

**CITY OF BLAINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, June 24, 2019

6:00 PM

**Bonnie Onyon - Mayor
Steve Lawrenson – Mayor Pro Tem**

- A. STUDY SESSION: 5:30PM** – Strategic Tourism Plan – Presented by Stacie Pratschner, Debbie Harger, and Eric Sheckler.

PRESENT: Jaime Arnett, Eric Davidson, Charlie Hawkins, Bonnie Onyon, Alicia Rule, and Mary Lou Steward.

STAFF: City Manager Michael Jones, Community Development Services Director Stacie Pratschner, and City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Samuel Crawford.

- B. CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM**

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

COUNCILMEMBERS: Jaime Arnett, Eric Davidson, Charlie Hawkins, Bonnie Onyon, Alicia Rule, and Mary Lou Steward. Steve Lawrenson requested to be excused.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY LOU STEWARD TO EXCUSE STEVE LAWRENSON, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HAWKINS, AND APPROVED 6 – 0.

STAFF: City Manager Michael Jones, Finance Director Jeffrey Lazenby, Chief of Police Donnell “Tank” Tanksley, Community Development Services Director Stacie Pratschner, Public Works Director Ravyn Whitewolf, and City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Samuel Crawford.

- C. OATH OF OFFICE FOR CHIEF OF POLICE – DONNELL TANKSLEY** – Mayor Onyon swore-in Police Chief Donnell “Tank” Tanksley.

- D. PROCLAMATION – ORCA ACTION MONTH – JUNE 2019** – Mayor Onyon read the Proclamation for Orca Action Month – June 2019.

- E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Sign-up/Comment Sheet located in Council Chambers before Meeting

1. Jennifer Plombon, regarding the need for a Bell Road overpass and the need to reduce the City’s use of fossil fuels.
2. Michael Zapico, 609 D St., regarding speeders on D St.
3. Anika Henry, 1119 Mitchell Avenue, regarding speeding and crosswalks between Mitchell Avenue and Cherry Street.

F. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

1. North Whatcom Fire Update – Chief Herschel Rostov reported on the two new hires, 4th of July celebration, and NWFR's inspections of cooking equipment to avoid potential injury.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. Emails dated June 10, 2019, from Bill Becht, regarding All Aboard Washington.
2. Email dated June 12, 2019, from Dean Berkeley, regarding moving Customs and Border Patrol inspection station.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Voucher Memo:
Approval of Bills: \$533,909.44
2. Approval of June 10, 2019, City Council Minutes

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY ERIC DAVIDSON, AND APPROVED 6 – 0.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption – Presented by Stacie Pratschner

The public hearing was opened for testimony at 6:40 PM.

Testimony:

1. Mike Kent, 5576 Chehalis Pl., regarding the good timing of this proposal.
2. Leona Vandenberg, 8608 Blue Grouse Way, regarding the income threshold to get the tax exemption.

The public hearing was continued to Monday, July 8, 2019, at 6:00 pm.

2. 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) – Presented by Ravyn Whitewolf

Councilmember Eric Davidson left the City Council meeting at 7:02 PM.

The public hearing was opened for testimony at 7:09 PM.

Testimony:

1. (Given during Audience Participation portion) Jennifer Plombon, regarding the need for a Bell Road overpass and the need to reduce the City's use of fossil fuels.

At 7:10 PM, the public hearing was closed.

J. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution 1758-19 to approve the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) – presented by Ravyn Whitewolf.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 1758-19, ADOPTING THE 2020 – 2025 SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AS PROVIDED BY

RCW 35.77.010 AND RCW 36.81.121 OF STATE LAW, SECONDED BY MARY LOU STEWARD, AND APPROVED 5 – 0.

2. Resolution 1762-19 authorizing Economic Development Investment (EDI) program funding application for the Gateway Regional Storm Project – Presented by Ravyn Whitewolf.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALICIA RULE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 1762-19, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE WHATCOM COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT BOARD TO SEEK FUNDING OF THE GATEWAY REGIONAL STORMWATER FACILITY, SECONDED BY JAIME ARNETT, AND APPROVED 5 – 0.

3. Bid award to construct East Blaine sewer and electrical infrastructure extensions – Presented by Ravyn Whitewolf.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHARLIE HAWKINS TO ACCEPT THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A UNIT PRICE CONTACT WITH JIJ CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,998,744.08, SECONDED BY ALICIA RULE, AND APPROVED 5 – 0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: – approximately 6:30 PM – Sale of real property pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c).

Council convened in executive session at 7:36 PM, for 15 minutes, extended five minutes, to discuss sale of real property pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c), with action to be taken under Council Action Item #4.

Council reconvened in the regular meeting at 7:56 PM, with action taken under Council Action Item #4.

4. Considering a Letter of Intent from Family Care Network for the Purchase of 2.5 acres of the Gateway Property – Presented by Michael Jones.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALICIA RULE TO CONSIDER THE LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) AND DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO DEVELOP A COUNTER OFFER BY AMENDING THE LOI AND PROPOSING IT TO THE PROSPECTIVE BUYER WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATION TO INCREASE THE EARNEST MONEY WHICH WILL STAY THE SAME, SECONDED BY JAIME ARNETT, AND APPROVED 5 – 0.

K. COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. Boys and Girls Club – Alicia Rule reported that Dakota Biggs is the new Director of the Blaine Boys and Girls Club.
2. Drayton Harbor Shellfish Advisory Committee – Charlie Hawkins reported that the committee is off for the summer.
3. Port of Bellingham Marine Advisory Committee – Charlie Hawkins reported that the committee is off for the summer.
4. Small Cities Caucus – Michael Jones and Bonnie Onyon reported on the discussion revolving around the potential eruption of Mt. Baker.

L. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Public Works – Ravyn Whitewolf reported on start of the H Street sidewalk project and this will result in a one week closure. She also reported on the water line repair on 3rd Street, the fixing of the Plaza sitting wall, as well as gave an update on the well field. In terms of the Hughes Avenue project, a detour will remain in place until August 1st due to overpass work.
2. Community Development Services – Stacie Pratschner reported on plan updates and preparation for 4th of July.
3. City Manager – Michael Jones reported on a purchase and sale agreement for IK Trucking,

M. CALENDARS

Unless noted, all meetings are held at City Hall, 435 Martin Street, Suite 4000, and are open to the public. Agendas can be found on the City’s website.

Thursday, June 27
7pm – Planning Commission

Thursday, July 4
City Offices Closed – 4th of July

Monday, July 8
6pm – Regular City Council meeting

Tuesday, July 9
8am – Blaine Tourism Advisory Committee

Thursday, July 11
9am – Park and Cemetery Board

Thursday, July 11
2pm – Public Works Advisory Committee
Location: PW 1200 Yew Ave.

Thursday, July 11
7pm – Planning Commission

N. COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS:

1. Alicia Rule inquired about solar panels in Blaine.
2. Alicia Rule inquired about City staff and Council emails bouncing back.
3. Alicia Rule asked whether youth mental health could be added to the next agenda.

O. ADJOURNED: 8:12 PM

Bonnie Onyon, Mayor

Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

Council minutes for June 24, 2019, were approved at the July 8, 2019, Council meeting.