

**City of Benton City
Special Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
September 5th, 2017**

A. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Lehman called the September 5th, 2017 Special Council Workshop Meeting at the Community Center to order at 6:00 p.m. (00:00:20*Audio recording begins)

B. ROLL CALL (00:01:31*)

Councilmembers Present **Dave Sandretto**
Lisa Stade (Late arrival)
Vanessa Coates
Jake Mokler

Councilmembers Absent **Mary Lettau** (Excused – Out of town)

City Staff Present **Stephanie Haug**, City Clerk/Treasurer
Margaret Dukes, Temporary General Clerk
Kyle Kurth, Maintenance Department Foreman

Other Professionals Present **Eric Ferguson**, City Attorney, Kerr Law Group
Alan Rainey, City Engineer, Spink Engineering, LLC

C. TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY REGULATIONS (00:07:25* Recording paused)

Councilman Sandretto: Is there some deal with what Pasco is doing or why they are doing what they are doing?

City Attorney Ferguson: Basically what it comes down to is the crux of the shouting match, as it is called. Essentially, what happens is with Uber and Lyft and other transportation network companies, and we need to suspend logic for a moment. They don't call themselves transportation companies. They call themselves information or data companies. The reason they call themselves that is because they don't own cars. They don't own any equipment related to transportation. They are an "app" and they have drivers that sign up to be app providers. Then, you download the app which is (kind of) a farce because they clearly are connected; there's a connection between what they do with data and then it pops up. Just because it happens to be contractors does not mean that they are not associated with Uber to more of an extent than they would like them to be. Long short of what it comes down to is they have a national policy that they will not have their drivers fingerprinted or background checked by local jurisdictions. If local jurisdictions want them to come into their jurisdictions to offer services, they go through the process of their own background checks on their drivers per their own liability protection and all those things. What it comes down to here locally, Kennewick and Richland both made the policy decision that is enough for them; they wanted the service for their citizens to that degree. Pasco decided they didn't and the majority of council decided that they didn't. Pasco said, no, that they want to have drivers fingerprinted and background checked. Why is that a big deal? Guess who is always fingerprinted and background checked? Taxi drivers. That is really where the discrepancies came in. If you want Uber and Lyft in your town, and want to get on their app, and their city to be able to pick up then you need to be able to take their package as is, and they weren't compromising with that, so if you didn't essentially go their way, then they wouldn't come, and that is what happened with Pasco. That is why people could be dropped off anywhere in Pasco but not picked up there. They don't have license for transportation network companies and there's not a business license for that because one of the requirements is that they be fingerprinted and background checked. It is ironic though, because that is where the airport is, which is where most of the pickups would actually be. It is a conundrum, but the current council decided they did not want the TNC to come in and not require the same thing as their taxi companies. Other places have obviously done that, Seattle, Portland, all those big places have done that or have allowed differently. One of the things that is evolving and getting hard is that cab companies or TNC companies, there's an issue with regard to the city tracking the amount of rides and the data that's used, and apparently it has started to backed up

and now the city is overwhelmed. I think they are trying to regulate it, but it is just too big. The end result is that it is too much and the amount of data that is being provided by Uber and Lyft for the amount of rides that are taking place is just astronomical. The long and short of it is that without knowing all the nuances of that issue, that some folks from Seattle were talking at the last municipal attorney's conference, but the biggest issue that would concern us is that people are starting to pump the brakes a little bit because there are a lot of things they did not realize that were going to come with it, and it is a cycle that goes up and down. At this point, people can drop off anywhere in the city, but, until Uber or Lyft approaches us or we ask them to come in and send us their packet of stuff to get on their grid, we won't even be on their app. Even if you brought up Uber, from what I understand, and I'm not technologically proficient, it would not even allow you to pick up on their app where you are located, locational material or data. You won't even show up as a pickup option if you are not in a place where they are licensed. I know that there is an Uber driver here in town advertising for pickups, whether that's by the app or text.

Councilman Mokler: Good point, yeah I don't know. That's interesting.

Councilwoman : But they do a background check.

City Attorney Ferguson: That's what I hear; I honestly don't know what it involves.

Councilwoman : From what I hear, Pasco wants fingerprints on file; whereas, it is above and beyond security background that Uber is doing?

City Attorney Ferguson: Yes, they don't allow their drivers to be fingerprinted so that there's ID's, is really what it comes down to is, as I understand the council's argument is, how do we know that is the person who applied and has been background checked and licensed. That's why most (cities) fingerprint taxi drivers, so that is how you identify them. It is a very easy thing to do. That is the crux of it; how do we know that this person who shows up for an ID to take a test, how do we know that is the person who takes the test. The fingerprinting aspect was that we need to have the ability to align that person with the person that is actually physically in the car, and if something comes up, that way we have that connection. As I understood it, the issue was related to the level of background check, something like that. I don't know what Uber – and there was some cynicism as to how well their background check was compared to what the police department has to do for taxi drivers. I don't know how that actually shook out but, it is kind of a fluid situation.

Councilman Mokler: Is part of the data that Pasco is worried about for tax purposes?

City Attorney Ferguson: I think the data was more related to being able to track drivers and know the amount of pickups. I think it had more to do with the amount of business as related to local taxes and being able to track how many rides, like a business operation, because they are an independent contractor. I don't know if that's the issue or that people want to regulate that you are only allowed to do 'x' amount of hours. One of the other things I saw recently on YouTube about becoming an Uber/Lyft driver, almost the first thing is that you need to become a driver of both, otherwise you won't stay busy enough on a shift unless you have both apps and get pinged by each of them. They don't run a central dispatch, that's the biggest key. It is an electronic dispatch.

Councilwoman Coates: It's kind of like a work from home type of situation.

City Attorney Ferguson: Yes, perfect, takes the middle man out.

Councilwoman Coates: When I went, and Linda was not there for this part, to the wineries, how it would be great if Uber and Lyft could be here because so many people need a designated driver. I think it would be really good to look into having Uber or somebody in Benton City. Not only that, the gal who is doing it is a stay-at-home Mom with a special needs boy, so she does it on weekends. For her it works out. She told me the rules and regulations of how to become an Uber driver and so on and it seemed pretty decent.

City Attorney Ferguson: That's my take on it too.

Councilwoman Coates: It didn't really seem too out of line, concerning that Pasco thing, that you need to be fingerprinted. There's also a background check. She seemed pretty secure with their background check. Not scary as Pasco seemed. She made it seem like Uber did a little more extensive (background check) than what Pasco indicated.

City Attorney Ferguson: I got you. I know what you are saying. I was surprised as having moved here three years ago, I'm really surprised there's not more of a taxi presence, especially at the airport. It seems like a void.

Mayor Lehman: It is very difficult for someone who can't get around. When I lost my driver's license two years back because of an eye condition, there's a bus service so you can get to the grocery store (but) you have to wait an hour to get back to the bus. Dial-A-Ride would take me but I had to stand a long time. There was no way I could get a ride; I had to get a ride from neighbors. To take a taxi into the city was \$45-\$50.

City Attorney Ferguson: It is absolutely.

Mayor Lehman: I think it is a service that we need, actually.

Councilwoman Coates: Not only that, I've paid \$40 to go from the Tri-Cities back to Benton City for whatever reason when my car broke down, but I do know that taxi drivers do everything, including medication delivery from pharmacy for people who could not get around, deliver balloons, or whatever. I think we should look into it.

City Attorney Ferguson: I think the next step if council is interested, is to explore out how to do that; how do we need to approach the TNC to get on their grid to become an app and to find out what that looks like.

Councilman Mokler: With not having fingerprints, background checks, what kind of liability does the city set with the issue of business license?

City Attorney Ferguson: Not much, I think what it came down to is that it is in all major cities, all over the world. I don't think we would be exposed to any particular liability because we are not going to have any particular relationship. Getting a business license is like anybody else that goes out and breaks the law and does something, just because they had a license to do it, it does not mean that in any way we contracted with them. I think that we don't need to worry about that. I think it came down to a policy decision of how do we know that the person in the car with the Uber app on the phone is the person that's been background checked? And, that's where the disconnect was; there wasn't a way to have cab drivers who have been fingerprinted and background checked there. That's what it came down to is that Pasco wanted to make sure there was an identification of the driver issue because that's what they wanted to follow up on.

Mayor Lehman: Did they not put pictures of themselves? It should be easy to follow.

City Attorney Ferguson: That's a good question.

City Clerk Dukes: My daughter was an Uber driver for a while, and they send a picture of the person of who is going to pick you up.

City Attorney Ferguson: Right.

Mayor Lehman: Oh, they send it in advance.

City Attorney Ferguson: They say what car and who it is going to be.

Councilman Sandretto: If we decided to require fingerprints, could an independent contractor or the driver pay for it themselves and go through that process.

City Attorney Ferguson: It wasn't that, it was a matter of making it a requirement to get the license.

Councilman Sandretto: Gotcha.

City Attorney Ferguson: That's where the line got drawn in the sand, that's what we (Pasco) has to have, so we are not going to do that. I think there's some, but I don't know the politics of it, but there is some transition. The head of the company recently stepped down and this was a philosophical thing that he had related to the fingerprint issue. Apparently, there was something with regard to disproportionality for certain classes of people being targeted because it limited people who might have records and by fingerprinting, it would alienate certain classes of people. That was more of a political botch up and he's gone. We can certainly get more data.

Ms. Haug: Would each driver in a town have to be licensed individually as a contractor or is it the company itself covers all of drivers?

City Attorney Ferguson: No, each driver has to get their own business license, and we have to make it so that our business license regulations don't require fingerprinting so that they will allow their drivers to be subcontractors here.

Mayor Lehman: We don't for anybody else.

Councilman Sandretta: If we were to open a taxi company, there's a safety relation on that put in place for the sheer fact that this might a little out of the ball park, but you can apply to get a taxi license, but you may be a serial killer. That's really what they are trying to protect, think about your wife or daughter or young children or whoever used Uber. That's the concern.

Councilwoman Coates: **City Attorney Ferguson:** That's the same thing for a bus driver. You get a Dial-A-Ride and you are the only person riding Dial-A-Ride that day.

Councilman Sandretta: **City Attorney Ferguson:** I bet they go through a background check.

Councilwoman Coates: I'm sure they are; school bus drivers or anybody.

Councilman Sandretta: School bus drivers are all being fingerprinted. I get fingerprinted as a construction worker all the time. When I think about it, is it a big deal? Not really. I understand the ride share is cheap but then again you are not giving the people a high quality person, possibly, or you may get a great person. It is the role of Uber or Lyft who goes where.

City Attorney Ferguson: We can certainly get together if council is interested in what the steps will be and what specific cost benefit will be.

Councilwoman Coates: Would it be beneficial to get it with the gal who is currently doing it?

City Attorney Ferguson: I would be hesitant to do so because we would have an actual relationship with her, then we might make what we do as a legislative body be more like a permitting issue with her specifically, so we do not want to create that relationship. We don't want to pass an ordinance for one person. The more we know about that, and we can certainly talk to them, there's nothing wrong with her coming to council and speaking and talk about it. It would be a better option.

Councilwoman Coates: (Coming to speak) so that we could know what Uber is all about.

City Attorney Ferguson: It could not hurt, especially for her to speak in an open floor to educate us on it. Having not ever been in one or understanding it, it is kind of an anomaly.

Councilman Sandretta: They are a neat service. I rode them probably 30 times. You get them on the app and they show up wherever your hotel or whatever, and you go from there. They take you down the road at probably half-price or less of a taxi.

Councilwoman Coates: Do you think it would benefit Benton City to have those for people who need to go to the grocery store or doctor, just because of the limitation of services in town?

Councilman Sandretta: Remember who I am, so I also land on the side of option and I don't see a problem with it. I've been background checked for the police department, here, in construction. All of them are fingerprinting. I say, what's wrong with fingerprinting. That kind of worries me. If my daughters were getting in an Uber cab, I would be concerned.

Mayor Lehman: Do you know if Uber fingerprints?

City Attorney Ferguson: No they don't, that's what I understand.

Councilwoman Coates: I was under the impression it was that Pasco wanted to keep the fingerprints on file at the city and Uber said no.

City Attorney Ferguson: No, as I understood it, and I can get more background on the politics of it. Lee is the one who handles it for the city. Essentially, what it comes down to, as I understood, the city was going to require fingerprints to be run in a typical way, like as if they would a parks and rec worker. They would go through the same hurdle with their fingerprinting process. What Uber said they do on their end of it, I don't know. My understanding, they don't fingerprint, they run a background check. That may be wrong so don't quote me on it.

Councilman Sandretta: You can run a background check without fingerprints with name only and date of birth. It goes through the same concept. They might be using someone else's name and date of birth.

City Attorney Ferguson: That's where the picture and the information diverge in that you get a picture of who is showing up so you know it is the person in the picture, but how do you know it is the person who has been background checked who has the license. Did they have someone sit for the test for them? That is the crux of it and we could certainly get more information about it now that the city is interested in going forward with it.

Councilman Sandretta: Available service, that worries me, but for me, I don't care. There is a concern in the thought process. I like the idea and I think we should look into it but be careful in doing that because in Benton City, we could have pickups and drop off. The real concern is if we get the wineries and get that paperwork. I don't know if Benton County has a contract, but a lot of them do.

City Attorney Ferguson: Good question, I can find out.

Councilman Sandretta: That's really where we need the pickups.

Councilwoman Coates: Yeah, and they really expressed concern for some type of safe driving trips up there. I have her (the Uber driver) online now. Wineries, even if they have somebody taking people from Point A to Point B. She favors a background check. She said she can come down and talk if we want.

Mayor Lehman: If council wants her to come in.

Councilman Sandretta: Can we have her speak if she is not on the agenda?

Mayor Lehman: There is no reason she can't.

City Attorney Ferguson: The Mayor can open it up to anyone who wants to talk during this meeting, but after, in a regular meeting, she could not because she is not on the agenda. Or, we could amend and add her, since it is not an action item.

Mayor Lehman: We will do that, we will amend it. Let's move on to our topics tonight.

D. 2016-2017 COUNCIL GOALS STATUS UPDATE (00:01:55*)

Ms. Haug: Alan and I have slide presentation of each of the goals that the council came up with last fall. The colors at the top correspond with the handout in your packet. What is on the spreadsheet is on the Power Point and it includes some of the actual work that we have accomplished.

Goal #1: Splash Pad

Ms. Haug: Engineer Alan and Kyle went to visit other sites and develop a preliminary plan which is hard to see on the Power Point, but this is the document for Splash Pad location.

Engineer Alan: We basically said it has two phases, two portions. First phase is on the left and you can see more of the detail. There's the slide. Those are some of the features you are looking at. All of the features are from the ground. We went and looked at the City of Richland and it was installed in 2011 and they have some above ground features and a lot of it is fiberglass with special paint on the outside. There are a couple of other structures that were steel that they could not blow out very well, and they split over the winter so they had to go in and do repairs. Anything that is installed above ground seemed to cost between \$2,000 and \$10,000. There are some pretty elaborate systems. We are recommending installing in-ground ones for now.

Ms. Haug: I think where we left off, I know that we were gung-ho earlier in the year about getting it built for this next summer. Then, there's also discussion about possibly not locating it in Legion Park so that needs to be firmed up where council would like it to be and authorize the design then designate it for the budget cycle. We talked about having the design work done in the fall of 2017 but a lot of that would depend on confirmed location. Any questions?

Goal #2: Community Outreach/Communication

Ms. Haug: Right now the city utilizes the website, the Sentinel and utility billing inserts for events such as Movies in the Park. That's how we keep our systems up-to-date with emergency water shut-offs and upcoming events. On the insert that went out this morning, we have surplus sale coming up, we have a Halloween movie showing on the 27th, an employee councilman meeting and we are promoting paperless billing under news and announcements and anything new coming up will show up there.

Councilman Coates: I like the sandwich boards on the street when we have an event, those really attract attention.

Ms. Haug: Next step, city council is having a public relations plan and possibly dedicating a PR person to take care of that function.

Goal #3: Purchase Land for Sports Complex

Ms. Haug: Council has had several discussions about that, and potential sites have been evaluated and there have been meetings with different sports organizations and preliminary layouts have been drafted. On the left I blocked out a map for potential locations of what land the city might be interested in having the ability to purchase. On the right is a sample of the potential layout for the different soccer fields that could go on a complex and I will have additional information that will be in the Executive Session tonight. Next steps, the city needs to select a site and obtain funding, financing and create a plan for funding and potential sponsors to actually construct the fields. Any questions or anything to add?

Goal #4 – Improve and Add City Events

Ms. Haug: This summer the city showed three movies in the park and one will be shown in October and also this summer youth activities were held at the community center. The three movies in the park were pretty successful and we got a lot of really good feedback for those and then we are hoping to have a good turnout for October 27th. Next step to continue with this goal is the suggestion to hire a professional event coordinator for all of the groups within the city that for city events and coming up with new events to draw people here and then develop new event opportunities for future events.

Councilwoman Stade: I think what is happening must be on the person....

Mayor Lehman: Excuse me, Lisa, I don't have my hearing aids in. Margaret now is taking minutes.

Councilwoman Stade: Excellent, thank you. Yes. Do you receive any of the Hermiston emails for recreation? I know they are not the same demographics but they do have a separate Parks and Recreation. However, the ideas they come up with, there are some that we have in our community

that have similar talents, such as photography, it could be a two-day event, hiking, or moonlit path thing. I recommend getting, and we could come up I really recommend getting.

Councilwoman Coates: Is it just the City of Hermiston?

Councilwoman Stade: Yes, I get a letter every two weeks and see what great ideas, and we have people who can do that.

Goal # 5: Improve Entry to City

Ms. Haug: City grant writers are researching funding opportunities. This was a topic for the CPAT event in August. During that event, there was quite a bit of discussion about it, and first there will be reports back from that event, but basically beginning to develop a plan that would then be finding funding opportunities and getting approval permits. Until there's a plan for what they want to do, I don't know if that involves hiring a consultant to prepare that or how that plan would develop, but I'm hoping when we get the plan back from that team, we will have some ideas on how to move forward with that.

Councilwoman Coates: What was a wall? Do you remember?

Ms. Haug: There was some discussion about doing concrete or brick fencing.

Mayor Lehman: To cover up some of the trailer parks.

Councilwoman Coates: Like in Richland, along the bike paths.

Councilman Stade: Like a sound barrier, an eye sore barrier?

Goal #6: Develop Main Street Program

Ms. Haug: Similarly to that, building a main street program is a topic we have and we are still waiting for the report. To move forward, researching and implementing a complete street ordinance, coordinating the development of the downtown plan with local organizations and looking at downtown parking and possible alternatives to angle parking came out as a negative and a final alternative to the way that was pictured was one of the ideas of the CPAT.

Councilman Stade: Not like backing into the lane of traffic, in lieu of that, they wouldn't mind walking a few feet further.

Ms. Haug: There is discussion about parking opportunities from backside of businesses and looking at other alternatives there are as opposed to the street front and angle parking into the highway.

Mayor Lehman: They also suggested that some of the alleyways and adjust the front so that there's an entrance on the back side as well as the front side.

Councilwoman Stade: Like a decorative, safe walking pathway.

Councilwoman Coates: I thought it was quite interesting, a good idea to cut down parking on the street.

Ms. Haug: I think their idea was that you would relocate that nearby so it wouldn't be a direct backing out problem.

Goal #7: Develop Pathway Plan

Ms. Haug: The Engineer, Grant Writer and Mayor have been collaborating on a map and created a preliminary trail plan. Our Grant Writer met with an RCO two weeks ago to evaluate those trail ideas and what we expect for funding and the Engineers met with Kiona Irrigation about future expansion of North from Archie Borden Park. This is the preliminary trail plan that was developed, and those numbers correspond with different sections of that and the meeting with RCO to have some priority trails that will be more eligible for funding or more competitive, so I will be working with her to get land owner information and developing activities to look into developing those trails.

Ms. Haug: Next, the meeting with WSDOT Bike Tri-Cities which you will see on the agenda tonight, in Benton County for their input for developing additional pathways to prioritize with council concurrence, then getting property owner reports so that we can reach out to those property owners for potential access.

Councilman Mokler: The meeting with DOT and Bike Tri-Cities will probably happen within the next month. What is your availability, and we will try to make it later in the afternoon.

Goal #8: Expand Skate Park

Ms. Haug: The property line issue is still ongoing. You can see that we haven't met with the property owner recently. We could probably meet again and see if we can wiggle somewhere closer to the middle. In addition to that, the City Council needs to determine what they want to do with the tennis courts and reflect that in the upcoming budget if they wish to convert tennis courts and have that parking project or keep those in the back of the tennis courts. That would be the most convenient action.

Councilwoman Stade: One thought for council to consider is, when I looked at skate parks in Montana, there were some bowls, multiple bowls and entryways that allowed for multiple skateboarders at the same time. There was one section, and the names of the builders, one from Seattle, one from Portland and one in Montana. They had to dig a hole. We know the foundation of the tennis court is rocky and unstable and to build something flat on top and the work involved geologically, so one thing to consider that might match the land use is to dig and clear it out and put a bowl in it. That might be a nice area for the other skate park because it would be more advanced and the other for a beginner or intermediate. When I saw they had to dig it out, it makes sense because the land is unstable. We have to do something, clear and dig it out anyway for whatever we create.

Goal #9: Improve Playground Equipment

Ms. Haug: The city crew updated the equipment at Legion Park. The main structure was installed in the last eight years so it is all fairly new. Moving forward, the city needs to construct a barrier between the play area and the roadway to the City Park. I met with our city insurance representative and one of the concerns she had was with the proximity to the alleyway. The new equipment should be researched and allocated to future budgets. I do think it should correspond with the activities we are doing with the amphitheater in the park. Definitely, during the movies, there are a lot of kids playing on the toys. There is no fence or anything for the play area, just curbing and alleyway. If we were to expand or to replace, what she recommended having some sort of barrier, either moving that away from the closeness to the road or some sort of fence. Another thing, if the city park is relocated, the whole park is on a slope so we would have greater <inaudible> preparing its location in another park.

Goal #10: Construct Large Community Center Near Library

Ms. Haug: Sue has been looking into funding opportunities. She found a few potential options, but as far as the design and building, we would need to evaluate what the community needs are, what to include in that facility and develop a preliminary layout with a cost estimate and secure funding. The colors on the top correspond with the spreadsheet and where the progress is on those goals, so the ones in green shows significant progress toward them. Yellow is progress, then orange, not very much progress.

Ms. Haug: Council needs to meet to discuss prioritizing goals, changing order or where we are in accordance with our resources.

Councilman Sandretto: I would like to see more check marks instead of colors.

Ms. Haug: I think right now, we don't have enough money to do all of them, and as the staff we are waiting to hear where we are putting our eggs in a basket and moving forward to this goal to get that checkmark. Right now I feel like we are over here, and here, and here and here, and we don't

have the funding to do all of that so we are not sure which basket to put our eggs in. That would be my request from council, to prioritize the order, whether that is the order in which they are numbered or if that number needs to be reevaluated, we will look for that direction.

Councilman Sandretto: Is that something you want tonight or at a future meeting?

Ms. Haug: We could have a follow up session at the next meeting as a discussion item to look at where we are and then if you have questions, contact Alan or myself and have discussion to see if council is okay with where they are at now and then as we go through the budget cycle, it would be reflected for that process. Or, if it needs to be changed, have that discussion next meeting.

Councilwoman Stade: What are the deadlines on the community center?

Ms. Haug: For funding? There's not a definite funding opportunity.

Councilwoman Stade: Is there point that we need to submit a financial plan for city hall?

Ms. Haug: No, not for the funding she is looking at. When we are ready, right now they have funding but it is not like a deadline or loan deadline when we applied.

Councilman Mokler: It is essentially a lot of money.

Councilwoman Stade: On that one, we already have, if we chose the lot next to the library, what are your thoughts about that. We already have the land for a Community Center, the city owns it, what are your thoughts about having a community center there.

Mayor Lehman: I'm all for it. I think it is an excellent place for it. The library is right next to it and kids and adults could go there. Seems like a logical place for it.

Councilwoman Stade: Ms. Stade asked each council member individually what their thoughts were on building the Community Center next to the library, and all council members who were present unanimously agreed that it is an excellent idea.

Ms. Haug: I think this is a good example of the prioritization that we are asking for. That's goal number ten on our list, if you want us to be focusing on, not to say we can't focus on all of them, but we get to a certain point whether we have money enough to move forward. If this needs to get moved higher on the list, that's what we as the staff needs to know, that we should be looking more into this project and trying to get funding within our budget as opposed to some of the projects that are higher up on the list.

Councilman Mokler: There's all sorts of things to discuss. When I think about the Splash Pad, I don't like the location of the park chosen, but we don't have very many others, but I also think that we need parks, so there's the idea that I come up with over and over again about what park, the Neptune area by the city water tower. I think that's something we really should look at. It would be a good spot for that – parking, it is free and open, we would have to grow trees but it would be a good spot for that particular development.

Councilwoman Stade: Do we own that land? Who owns the land?

Councilman Mokler: No. I don't know. Going down the other issues, community outreach, communications, I know we have not wanted to approach the idea of a Facebook page or Twitter account, but think that's where most of the news gets out to most people, Facebook.

Councilwoman Coates: Correct or incorrect, unfortunately, fake or real news.

Councilman Sandretta: Facebook is a real mover, shaker, something we might want to do. We've talked about the problem with updating all the sites. There are products out there that will update globally, so that's something to consider if we come up with a plan or idea how they would like to facilitate it.

Councilwoman Stade: We might consider a part-time employee. In 2011 we combined functions and raised rates but if the duties in 2011 are not the duties today, then we can see what those

changes do, different duties and time allocations. We need a consistent person to do at least the events. It is great for a summer shop, but to build momentum and have people know there are certain things happening in Benton City, it adds quality of life that's more than just the summer.

Mayor Lehman: That would be nice.

Councilman Sandretto: We might be able to do it for little or nothing. Parks and Rec, if anyone doesn't know, they are fairly high dollar jobs with a director in most cities. We could get someone out of college going into that field looking for a spot to start where we might get them for \$30-\$40,000 instead of \$80,000.

Councilwoman Stade: We could advertise for a person with that talent, knowledge and skill set.

Councilman Sandretto: You really need someone to coordinate every event that has a plan to create it throughout the year. That's where they need the money for that. They are out there putting things together. You really have to get the person <static>.

Councilwoman Stade: I agree. I don't think (we need) a full time person.

Councilman Sandretto: I think we can get a full time person at that price if we get a college kid.

Councilwoman Stade: (We might could) get someone with the background knowledge.

Councilman Sandretto: We have a ways to go on it. We have to secure funding and not for just the city, it will have to be private sources. Council has done a great job on that. We have a long way to go on that. I don't think it should be a high concern, because we are going to discuss it further. But, it is really securing the partners to make that possible. I think that's really our goal. I think that is truly something that is going to take partnership and any agencies, a little bit here and a little bit there.

Councilwoman Stade: If we don't select land <inaudible> doable and parcel about that size, ten years from now that option will not be there. If we don't make it one of our priorities now, the position will be made for us.

Councilman Sandretto: I agree that it needs to move forward, but again I don't think that's something we are going to hold straight out of our budget. We have so many other things happening, until we can actually sit down and see what we have going on because we have the slide park, I think the splash pad is something that has to happen. I'm not going to be a part of it, Neptune and 12th, but that's one of the major complaints from this group of folks here, we don't have enough for kids.

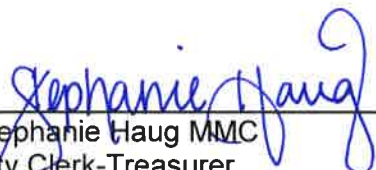
Councilwoman Stade: We really need the splash pad.


Ms. Haug: I don't mean to stop discussion, but we need to start the regular meeting so we will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

Councilman Sandretto: We need a motion to close the special meeting. Motion made and seconded to close the meeting.

E. ADJOURNMENT Mayor Lehman (*)

Mayor Lehman adjourned the September 5th, 2017 Special Council Workshop at 7:00 p.m. (*)


Stephanie Haug MMC
City Clerk-Treasurer


Linda Lehman
Mayor, City of Benton City

Date: 9/19/17