.

- b. Street Projects Update - we are getting close to the stage of paving on the residential streets and will see it within the next couple of weeks. Regarding H Street, a decision will be made as to where to cut off due to the weather.
- c. Fire at PW facility – staff provided an update on the fire at PW which damaged a bucket truck and the garage where it was stored.
2. Public Safety – Mike Haslip reported - Youth Crime Update – report of gang crime was actually an isolated incident at Birch Bay.
3. Community Development Services – no report.
4. Finance – the audit exit conference was today and had a clean audit with suggestions for staff to take under consideration. Gary and Jeff continue to work on the budget and the City received a notice on the health insurance premiums, which will go up about 12.5% (approx \$80,000 – \$90,000). The next budget meeting is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>.
5. City Clerk – Sheri Sanchez reported – we received 2 more applications for the openings on the Planning Commission and will extend the deadline for a couple of weeks.

6. City Manager

Calendars:

Thursday, September 16, 9:30am – Park and Cemetery Board meeting

Thursday, September 23, 7:00pm – Planning Commission meeting

Monday, September 27, 5:30pm – Council Study Session – ULID and Sewer Connection Requests, 7:00pm – Council Meeting and Public Hearings – Gateway General Binding Site Plan and Title 13 Regulating Public Sewer System.

Monday, October 11, 7:00pm – City Council meeting

Thursday, October 14, 7:00pm – Planning Commission meeting

Monday, October 18, 5:30pm – Council Study Session – 2011 Budget

Thursday, October 21, 9:30am – Park and Cemetery Board meeting

Monday, October 25, 7:00pm – City Council meeting

Thursday, October 28, 7:00pm – Planning Commission meeting

**G. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Bills – Amount: \$157,860.11 and Advance Pay \$3,199.21

2. Approval of August Payroll - Amount: \$462,824.04
3. Approval of August 23, 2010, Council Minutes and August 30, 2010, Special Council Minutes

**MOTION MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO APPROVE THE  
CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY SCOTT DODD AND  
APPROVED 7 – 0.**

**H. PUBLIC HEARING (MEETING) - None**

**I. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Letter received September 8, 2010, from Dennis Olason, regarding Sustainability Policy.

**J. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

1. Appointments to the Planning Commission

The appointments were postponed until next council meeting.

2. Ordinance 10-2769, Amendment to Title 13 – presented by Steve Banham. A review and first reading was provided. A public hearing and second reading have been scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>.
3. Ordinance 10-2770, Amendment to Title 12 – presented by Steve Banham.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO WAIVE THE  
SECOND READING AND ADOPT ORDINANCE 10-2770,  
AMENDING THE BLAINE MUNICIPAL CODE AT TITLE 12,  
SECTION 12.04 TO UPDATE PROCEDURES FOR THE  
PROCESSING OF EXCAVATION PERMITS, SECONDED BY  
HARRY ROBINSON AND APPROVED 7 – 0.**

4. Amendment to Tetra Tech/KCM Contract for Phase 3 Sewer Work – presented by Steve Banham.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY HARRY ROBINSON TO WAIVE THE  
SECOND READING AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO  
SIGN AMENDMENT #4 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,400 WITH  
TETRA TECH, INC. FOR A REVISED NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT  
OF \$633,540, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS AND  
APPROVED 7 – 0.**

5. Resolution 1564-10, Gateway Design Amendments – presented by Michael Jones.

*Motion was made by John Liebert to waive the second reading and adopt resolution 1564-10 to initiate a code amendment to increase the design standards for buildings in the Gateway Zoning District and seconded by Charlie Hawkins.*

Council discussed concerns about the amendments being to the developer, and concerns about changing the rules while the property is on the market. Michael provided input on how it will affect sales of the property. Jon Sitkin provided Council with possible approaches as regulator and property owner in the future development of the property.

*John Liebert withdrew his motion and Charlie Hawkins withdrew his second.*

6. Resolution 1565-10, COA Agricultural Exemption – presented by Michael Jones.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY HARRY ROBINSON TO WAIVE THE SECOND READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION 1565-10 TO INITIATE A CODE AMENDMENT TO ADD AN EXEMPTION FOR AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN CRITICAL AREAS, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS AND APPROVED 6 – 1 (JOHN LIEBERT).**

7. Schedule a Public Hearing for the Gateway Binding Site Plan – presented by Michael Jones.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY HARRY ROBINSON SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2010, TO REVIEW THE GATEWAY GENERAL BINDING SITE PLAN, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS AND APPROVED 7 – 0.**

8. Airport Property Sale Agreements.

No action was taken.

- K.** Council convened in executive session at 8:54pm, for 30 minutes (extended to 53 minutes), to discuss real estate pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c) with possible action to be taken.
- L.** Council reconvened in regular session at 9:47pm, with no action taken.
- M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**

**N. COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS - none**

**O. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

1. John Liebert advised that this Council meeting was the last one for Perry Olason.

**P. ADJOURN: 9:47pm**

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Bonnie Onyon, Mayor

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Sheri Sanchez, City Clerk