

April 22, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Brunz called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Aslett, Bieche, Edmundson, Loving, Montgomery and Sexton. Staff present: Cavanaugh, Fleek, Kinney, Martin, Sheahan, Staheli, Thomas, Thramer, and Van Wieringen.

A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Aslett** to excuse **Councilor Valentine** from tonight’s meeting. All agreed. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Edmundson/Montgomery** to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2010 Council meeting. All agreed. Motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Edmundson presented the bills. A motion was made by **Councilors Edmundson/Sexton** to approve vouchers 57818 – 57930 in the amount of \$268,868.51. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Current Expense	\$ 125,836.26
Fire Equipment Cumulative Reserve	417.75
City Street	14,978.14
Hopper Construction Fund	13,384.86
Library	193.59
Parks & Recreation	35,027.20
Cemetery Fund	685.13
Stadium Fund	630.57
Sewer Fund	34,860.94
Sewer Cumulative Reserve	26,305.99
Storm Drainage Utility	16,548.08
Total	\$ 268,868.51

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Recreation Coordinator Kinney reported on her attendance at the Recreation Conference. She attended on City time, but registration fees, hotel and other expenses were paid by her along with some financial assistance from local service groups. She stated that the conference speakers were very good and she came away with some good ideas and energized about the future of Burlington’s recreation programs.

Parks & Recreation Director Cavanaugh presented information to Council regarding the soccer field use fees as a follow-up to the questions raised at the last Council meeting. He explained the research done to create the current fee schedule. **Councilor Bieche** asked how we align with the others in the survey. He noted Burlington is average compared to the five other programs surveyed. Council asked for a list that shows how Burlington fees compare to other cities.

Finance Director Thramer discussed sewer shut-off fee. He noted that the practice is not covered in the municipal code. He recommends discontinuing this service. This

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practice would be discontinued May 1, 2010 and phased in the billing cycle over the following two months. **Councilor Loving** asked what the minimum sewer fee is. **Finance Director Thramer** noted it is about \$30 per month. He estimates the City loses about \$9,000 during the period the accounts are not billed. The City currently charges \$5.00 to stop or start billing. **Councilor Aslett** agreed that the City needs to discontinue the practice; it is not in the municipal code and is very hard to audit. **Finance Director Thramer** stated that he will proceed with notification to customers.

City Attorney Thomas stated that he has been working with **Information Systems Administrator Hawes** to plan a Council workshop regarding technology. He expects this might occur in May or June.

City Attorney Thomas stated that dates have been suggested for a council retreat and that **Councilor Aslett** has spoken to a potential facilitator. **Councilor Bieche** stated that she contacted the Whatcom County WSU Extension office and found they could provide facilitator services at a lower cost. After some discussion it was decided that **Councilor Bieche** and **Councilor Aslett** would interview possible facilitators and make a recommendation to the Council.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

23RD ANNUAL FARM WORKERS MARCH:

Ms. Consuelo Guandique, 901 S. 21st Place, Mount Vernon, reviewed the history of the annual Farm Workers March in Skagit Valley. This year's march is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. Sunday May 2nd at Maiben Park in Burlington and end with a celebration at Skagit Valley College in the City of Mount Vernon. She invited the Mayor and Council members to attend the event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

VACATION OF TEN FEET OF STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO THE OLD FIRE STATION SITE ON THE OLD CASCADE HIGHWAY SIDE OF THE SITE.

Mayor Brunz opened the public hearing. **Planning Director Fleek** stated that on March 25, 2010, the Council voted to initiate street vacation proceedings and set the public hearing for this date. The purpose of the right-of-way vacation is to match the property lines of the adjacent lot, straightening out the irregular property line along Old Cascade Highway adjacent to the site by means of vacating a ten-foot strip of right-of-way. A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Loving** to close the public hearing. All agreed. Motion carried. A motion was made by **Councilors Montgomery/Bieche** to adopt the ordinance vacating a ten-foot strip of right-of-way adjacent to Parcel Number P71551. All agreed. Motion carried.

(Ordinance # 1710)

ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT CONTRACT REZONE AT 1231 EAST FAIRHAVEN AVENUE; APPLICANT IS ROGER HELGESON.

Planning Director Fleek stated that the council voted to approve the contract rezone on February 11, 2010. The ordinance was not available at that time, thus she would like the council to adopt the ordinance subject to conditions as approved on February 11, 2010. A motion was made by **Councilors Edmundson/Loving** to adopt the ordinance approving the contract rezone with conditions as approved February 11, 2010. All agreed. Motion carried.

(Ordinance # 1711)

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NEW BUSINESS:**REQUEST TO PUT UP SIGN SUPPORTING SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ISSUE AT THE ROUNDABOUT UNTIL THE ELECTION.**

Planning Director Fleek stated that the supporters of the Burlington-Edison School District Bond issue are requesting permission to place a sign in the roundabout on N. Burlington Boulevard in support of the May 18th bond issue election. She stated that council approval is needed because the roundabout is in the public right-of-way. **Councilor Edmundson** asked if the sign would say 'vote' or 'vote yes' or 'vote no'. **Councilor Sexton** asked about size of signs. **Councilor Montgomery** stated that he is not in favor of signs in the round-about. **Councilor Sexton** asked what precedents would be set by allowing signs in the roundabout. **City Attorney Thomas** stated that the council can set limits for the signs size, color, etc., but could not restrict the message if signs are allowed in the roundabout. **Councilor Aslett** asked if we would need an ordinance to prohibit signs in the roundabout. **City Attorney Thomas** indicated we should adopt an ordinance setting guidelines. A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Montgomery** to not allow a sign in support of the BE School District bond issue placed in the roundabout until the May 18, 2010 election and to not allow a sign in the roundabout regarding the Cancer Relay for Life fund raiser in June. All agreed. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO PUT UP SIGN ADVERTISING THE RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE IN THE ROUNDABOUT.

This request was addressed during the previous agenda item.

FINAL PLAT OF QUINN'S COURT LOCATED AT 130 AND 143 SHARON AVENUE. APPLICANT: RICK AND SHELLEY HOLT.

Planning Director Fleek stated that the final plat of Quinn's Court is being submitted for approval. The civil engineering and construction work is being completed in phases. This approval will create the lots, and the completion of the required work is carefully laid out so that all the details are coordinated in a timely manner. This will facilitate the sale of the units that are now completed, and financing for the rest of the project. A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Sexton** to approve the ordinance approving Final Plat of Quinn's Court. All agreed. Motion carried.

(Ordinance # 1712)

AMBULANCE SERVICE ORDINANCE.

City Attorney Thomas stated municipal fire departments provide adequate Basic Life Support (BLS), but Advanced Life Support (ALS) has been more difficult to maintain. ALS comes in the form of a paramedic in an ambulance through the Skagit Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program. Ten years ago, these services were provided to Burlington residents through Affiliated Health Services. Affiliated Health Services elected to discontinue that service in January 2003 and so the services now come through EMS which contracts with Central Skagit Medic One, the Anacortes Fire Department, and Aero-Skagit Emergency Services, Inc. to provide ALS to their respective areas. The concern is that private ambulance services would like to move into Skagit County. This ordinance is intended to provide oversight of ambulance services and also establish a Fire Department-based, fee-supported ambulance services as circumstances warrant. This will provide a back-up plan in the event the City finds it necessary to step into a possible breach of ALS services. A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Edmundson** to approve the ordinance establishing the City Ambulance Service for the City of Burlington as a public utility of the City. All agreed. Motion carried.

(Ordinance # 1713)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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The Mayor and Council members adjourned to executive session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss personnel (labor negotiations), litigation and land acquisition. **Mayor Brunz** indicated the session would last about 20 minutes. At 8:30 p.m. **Mayor Brunz** announced the executive session would last an additional 40 minutes. The Mayor and Council members returned from executive session at 9:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. by **Mayor Brunz**.

Greg Thramer
Finance Director

Edward J. Brunz
Mayor