

**City of Benton City  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Carnahan called the March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (358/2/268\*Audio recording begins)

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS** – Boy Scout Troop #239 led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. (363/4/771\*)

**ROLL CALL** – (393/2/174\*) Council Members Present –  
**Mary Lettau**  
**Connie Meredith**  
**Lisa Stade**  
Council Vacancy

Council Members Absent –  
**Linda Lehman** (Excused)

City Staff Present –  
**Stephanie Haug, City Clerk/Treasurer**  
**Kyle Kurth, City Maintenance Foreman**  
**Paula Kauer, General Clerk**

Other Professionals Present –  
**Alan Rainey, City Engineer, Spink Engineering, LLC**  
**Lee Kerr, City Attorney, Kerr Law Group**  
**Larry Howell, President, Benton City E.D.C.**  
**Julie Hielman-Suarez, Project Engineer, WSDOT**  
**Heather Unwin, Red Mountain A.V.A. Director**

**Councilwoman Lettau:** I make a motion that we excuse Linda.

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

**MOTION #1-** C. L. Lettau moved and C. C. Meredith seconded to excuse Councilwoman Lehman from the March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Council Meeting.

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (411/2/368\*)  
- REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

**Councilwoman Meredith:** Mr. Mayor, I make a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Councilwoman Lettau:** I second.

**MOTION #2-** C. C. Meredith moved and C. M. Lettau seconded to approve the Minutes of the February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Council Meeting as typed.

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

**OPENING REMARKS, "HOUSEKEEPING" ITEMS, EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS, ETC. –**  
None (425/1/884\*)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA (428/2/887\*)**

**Councilwoman Stade:** Mr. Mayor, I make a motion to approve the Agenda as listed on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Councilwoman Lettau:** Second.

**MOTION #3- C. L. Stade moved and C. M. Lettau seconded to approve the Agenda as presented.**

**VOICE VOTE #3- C. C. Meredith, C. L. Stade, C. M. Lettau**  
**ALL YEAS. Motion carried.**

**1. VISITOR COMMENTS – None (437/4/538\*)**

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**1. EDC REPORTS – None (469/4/705\*)**

**Larry Howell, President, Benton City E.D.C.**  
**Community Meeting – March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.**  
**<<< Written report not provided >>>**

**1. STAFF REPORTS – None (601/3/794\*)**

**Stephanie Haug, City Clerk/Treasurer**

**2. ENGINEER REPORT – None (606/1/567\*)**

**Alan Rainey, City Engineer, Spink Engineering LLC**

**3. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS (614/3/806\*)**

**Councilwoman Lettau – Pass**

**Council Vacancy**

**Councilwoman Lehman – Absent**

**Councilwoman Meredith – Pass**

**Councilwoman Stade – Benton Franklin Transit – Going to D.C. – Working on General Manager position opening**

**Mayor Carnahan – Solid Waste update**

**\*\*\* SPECIAL DISCUSSION – WSDOT – ROUNDABOUT SIGN \*\*\***  
**Julie Hielman-Suarez, Project Engineer, WSDOT**  
**(653/1/608\*)**

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez – Update of design of roundabout - Handouts – Questions – Size of wall – Landscape wall approximately 31 ft. horizontally in an arch by 4 ft. in center then stepped down to 2 ft. - 160 ft. roundabout inside – Mimics similar design at Valley Mall background**

**Mayor Carnahan** – Letters indented in wall?

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Form liner into wall – Painted concrete – Letters can be 7 inches tall – Traffic manual – Must fit into 4 ft. panel – New roadside policy manual – spending WSDOT money – Bare bones minimum – No irrigation – No advertisements – Can present gateway for city or town - Can do other things but can't pay for it - Red Mountain does not pass requirement – Font open for suggestion – Block letters most reasonable

**Councilwoman Stade** – A.V.A. – Not a business – If says “Welcome to Benton City Gateway to Red Mountain” – Option? If City funds paid for – Option?

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Would have to get back to you on that one

**Councilwoman Meredith** – Driving by quickly

**Councilwoman Stade** – People

**Mayor Carnahan** – Unique situation – Would like to have Heather from Red Mountain people come up and make comment

**Ms. Unwin** – Heather Unwin – Executive Director, Red Mountain A.V.A. – Red Mountain folks want roundabout – Red Mountain now an area of international investment – Lots of jobs and dollars to area - If people can't find us – Been problem in past – Invite Council and Mayor to help us – Federal designation – Internationally recognized as red wine grape growing regions in world – Why people investing millions in area – However we can work with City to get this somewhere on this circle – What we want is a sign with an arrow stating “Red Mountain American Viticulture Area” – Want you to help us get this somehow on this circle – Losing people would like to spend money – Kind of making them cranky - Want it to be easy for visitors – Will work with City any way we can – Feel very strongly about this issue

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – As far as paying for advertisement – Since tied to businesses – Probably not going to be approved because it's tied to businesses

**Councilwoman Stade** – Crops – Soil – Water

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Denoted for bringing in businesses -

**Councilwoman Stade** – Could grow better crops of all kinds in that area – Don't see it as representing businesses – It represents the soil and water and agricultural

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Not a town or community or city – No directional arrows within roundabout – Federal law -

**Mayor Carnahan** – West Richland – Benton City – SR224 – SR225 – Arrows on the ground

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Signs on approach - Won't see signs until after out of roundabout – Driver being able to see sign

**Councilwoman Stade** – Worked at wineries for twelve years – Taken calls regarding unable to find area

**Mayor Carnahan** – Don't know how we could advertise for A.V.A. in circle due to design of roundabout

**Ms. Haug** – What are the restrictions on the blue attraction signs?

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Regulations require those businesses be open so many hours a day –

**Heather Duncan** – What about brown signs used to represent recreational or amenities or historic – Any other signage possibilities

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Has to meet state criteria – A.V.A. cannot have placement on roundabout - Could allow for placement of other signs outside roundabout – Question – Can the “Welcome to” can be smaller – Yes – Must be constructible - Within concrete letter limitations – No arrows – Directional – Safety – Purpose of signage is to direct people to recreational

**Councilwoman Stade** – Newcomer to area – How will I know how to get to Benton City?

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Approaching signs on ramp – Which lane, etc. – Send sign details from traffic manual – Can’t change those

**Mayor Carnahan** – Middle section of sign – 4 ft. x 7 ft. – Can we enlarge that section to make our letters easier to read? Where does light pole end up?

**Councilwoman Stade** – What direction can you see?

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Coming from under I-82 and freeway off ramp – Fonts and colors up for suggestion

**Mayor Carnahan** – Blue and white – School colors

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Moving into final stages of project - Get ready for review in May – Hoping for money in July to advertise – Any changes or suggestions would like to nail down ASAP – Utilities agreement – Water/Sewer relocation – Hopefully this summer – Tiger grant – Federal funding – Tiger 5 - For \$4 million – Phase 1 – Benton City roundabout – Phase 2 – Red Mountain – Separate funding cycles

**Ms. Unwin** – Firstly – if named Red Mountain – Why can’t have signs – Secondly - Federal area – Exceptions in NAPA – Possible exceptions to these criteria? Could I submit research to your office?

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Will probably find signs in roundabout that will no longer be approved

**Councilwoman Stade** – Contact Information if I have suggestions or changes

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – To Stephanie – She’ll send suggestions and questions to me

**Councilwoman Stade** – Criteria for blue/brown signs off roundabout – What are terms just to see if compatible to local businesses

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – Will send information to Stephanie

**Mayor Carnahan** – Tried to get business on signs – Don’t meet criteria to be on sign - \$3-5k each sign each year – No later than 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in April

**Councilwoman Stade** – Legislators were inspired by Red Mountain – Would like signs, etc. – What could be win/win within constraints of Federal laws – Put focus back on Red Mountain

**Mayor Carnahan** – Roundabout congestion issue put project on books to begin with – Any improvements must be corrected –

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** - Existing infrastructure must be done first – Safety improvement – Congestion improvement – Associated with this interchange – Once done – No more we can do

**Mayor Carnahan** – Study - Have looked at stop lights – Not enough space between stop lights to allow stopping without traffic backing up onto freeway – Set our deadline for information no later than the second meeting in April – Comments back to Ms. Hielman-Suarez by that time

**Ms. Duncan** – Construction budget for public art – Would that be consideration for this project

**Ms. Hielman-Suarez** – No more money from transportation funds for public art - Construct – Plan A Temp P&R at City property – Plan B – Temp P&R at Maintenance stockpile shed – Businesses still in open – Impact to mini mart but still functional – Slated to be one construction season done in stages – Temporary off ramp constructed – Major construction April thru August – Clean up possible thru September

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

#### **1. CITY COUNCIL VACANCY - APPLICANTS - (2009/1/750\*)**

**Mayor Carnahan** – Introduced Ms. McLeod – Questions by Council – To be appointed on March 18th

#### **2. RESOLUTION #2014-03 – AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN LGIP AGREEMENT - (2073/1/872\*)**

**Ms. Haug** – Explanation of Resolution #2014-03

**Councilwoman Meredith:** Mr. Mayor, I make a motion to pass Resolution #2014-03, a resolution authorizing investment of Benton City monies in the Local Government Investment Pool.

**Councilwoman Lettau:** I second.

**MOTION #4-** C. C. Meredith moved and C. M. Lettau seconded to approve Resolution #2014-03, a resolution of the City of Benton City, Washington, authorizing investment of Benton City monies in the Local Government Investment Pool.

**VOICE VOTE #4-** C. C. Meredith, C. L. Stade, C. M. Lettau  
ALL YEAS. Motion carried.

#### **3. TASK ORDER – SPINK ENGINEERING – DALE AVENUE (2026/3/399\*)**

**Mr. Rainey** – Explanation of Task Order

**Councilwoman Lettau:** I make a motion that we approve Task Order No. 2014-1.

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

**MOTION #5-** C. M. Lettau moved and C. C. Meredith seconded to accept the Task Order No. 2014-1 from Spink Engineering for services provided for the Dale Avenue Reconstruction project.

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

**4. VOUCHERS (2205/1/378\*)**

**Councilwoman Lettau:** Mr. Mayor, I move to approve payment of Claim check numbers 26003 through 26014 and EFTs as listed in the amount of \$47,146.98 this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

**Councilwoman Stade:** I second.

**MOTION #6- C. M. Lettau moved and C. L. Stade seconded for the City Council of the City of Benton City, Washington, to hereby authorize payment of Claim Check Numbers 26003 through 26014 and EFTs as listed in the amount of \$47,146.98, this 4<sup>th</sup> of March, 2014.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE #6-C. C. Meredith, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade**  
**ALL YEAS. Motion carried.**

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**1. FENCING REQUIREMENTS (2223/4/601\*)**

**Ms. Haug** – Submittal from Councilwoman Lehman regarding fencing requirements for Council's review

**Mayor Carnahan** – Postpone until March 18<sup>th</sup> – Would like all five council members present

**Mr. Kerr** – Will go before Planning Commission – Comes back to Council

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS – (2326/2/028\*)**

**ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Carnahan (2327/3/466\*)**

**Councilwoman Meredith:** Mr. Mayor, I make a motion that we adjourn.

**Councilwoman Lettau:** I second.

**MOTION #7- C. C. Meredith moved and C. M. Lettau seconded to adjourn the March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Council Meeting at 8:09 p.m.**

**VOICE VOTE #7- C. C. Meredith, C. L. Stade, C. M. Lettau**  
**ALL YEAS. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. (2335/2/019\*Audio recording ends)

  
Lloyd Carnahan  
Mayor, City of Benton City

  
Stephanie Haug, CMC  
City Clerk-Treasurer

Date: 3/19/14