

**CITY OF BLAINE  
COUNCIL RETREAT MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 23, 2019**

**4:30 PM**

**Location: Blaine Harbor Boating Center  
235 Marine Drive**

**Mayor: Bonnie Onyon**

**Mayor Pro Tem: Steve Lawrenson**

**Facilitator: Laura Todd**

**The retreat was called to order at 4:34 PM**

**Present:**

**Council:** Eric Davidson, Charlie Hawkins, Steve Lawrenson, Jaime Arnett, Bonnie Onyon, Mary Lou Steward, and Alicia Rule

**Staff:** City Manager Michael Jones, Finance Director Jeffrey Lazenby, Acting Chief of Police Ryan King, Community Development Services Director Stacie Pratschner, Public Works Director Ravyn Whitewolf, and City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Samuel Crawford.

**Welcome, Introductions, Purpose of Meeting, Agenda Review, Ground Rules**

Laura Todd and Michael Jones led the short introduction to the meeting.

**Objectives of Retreat**

Some of the objectives of the City Council retreat included establishing norms for the retreat that can be also be carried over to regular City Council meetings, creating priorities and goals for 2019 and 2020, and clarifying roles of Council and staff as well as improving communication between Council and staff.

**Vision**

The vision for the Council retreat was that all voices should be heard.

**Mission**

The mission for the Council retreat and regular meetings is to be in and of service to the City and citizens of Blaine.

**If we were to serve the city of Blaine more effectively, what would we offer to the council/staff and what would we ask of the council/staff?**

*Regarding the question above, City Council asked staff to:*

- Think outside the box and be more creative
- Don't get bogged down in bureaucracy
- Have more of a "can do" attitude
- Trust City Council
- Be more consistent in their decision making
- Consider the impacts on citizens when making decisions

- Inform City Council early on in a process
- Increase their timeliness in project completion

*In return, City Council offers staff:*

- Honesty
- Resources for training
- General support and leadership
- To be clear as possible on priorities
- Cohesive support

*Regarding the question above, staff asked City Council to:*

- Trust them more
- Have a greater focus
- Resist micro-managing
- Produce vision and goals
- Remain cognizant of limited budget and staff resources
- Prioritization and acknowledgment of existing priorities

*In return, staff offers City Council:*

- Greater productivity
- More systematic order of delivery and outcomes
- Hard work
- Better quality of products and projects
- Greater achievement of goals

### **Goals for 2019-2020**

City Council produced the following goals for 2019 and 2020:

- Greener practices
- Housing
- Continued and controlled growth in housing, business, and population
- Revitalize downtown
- Community health
- Public Works maintenance plan
- Communication plan and transparency
- Fiscal responsibility

### **Legacy this City Council wants to leave:**

City Council expressed their desire to leave a legacy that demonstrates they did not lead the City into a financial deficit, they asked hard financial questions, and that they were willing to make hard decisions. They also want their legacy to show that they were able to make decisions that developed the economy, helped children and families, and were transparent and open during their tenure on Council.

### **Impressions from Laura Todd on Councilmembers and Staff:**

- Strong alignment and continual direction from the 2018 priorities and goals. This set staff and Council up with continuing the current efforts without a big swing

away from the current great work. Council added the priority to use the “Green” filter in as many projects, purchases, growth and other priorities.

- Council offered perspective on the legacy that they would like to leave as this current Council changes with the shifts in seats.
- Staff and Council had an opportunity to reflect on both individually and as a group on improving communications. Using the basic template of what can I / we ‘ask’ for and what can I / we ‘offer’ to better serve will ideally increase ease of communication.
- There were good laughs, healthy teambuilding and time to learn more about each other’s perspectives, philosophies and priorities in helping the city.

**The retreat was adjourned at 8:31 PM.**

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Bonnie Onyon, Mayor

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Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

City Council Retreat minutes for May 23, 2019, were approved at the July 8, 2019, Council meeting.