

June 10, 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 and Sexton. Staff present: A. Bradshaw, J. Bradshaw, Butterfield, Martin, Thomas, Thrasher and Van Wieringen.

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

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Bieche** to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2010 Council meeting and Council workshop. All agreed. Motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Edmundson presented the bills. The audit committee met this afternoon and reviewed the vouchers. A motion was made by **Councilors Edmundson/Sexton** to approve vouchers 58139 – 58227 in the amount of \$100,234.29. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Current Expense	\$ 23,515.41
Current Expense Cumulative Reserve	3,083.70
City Street	4,716.48
Hopper Construction	13,247.59
Library	5,653.41
Parks & Recreation	6,032.30
Cemetery Fund	520.15
Stadium Fund	8,338.01
Parks & Recreation Reserve	12,146.94
Sewer Fund	10,342.97
Sewer Cumulative Reserve	329.74
Storm Drainage Utility	12,307.59
Total	\$ 100,234.29

SPECIAL REPORT:

Ms. Linda Fergusson, Executive Director Burlington Chamber of Commerce, presented an update of recent Chamber and Visitor Information Center activities, final plans for the Berry Dairy Days Festival and successful Chamber membership luncheons.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mark Kramer, 506 South Cherry Street, noted that the lawn was recently mowed at the commercial property on Burlington Boulevard he had noted a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Kramer stated that a new tax law goes into effect on July 1, 2010 that will allow an exemption from Washington state sales tax on sales of tangible personal property for use outside Washington to residents of British Columbia. He is concerned that this change will have a significant impact on tax revenues for the City of Burlington.

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Finance Director Thramer noted that the new sales tax exemption for British Columbia residents will not apply to lodging at hotels or motels, meals prepared for immediate consumption and other services (automobile towing, laundry, recreational activities, etc.). He noted that we won't know the impact until September, when the City receives sales tax revenues collected in July. **Councilor Aslett** suggested the City contact the Association of Washington Cities for information regarding possible changes to this law. **City Attorney Thomas** indicated that staff has contacted AWC for assistance. AWC staff noted that there is a similar law in place regarding residents of the state of Oregon who make purchases in Washington. The state legislature was aware that in 2009 the loss of possible sales tax revenue from Oregon citizens was about \$90 million. Knowing this, the legislature did not change the law in anticipation of the July 1st implementation for British Columbia citizens. Their point was to encourage out of state visitors to shop in Washington.

Councilor Loving reported that the Museum Board is working to develop a mission statement, moving forward with demolition of the Grafton House (expect information at the next council meeting) and a possible name change of the Museum Board to Burlington Historical Society. He noted that **Councilor Edmundson** has begun her summer walking tours of the City of Burlington.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin reported that **Mayor Brunz**, Mayor Norris, Esco Bell (Mount Vernon Public Works Director) and himself recently attended a High Speed Rail luncheon and dialogue co-hosted by the Vancouver (British Columbia) Economic Development Commission and the Cascadia Center for Regional Development. In addition to several others, also in attendance were the Mayor of Vancouver B.C., Vancouver City Council members, Senator Mary Margaret Haugen and Mr. Bruce Agnew, President of the Cascadia Center. The meeting was very informative and included talk about replacement of the BNSF Skagit River Bridge. **Mayor Brunz** commented on the potential for high speed rail service through Burlington.

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Brunz read a proclamation proclaiming June 17-20, 2010 as Berry Dairy Days in the City of Burlington.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING; SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2011-2016.

Mayor Brunz opened the public hearing. **Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin** stated that this hearing is to adopt a perpetual six-year plan for coordinated transportation program expenditures. He noted that he has listed the Regional Byway Center at the top of the list to indicate its importance when making application for grant funding. He stated that this program can be revised at any time by a majority vote of the City Council, following a public hearing. There were no comments from the public. A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Aslett** to close the public hearing. All approved. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY POSITION 4TH QUARTER OF 2010 IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Finance Director Thramer stated his request for permission to hire a temporary employee in the Finance Department in the 4th quarter of 2010. There are two Finance Department employees planning to be on maternity leave during that time. The cost for a temporary employee would be less than \$7,000.00. **Councilor Loving** asked how the

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Finance Department expects to cut expenditures this year while spending an additional \$7,000. **Finance Director Thrumer** stated his plans to make cuts in other areas such as the travel budget. **Councilor Edmundson** noted that with two employees expected to be on leave at the same time, there is really no other choice than to hire a temporary employee. **Councilor Aslett** noted this is the best solution to the problem. A motion was made by **Councilors Aslett/Edmundson** to approve the request to hire a temporary employee in the 4th quarter of 2010 at a cost to not exceed \$7,000. All agreed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:**STREET CLOSURE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY JULY 24, 2010 AT 700 BLOCK OF EAST ORANGE STREET.**

City Attorney Thomas stated this request is to close the 700 block of East Orange Avenue from South Anacortes Street to South Pine Street for an annual neighborhood block party with live music. Emergency access would be available via the alley. This event has been held the last three years without incident. He noted that the Police and Fire Departments have reviewed and approve this request; the Street Department will be loaning barricades for the street closure. A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Aslett** to approve the July 24, 2010 street closure request on East Orange Avenue. All agreed. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE IN THE STREET DEPARTMENT.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin stated his request to hire a temporary employee to augment the street department's maintenance activities this summer. Bringing on a temporary employee who is a certified flagger and who has experience working within Burlington's Street Department, will help complete budgeted maintenance activities this summer. He stated that he believes approval of this request will save money while enabling more work to get done during the critical summer dry weather window. Council members discussed the possibility of hiring two temporary employees for flagging to avoid hiring a contract flagger at a much higher cost. **Councilor Aslett** requested an executive session to discuss potential litigation. Council and Mayor adjourned to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. **City Attorney Thomas** expected the session to last no more than ten minutes. The Mayor and Council returned from Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. **Councilor Aslett** stated that this request would be tabled until the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2010 SALARY SCHEDULE TO REFLECT AGREEMENT REACHED WITH BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL #4111.

Finance Director Thrumer stated that with approval of the labor agreement between the City of Burlington and Firefighters union, the 2010 Salary Schedule needs to be amended. The ordinance presented will amend ordinance #1699 to include the 2010 salaries and benefits for the Firefighters. A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Bieche** to approve the ordinance amending the 2010 Salary Ordinance #1699. All agreed. Motion carried.

(Ordinance # 1715)**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Mayor and Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining and potential litigation. **City Attorney Thomas** stated he expected the session to last about 15 minutes. At 8:15 p.m. **City Attorney Thomas** announced that the session would last about another 20 minutes. The Mayor and Council returned from Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CITY HALL

BURLINGTON, WA

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ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Brunz adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Greg Thrumer
Finance Director

Edward J. Brunz
Mayor