

July 8, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Brunz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Aslett, Bieche, Edmundson, Loving, Montgomery, Valentine and Sexton. Staff present: Acero, Dite, Hawes, Martin, Sheahan, Thomas, Thrumer, Tingley and Van Wieringen.

MINUTES:

Councilor Bieche noted a correction regarding the Schwetz contract. A motion was made by **Councilors Loving/Bieche** to approve the corrected minutes of the June 24, 2010 Council meeting and Council workshop. All agreed. Motion carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Edmundson presented the bills. A motion was made by **Councilors Edmundson/Sexton** to approve vouchers 58318 – 58429 in the amount of \$112,660.61. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Current Expense	\$ 52,360.68
Current Expense Cumulative Reserve	3,654.84
City Street	4,221.62
Hopper Construction	1,925.37
Library	19,585.22
Parks & Recreation	8,268.16
Cemetery Fund	55.06
Sewer Fund	15,422.92
Storm Drainage Utility	7,166.74
Total	\$ 112,660.61

SPECIAL REPORT:

Ms. Linda Fergusson, Executive Director Burlington Chamber of Commerce, reported that the Berry Dairy Days festival was very successful. Changing the direction of the parade caused a few difficulties that should be worked out prior to next year. She stated that the Chamber website is linked to many other tourism related web sites which has resulted in many more web site visitors. The Chamber along with the League of Women Voters will be presenting Candidate Forums prior to the primary and general elections to be held at Burlington City Hall on August 3rd and October 5th. She noted that the Fiesta Unidos celebration is scheduled for August 28, 2010. It may be held on a site adjacent to the Outlet Center rather than in the center of the parking area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mark Kramer, 506 S. Cherry, spoke in favor of the lawsuit by City of Bellingham and Whatcom County to allow Canadian shoppers exemption from paying sales tax. He suggested the City submit information to the Skagit Valley Herald explaining the City's objection to the new FEMA flood map elevations within the City of Burlington.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Information Systems Technician Hawes continued with his review of the Information Systems Department. (He began the review during the Workshop prior to this meeting.) He noted his concern that some of the equipment in use is beyond its expected life. He

July 8, 2010

encouraged the City to include funds in the budget for replacement equipment, hardware and software.

City Attorney Thomas reviewed the history of the fiber network within the City of Burlington.

Court Administrator Dite and **Building & Grounds Supervisor Tingley** presented an overview of the Community Worker Program. They explained how defendants serving on the work crew in lieu of time in jail are a savings to the city. The work crew is booked into April 2011. They suggested that hiring an additional coordinator for crew supervision would cut down on such an extended backlog and provide more work for the City. **Councilor Aslett** suggested service organizations might be willing to help with supervision. **Councilor Valentine** stated she would be in favor of hiring an additional coordinator on a temporary basis to reduce the schedule backlog. Council members asked if additional information regarding costs and savings could be provided at another council meeting. **Court Administrator Dite** and **Building & Grounds Supervisor Tingley** indicated they would provide more information for Council review.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin stated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency released new flood elevation maps on July 1, 2010. He noted there were not elevations changes from the preliminary maps that had been released in May 2009. There had been several errors on the May 2009 maps; those have been corrected. He noted his concern for the increased elevations throughout the City of Burlington. **Councilor Aslett** suggested council members should contact the County Commissioners about their concerns regarding the revised elevations. **Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin** stated there is a 90-day appeal period. There will be several public meetings scheduled for public comment.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin stated there is an opportunity for federal funding to replace the Burlington-Northern Skagit River Bridge. Replacement of this bridge would be very beneficial to the City of Burlington as a flood control project. The current bridge impedes logs and debris during a flood event which could cause damage to the levees. During previous flood events, BNSF has stopped rail traffic for safety reasons. One previous flood resulted in damage to the bridge and closure until repairs could be made. High speed rail is being promoted by the Cascadia Project and the State of Washington. If this continues to move forward, the bridge would need to be replaced and perhaps a second rail added to enhance traffic flow. He requested authorization from Council to offer City flood control funds of \$350,000 over a three-year period to the State to assist with preliminary engineering work to put the project in line for federal grant funds. He noted that City funds would not be used for construction nor would the City be involved in managing the construction project. A motion was made by **Councilors Valentine/Aslett** to authorize the offer to contribute \$350,000 over a three-year period for preliminary engineering for the BNSF Skagit River Bridge replacement project. Voting in favor were **Councilors Valentine, Aslett, Montgomery, Sexton** and **Bieche**. Voting against were **Councilors Edmundson** and **Loving**. Motion passed.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Martin stated that **Planning Director Fleek** has applied for grant funding for Railroad Park as part of the Washington Scenic Byways. He expects the application to score very high and is optimistic she will receive funding.

City Attorney Thomas noted he had provided a memo to the Mayor and Council with information regarding the County solid waste system. He noted a meeting of officials is scheduled for Monday. As more information becomes available, he will forward it to council members.

City Attorney Thomas stated that he recently attended a meeting with Representative Jeff Morris where the sales tax exemption for British Columbia residents was discussed. He noted that the British Columbia press is not happy about this exemption. It sounds

July 8, 2010

like many of our state representatives are not in favor of the law and may look for ways to repeal or change it during the next legislative session.

City Attorney Thomas stated that a meeting was held this past week with representatives of Skagit County Fire Protection District #6, **Councilor Sexton, Fire Chief Staheli, Finance Director Thrumer, Mayor Brunz** and himself. The topic did not include financial matters only service and services areas. Another meeting will be scheduled for the near future. The current agreement with Fire District #6 expires December 31, 2010.

City Attorney Thomas stated that there will be an executive session this evening to discuss labor negotiations and potential litigation.

Councilor Loving noted that the Grafton house on Burlington Boulevard has been demolished and the debris removed. Very little of the landscaping was disturbed during the project.

Finance Director Thrumer presented the latest sales tax report. He reminded council that the Teamsters Public Works contract requires city/union discussions if four quarters of cumulative sales tax reaches \$5.9 million and sales tax revenue of \$5.7 or less would trigger layoffs. He reported that the Mayor requested all departments to find additional ways to reduce their 2010 expenditures. The departments were able to reduce expenditures by an additional \$217,040 for the remainder of the year. **Finance Director Thrumer** reviewed a proposed 2011 budget preparation schedule. Council members encouraged him to have the preliminary budget complete by September so they will have ample time to review prior to adoption.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Mayor and Council adjourned to Executive Session at 9:21 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations and potential litigation. **City Attorney Thomas** stated he expected the session to last about 30 minutes. At 9:50 p.m. **Mayor Brunz** announced the Executive Session would last another 40 minutes. The Mayor and Council returned from Executive Session at 10:29 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Brunz adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Greg Thrumer
Finance Director

Edward J. Brunz
Mayor