

**City of Benton City  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Carnahan called the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (309/1/240\* **Audio recording begins**)

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS** – Boy Scout Troop #205 led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. (310/3/610\*)

**ROLL CALL** (372/2/111\*) Council Members Present –

**Mary Lettau  
Connie Meredith  
Linda Lehman  
Lisa Stade  
Michelle McLeod**

City Staff Present –

**Stephanie Haug, City Clerk/Treasurer**

Other Professionals Present –

**Alan Rainey, City Engineer, Spink Engineering LLC  
Eric Ferguson, City Attorney, Kerr Law Group  
Capt. Clay Vannoy, Benton County Sheriff's Office**

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (379/4/512\*) -REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

**Councilwoman Lehman:** I found a couple of corrections. On Page 1, Motion No. 3. I think it should be C. L. Lehman and C. M. McLeod.

**Councilwoman Stade:** I believe, Mayor Carnahan, when you were speaking, you said that you couldn't, can't tear up the existing park due to prior council agreement from years ago; I think you said the word "can't"?

**Mayor Carnahan:** It probably shouldn't have been "can't" because you probably shouldn't, but it's all right...

**Councilwoman Stade:** Okay, it says "can" so are you okay with leaving it as it is?

**Mayor Carnahan:** That's fine, I'm not really that unhappy with it. Anything else? I need a motion to approve the Minutes as presented, corrected...

**Councilwoman Meredith:** Mr. Mayor, I make a motion to approve the Minutes of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 as presented.

**Councilwoman Stade:** I second.

**MOTION #1-** C. C. Meredith moved and C. L. Stade seconded to approve the Minutes of the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Council Meeting as amended.

**VOICE VOTE #1-** C. C. Meredith, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade, C. L. Lehman, C. M. McLeod  
**ALL YEAS. Motion carried.**

**OPENING REMARKS, "HOUSEKEEPING" ITEMS, EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS, ETC. –**  
(433/3/444\*) - Liquor License – 614 9<sup>th</sup> Street

**Mayor Carnahan:** We do have one request for an Executive Session and they want to have it after the Reports, say No. 5 on the Report...

**Ms. Haug:** Actually, it's after the Code Report, so between 2 and 3.

**Mr. Ferguson:** I need it after Engineer Report.

**Councilwoman Stade:** Do you want to do 3.b.?

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** (454/2/461\*)

**Mayor Carnahan** – Add Executive Session 3.b.

**Councilwoman Stade:** Mr. Mayor, I move to approve the November 18<sup>th</sup> Agenda as amended.

**Councilwoman McLeod:** I second it.

**MOTION #2-** C. L. Stade moved and C. M. McLeod seconded to approve the Agenda of the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Council Meeting as amended.

**VOICE VOTE #2-** C. C. Meredith, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade, C. L. Lehman, C. M. McLeod  
**ALL YEAS. Motion carried.**

**1. VISITOR COMMENTS – None (461/4/789\*)**

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**1. SHERIFF REPORT (465/4/810\*)**

**Capt. Clay Vannoy, Benton County Sheriff's Office - October:** 227 Calls for Service vs. 313 in 2013 - 33 Case Offenses vs. 27 in 2013 - 19 Infraction Offenses Issued - Burglaries – Thefts – Time of season – Crimes of opportunity – Knock on door – No answer – Kick in door – Significant arrest to be on next report

**2. STAFF REPORTS – (644/4/240\*)**

**Stephanie Haug, City Clerk/Treasurer - In packets - Treasurer Report - Code Report**

**3. ENGINEER REPORT (647/4/089\*)**

**Alan Rainey, City Engineer, Spink Engineering LLC - Letter to Mayor – Tennis Court converting Basketball court on one side – Internet search - Looking at cost to convert – Ranges from \$300 up to \$2,000 for one complete basket set up – Couple questions – Want basket to be permanent height or adjustable? Some have lever to adjust up or down – Cost estimate for equipment – Ordered on line and shipped - \$2,000 for the two baskets at each end – Still waiting for call back from Metal Fab in West Richland – Have some in stock – No call back regarding cost – If cheaper there – Purchase there – Backboard and Rim**

**Mayor Carnahan – Change or caulk the crack up there - Leave the tennis courts for public? Even with caulking in it – If not doing school tournaments – Caulking won't make much difference in bounce of ball**

**Councilwoman Stade – Expand the variety of use for park – Permanent height – School example of kids hanging on basket in low position – Better in outdoor temperatures**

**Mr. Rainey – Recommend permanent height – Four and half in whole - Similar to Legion Park – Use metal backboards – Backboards in Richland still there from when I was kid**

**Councilwoman Stade – Howard Amon – Lights now set and updated and working – Vote for expansion - No center fence – Tripping hazard – Polite – Fence is a danger**

**Mayor Carnahan – Consensus is to change one to basketball – Alan will bring back – I will meet with Mr. Harding with the School District**

**Mr. Rainey – Dale Avenue – Few things to complete - Relocate street and stop signs – Retaining wall fence – Street lights – Legion sign**

**Councilwoman Lettau – Driving that street - Patchwork around pipes – Pretty rough – Are they done with that – Gorgeous street until you get to patchwork**

**3.b. EXECUTIVE SESSION – R.C.W. 42.30.110(I, iii) – POTENTIAL LITIGATION (854/4/128\*)**

**Mayor Carnahan:** At this time now, I think we'll go into an Executive Session for litigation on Dale; be about ten minutes? At this time, I'll close the City Council at 7:18 and we, will there be any action taken after that? All right, we'll be back here, actually at 7:29, 7:30 by time we get in there.

**\*\*\*\*\* Executive Session begins at 7:18 p.m. \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* Executive Session ends at 7:28 p.m. \*\*\*\*\***

**Mayor Carnahan:** The Executive Session is over and we're back in the Council Meeting at 7:29. All right, moving on to Committee Reports.

#### **4. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS (1213/4/641\*)**

**Mayor Carnahan** – Benton Franklin Council of Governments – Worked on bylaws – Going to Olympia – December 5<sup>th</sup> – DNR land

**Councilwoman Stade** – Benton Franklin Transit – Poster contest – I Walk/I Bike/I Ride the Bus – Wrapped buses in posters – Go to respect schools – Bike give-away – Gift cards – Freedom of religion – If someone is willing to pay for advertisement – Can get it advertised on the bus – Group has asked for bus side to say “Do not believe in God - You're not alone” - Benton Franklin doesn't condone nor are against that – Offered to pay the price of the advertising as would anybody be allowed that – Money received offsets fares and fees – Talking to different school districts - Changing up some bus routes – Actually adding more and faster services for high schools to colleges – Going to ask more specifically if there are any laws about advertising drugs and alcohol – Politics – Raises more questions – Advertise certain candidates

**Councilwoman Meredith** – None

**Councilwoman Lettau** – None

**Councilwoman Lehman** – None

**Councilwoman McLeod** - None

#### **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL:**

##### **1. FIRST READING – ORDINANCE – 2015 BUDGET (1324/4/699\*)**

**Ms. Haug** – Overview of Topic

**Councilwoman Meredith:** Mr. Mayor, I move to approve the First Reading, an ordinance of the City of Benton City, Washington, adopting the 2015 Budget.

**Councilwoman Lehman:** I second.

**MOTION #3- C. C. Meredith moved and C. L. Lehman seconded to approve on the First Reading, an ordinance of the City of Benton City, Washington, adopting the 2015 Budget.**

**Councilwoman Stade** – Object to transfer from Parks and Rec to General Fund – Move Parks to Streets – Take money out of budget or savings – Never to get it back – Working with kids

**Ms. Haug** – Basically not affecting 2015 – Affecting calendar 2016 – Just affecting ending fund balance for Parks - \$20,000

**Councilwoman Stade** – I don't agree - Took time to accrue that money – Need to keep with budget going towards that – Only told two kids – Already drew up plans

**Ms. Haug** – If Lisa's asking to amend it – She would make motion to amend – Then voted on – If approved – Original motion would be amended.

**Councilwoman Stade:** I make a motion to amend the First Reading of the 2015 Budget to revert that no changes were made to the amount of money transferred between the General Fund and the Streets Parks and Rec back to the original amount.

**Councilwoman McLeod:** I second it.

**MOTION #4- C. L. Stade moved and C. M. McLeod seconded to amend the motion to approve the 2015 Budget, on the First Reading, changing the transfer amount from the General Fund to Streets to \$100,000 and from the General Fund to Parks & Rec Fund to \$50,000.**

**Councilwoman Meredith** – Look at budget as needs vs. wants – Funding has been cut to streets – Adjust budget to what you need – Wants are a wish pot – Going to have to take monies out that you're short on – Put it towards what you really need – How I look at it

**Councilwoman Stade** – Understand difference between needs and wants – Put Skate Park as a need for the youth – Didn't look at cutting Parks and Rec Fund until kids came to meeting

**Councilwoman Meredith** – Also found out same time - Budget for roads being cut

**Councilwoman Lettau** – Just because we take money out – Doesn't mean we don't have money to do what we need to do – Also not all youth in Benton City are involved with Skate Park – Moving \$20,000 doesn't mean there's not enough in fund to take care of that

**Councilwoman McLeod** – Mayor Carnahan said \$45,000 wasn't much to do anything – How can we do more with \$25,000 or amount we end up with

**Councilwoman Meredith** – Let's put in a swimming pool then – We need other things – Can't use it year around - Let's do something else besides Skate Park – If we're going to focus on park – Let's put something else in - First opinion – Streets first

**Councilwoman Stade** – Meeting with At-Risk Advisors – Not end-all-be-all – Start - Set Skate Park Foundation – Attract all ages - Need to expand – 100 ft. of road it could build for \$20,000 vs. building us and accruing budget for what youth need – Youth need activity - Need for green in city – Ask Mr. Small – Can we make is baseball or soccer – He said no – Contract stated swimming pool – Got option to buy land back – Agrees needs to be something besides Skate Park – It's a start

**Councilwoman McLeod** – It's one of our successes

**Mayor Carnahan** – Motion is to leave the budget way it was presented – Not transferring the \$20,000 - On the amendment of the vote – I have the amendment on the motion now – Now I'm going to have a roll call on the amendment of the motion

**Mr. Ferguson** – To be clear – You are voting on the motion made by Ms. Stade to revert the \$20,000 previously (inaudible) – Which would amend the budget as currently...

**Mayor Carnahan** – And then we'll go back and vote on the motion originally as amended

**Mr. Ferguson** – Correct

**ROLL CALL VOTE #4- C. M. McLeod, C. L. Lehman, C. L. Stade - YEAS. C. C. Meredith, C. M. Lettau – NAYS. Motion carried.**

**Ms. Haug:** This will be approving the 2015 Budget Ordinance on its First Reading, as amended, reverting that \$20,000 back to the Street Fund.

**Mr. Ferguson:** The amendment carries, so now you're voting on the original as amended.

**Ms. Haug:** Which is how it was presented originally at the workshop

**Mayor Carnahan:** That means the \$20,000 goes back into the Parks

**ROLL CALL VOTE #3- C. L. Stade, C. M. McLeod, C. L. Lehman - YEAS. C. C. Meredith, C. M. Lettau – NAYS. Motion carried.**

## **2. FIRST READING – ORDINANCE – 2015 WAGES AND SALARIES (1706/4/686\*)**

**Councilwoman Lehman:** I move to approve on the First Reading, an ordinance of the City of Benton City, Washington, approving the salaries and benefits to be paid to the employees of the City of Benton City for the calendar year 2015.

**Councilwoman Meredith:** Second.

**MOTION #5- C. L. Lehman moved and C. C. Meredith seconded to approve on the First Reading, an ordinance of the City of Benton City, Washington, approving the salaries and benefits to be paid to the employees for the City of Benton City for the calendar year 2015.**

**Councilwoman Stade** – Council option to negotiate Labor Agreement Fall 2015 – Only exception is City Clerk's salary – Traditionally received same increase – Don't understand exception referred to

**Ms. Haug** – All salaries calculated based on Labor Agreement – Exception of City Clerk's salary – Is calculated with same increase but not set in stone by Labor Agreement

**VOICE VOTE #5- C. C. Meredith, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade, C. L. Lehman, C. M. McLeod**  
**ALL YEAS. Motion carried.**

**3. CITY HALL CLOSURE – DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> – 12 P.M. TO 4 P.M. (1755/3/039\*)**

**Councilwoman Lettau:** Mr. Mayor, I move to approve the closure of City Hall on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Councilwoman Meredith:** I'll second.

**MOTION #6- C. M. Lettau moved and C. C. Meredith seconded to approve the closure of City Hall on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**VOICE VOTE #6- C. L. Stade, C. M. Lettau, C. C. Meredith, C. L. Lehman, C. M. McLeod**  
**ALL YEAS. Motion carried.**

**4. VOUCHERS – (1765/2/450\*)**

**Councilwoman Lehman:** Mr. Mayor, I move to approve payment of Claim check numbers 26490 thru 26517 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$67,719.09 and Payroll checks numbers 26448, 26466 thru 26474 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$65,023.56 this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014.

**Councilwoman Meredith:** Second.

**MOTION #7- C. L. Lehman moved and C. C. Meredith seconded approve payment of Claim check numbers 26490 thru 26517 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$67,719.09 and Payroll checks numbers 26448, 26466 thru 26474 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$65,023.56 this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE #7- C. L. Stade, C. M. Lettau, C. C. Meredith, C. M. McLeod, C. L. Lehman**  
**ALL YEAS. Motion carries.**

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION - (1804/4/684\*)**

**1. SEWER FUND COALITION**

**Mayor Carnahan** – City of Shelton – Mayor talked with me – Wanted to get a coalition to ask legislators to double funding for infrastructures in towns – In process of getting this together – One time shot for Benton City - \$610 – West Richland – Not heard of it yet – I think it's worth spending \$612 - To hire a lobbyist – Go to Olympia to do this sort of thing – Have a hunch we won't qualify for money – Our hourly wage is too high – We finally got \$500,000 grant with 50% match but we were turned down because our wages were too high

**Councilwoman Stade** – Any current unfunded mandates requiring us to upgrade our sewer system?

**Mayor Carnahan** – If you go for grants and such – They will be asking us to upgrade – Also increase our monthly sewer bills

**Councilwoman Stade** – Require that or ask? If they give us grant money – Want us to do this too?

**Mayor Carnahan** – They'll want us to upgrade – We have a sewer treatment plant – Got this funding on loan type thing – Not grant

**Councilwoman Stade** - If they give us dollars - Can attach stipulations – But won't require us to do it if they don't give us dollars

**Mayor Carnahan** – Have to require ourselves to do it – If don't – Will be an emergency – Really be in trouble

**Councilwoman Stade** – Cities of 25,000 or less – Would be up for grant

**Mayor Carnahan** – Going by past experience – Grant money has attachments – Have requirements to be met to be eligible for – For \$610 – Worth it to see what they come up with – Resolutions will be brought back in two weeks – Consensus tonight

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS – (1924/3/516\*)**

**Councilwoman Stade** – Would like City to look into expanding our Parks and Rec district – Need to be more creative - Sharing the load – Not a burden on only some people

**Mayor Carnahan** – Forming a Parks District?

**Councilwoman Stade** – Pros and cons

**Ms. Haug** – Would have to expand beyond City limits – Would have to be approved by County – County would be taking part – Also be representatives depending on population of District - Separate board away from Council – Making decisions being funding by that District – Would remove it from Council's control – Put it into Board's hand – Depending on population – Could be controlled by County

**Mayor Carnahan** – Go out into the County – County will control – Keep it in City – City would control

**Councilwoman Stade** – Who would be representatives – From County or City?

**Mayor Carnahan** – Would be committee – Say five member – Three would be county – Two would be city – Could raise taxes without our input – Could override us on issues – One reason we didn't go any further last time – Lose control of Board

**Councilwoman Meredith** – Code Enforcement report – Living in an RV? Family?

**Ms. Haug** – No

**ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Carnahan (2010/4/401\*)**

**Councilwoman Lettau:** I make a motion we adjourn.

**Councilwoman Stade:** I second.

**MOTION #8– C. M. Lettau moved and C. L. Stade seconded to adjourn the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Council Meeting at 7:57 p.m.**

**VOICE VOTE #8– C. C. Meredith, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade, C. L. Lehman, C. M. McLeod  
ALL YEAS. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. (2014/2/225\*Audio recording ends)



Lloyd Carnahan  
Mayor, City of Benton City



Stephanie Haug, CMC  
City Clerk-Treasurer

Date: 12/3/14