

**CITY OF BLAINE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 25, 2007**

**7:00 PM**

*Study Session – 5:30 pm – Electrical Substation Options and Service Areas  
Present: Bonnie Onyon, Mike Myers, Ken Ely, Charlie Hawkins, John Liebert  
Adjourn – 6:50pm*

**A. CALL TO ORDER – 7:02pm**

- MOMENT OF SILENCE
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL: Ken Ely, Charlie Hawkins, John Liebert, Mike Myers, Bonnie Onyon, (Jason Overstreet & Bruce Wolf have requested to be excused)

**Motion made by Charlie Hawkins to excuse council members Overstreet and Wolf. Seconded by Ken Ely and approved unanimously 5 - 0**

- Staff Present: Gary Tomsic, City Manager; Steve Banham, Public Works Director; Meredith Riley, Finance Director; Sheri Sanchez, City Clerk; Mike Haslip, Public Safety Director; Jon Sitkin, City Attorney.

**B. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - Sign-up/Comment Forms in Foyer of City Hall**

1. Christina Alexander, 5351 Owl Lane, spoke regarding gospel choir workshop and that she has been invited to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peace Garden, North Dakota, on 7/14/07
2. Blaine Builder Award – Bob Hines
3. Blaine Builder Award – The Northern Light – Pat and Louise Mugar

**C. CITY MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

1. Lighthouse Point Update – Steve Banham reported – worked successfully with the Lummi tribe and archeologist to locate pipes, and advised that there were no cultural issues. The design will be submitted to Department of Ecology this Friday, June 29, 2007.
2. State & Federal Projects - feedback on Saw Cutting by WSDOT – Steve Banham reported – neither City nor WSDOT received any complaints from the saw cutting noise.

3. Whatcom County Six Year Transportation Improvement Program – Steve Banham reported – Birch Point area roads which are included on the County STIP schedule are Lincoln Road and Birch Bay Lynden Road.
4. Drayton Harbor Road Appeal – Steve Banham reported – the appeal regarding lack of notification will be worked through this summer and will probably be pushed until the summer of 2008.
5. City Hall Report – Steve Banham reported – the back walls have been completed but there is still a side wall and windows that need to be repaired. Gary Tomsic has been doing research on how partnerships in other cities have worked and how we might write an RFQ.
6. Mitchell Street Report – Steve Banham reported – contacted DOT traffic support office regarding the sight distance issue on Boblett.
7. Wayside Horn Report – Gary Tomsic Reported – also called the Quiet Zone Project. Staff met with RCL and BNSF to determine how wayside horns can be placed at Hughes and Bell Roads. RCL provided quotes of around \$75,000 - \$80,000. Staff feels they should add another \$20,000 that may not have been addressed. There may be some support with the developers who are building around the area, but there may also need to be some participation by residents affected by the project. Gary suggested a town meeting to discuss the project with those affected to see who might want to participate in the funding, including a possible LID.
8. Billboard Report – Gary Tomsic reported – has communicated with others who have put up signs, and is studying the costs of putting up 1 legal sign.
9. Major Projects Update - None
10. Trails Plan Update - None
11. Lighthouse Park Report - None
12. SAFETEA-LU Transportation Enhancement Program Report – Steve Banham reported – Federal funds will be available for various transportation projects and will focus on non-motorized projects. COG has determined that they will concentrate only projects that were submitted last year but were not funded, which would include the boardwalk – possibly including the pedestrian overpass. Public Works plans on submitting the application this year. The enhancement funds are matched with TIB funds. (Last year's funding available was approximately \$2 - \$3 million.)

13. Retirement of Probation Officer – Meredith Riley reported – the probation officer is retiring and the City has entered into a 6 month contract with Whatcom County for probation services which will cover through the end of the year, at which time they will review needs for 2008.

14. Mitchell Street duplexes – Mike Haslip reported – they are working through securing the property and will report back at a later date.

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

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

1. Planning Commission - None

2. Airport Commission - None

3. BTAC - None

4. Park & Cemetery – Alex Wenger reported – read a letter from Shelly Button, Park & Cemetery Chairperson, regarding the importance of the City acquiring a piece of property south of Cherry Street for use as a view end. The property is a buildable lot with a possible interested party wanting to purchase it for that purpose. Therefore, urgency of action is important. The price is approximately \$125,000.

Terry Johnston, member of Park and Cemetery Board, supported the value of purchasing the property and highly recommended that the City Council make it a priority.

5. Ad Hoc - None

**G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**H. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Bills – Amount: \$ 579,837.62

2. Approval of Payroll – Amount \$-0-

3. Approval of June 11, 2007, City Council Minutes

**Motion made by Charlie Hawkins to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Ken Ely and approved unanimously 5 – 0 (Jason Overstreet and Bruce Wolf were excused)**

## I. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

1. Ordinance 07-2666, Amendment to Title 13 Providing for Water Conservation Restriction – Presented by Steve Banham

**Motion made by Charlie Hawkins to adopt Ordinance 07-2666, providing for water usage restrictions during water supply storage shortages or other reduced water service capability circumstances and waive the second reading. Seconded by John Liebert and approved unanimously 5 – 0 (Jason Overstreet and Bruce Wolf were excused)**

2. Resolution 1466-07, 2007 Semiahmoo Water Conservation Plan – Presented by Steve Banham.  
Bob Williams, Canvasback Road, spoke on behalf of the Semiahmoo Resort Association, and wanted to emphasize that this be a voluntary restriction, and thanked Steve for working with them.

**Motion made by Bonnie Onyon to pass Resolution 1466-07, establishing temporary potable water supply conservation measures of the West Blaine service area for the summer of 2007 and waive the second reading. Seconded by Charlie Hawkins and approved unanimously 5 – 0 (Jason Overstreet and Bruce Wolf were excused)**

3. Harborside Building - Building Fee and Utility Fee Deferral Request – Presented by Gary Tomsic.  
Rick Osborne, 138 South Garden Street, Bellingham, spoke on behalf of Art Wiener, requesting to defer the building and utility fees until certificate of occupancy has been approved.  
Council, staff and Jon Sitkin discussed the issues regarding deferring fees and legal requirements / ramifications.  
The City Council is interested in pursuing this and would like it brought back as an action item at the next council meeting. The staff will also review the permit issue with the Building Official.

4. Wastewater Treatment Plant Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and Variance – Presented by Steve Banham

**Motion made by Charlie Hawkins to approve the WWTP shoreline substantial development permit application and the zoning variance application with conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. Seconded by Ken Ely.**

Discussion: Steve Banham and Gary Tomsic added that the project will enhance the area, and that funding will be through various sources, not just the sewer fund.

**Approved unanimously 5 – 0 (Jason Overstreet and Bruce Wolf were excused)**

5. Resolution 1464-07, Adopt Six Year Transportation Improvement Program – Presented by Steve Banham

**Motion made by Ken Ely to pass Resolution 1464-07, adopting the 2008 – 2013 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program for the City of Blaine. Seconded by John Liebert and approved unanimously 5 – 0 (Jason Overstreet and Bruce Wolf were excused)**

6. Resolution 1467-07, Surplus Vehicles (1 vehicle removed per request from Mike Haslip) – Presented by Meredith Riley

**Motion made by Charlie Hawkins to pass Resolution 1467-07, declaring certain City property to be surplus property, removing item number 3 and waive the second reading. Seconded by Ken Ely and approved unanimously 5 – 0 (Jason Overstreet and Bruce Wolf were excused)**

7. Ordinance 07-2667, Noise Variance – Presented by Steve Banham

**Motion made by Charlie Hawkins to adopt Ordinance 07-2667, amending Blaine Municipal Code section 8.10.010 at subsection E. to authorize City Council waiver of construction noise time restrictions where the public interest is served by the waiver, while maintaining compliance with WAC 173-60 and waive the second reading. Seconded by Bonnie Onyon and approved unanimously 5 – 0 (Jason Overstreet and Bruce Wolf were excused)**

## **J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Question by Bonnie Onyon regarding finishing the Bayview Road when the developers have completed their work. Steve Banham responded that Bayview is on the STIP.

## **K. COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ken Ely brought up a discussion that he had with Dennis Olason regarding the hearing examiner topic and public hearing versus public meeting. Dennis Olason, 860 Georgia Street – spoke regarding concerns that the public doesn't have all of the information so that they can offer input and discussion for a public hearing and would like to suggest having a public meeting first.

## **L. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS - None**

**M. ADJOURN – 9:23pm**

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MAYOR

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CITY CLERK