

City Council MeetingWorkshop-20260707_175956-Meeting Recording

July 7, 2026, 1:00AM

35m 18s

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Right. OK, let's bring the City Council meeting for July 7th, 2026 to order.

I want to inform the public of our disclaimer. The city of Bonney Lake uses machine assisted.

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Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

All right, Madam Clerk, could you call the roll, please?

Mayor Carter here. Deputy Mayor Swatman present council member, Baldwin council, Member Davis present Council member Fullerton here. Councilmember Huebel here, Councilmember mcclemons here.

Councilmember rock here.

City administrator Votepitch here, acting assistant Chief Harberts here.

Administrative Services director McEwan.

Public Services director Sullivan.

President records in disclosure coordinator Candace Bisov and city clerk Sadie Shannon here.

Excuse Council member Baldwin from the meeting.

Moved in 2nd and all those in favor of excusing Counselor Baldwin tonight say Aye, Aye.

Those opposed say no passes.

We have no agenda modifications.

We do have a proclamation which I will read into the record.

This is celebrating America 250, whereas on July 4th, 2026, the United States of America will commemorate the semi quincentennial.

See that?

Three times fast, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

And whereas this historic milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, honor.

Generations of Americans reaffirm our democratic ideals and encourage communities to preserve local heritage.

And inspire civic engagement for future generations. And whereas the city of Bonney Lake joins communities throughout the United States in recognizing America 250 as a time to celebrate our shared past, embrace the present and work together toward a brighter future.

And whereas the Greater Bonney Lake Historical Society is a valued community partner in preserving and sharing the rich history and heritage of Bonney Lake, and whereas the city gratefully acknowledges its local business community for participation in the America 250 Community banner program.

Fostering civic pride and commemorating the historic occasion. And whereas the city's summer events provide opportunities for residents and visitors to gather in celebration of America's 250th anniversary while strengthening community connections and civic pride. And whereas the city encourages residents and visitors to explore the office.

America 250 and Washington, 250 websites for commemorative events. Educational resources.

Activities taking place throughout the semi quincentennial year.

And now, therefore, I, Terry Carter, mayor of the City of Bonney Lake, WA, do hereby proclaim the year 2026 as the America 250 celebration and encourage residents, businesses, schools, civic organizations and visitors to celebrate this momentous occasion you witnessed thereof.

I have hereunto set my hand and caused a seal of the city of Bonney Lake to be affixed this 7th day of July 2026.

All right.

And we'll move on to council.

Reports. Do you have any Council reports this evening? It's more Fullerton.

Yes, we had our Community Development committee tonight.

We met in person and we also had virtual availability.

Our meetings started at 4:30. Promptly, the committee discussed ordinances for.

Amending residential accessory structures and fire separation requirements.

Between garages and dwelling units.

A resolution to adopt the six year Transportation improvement program.

And had a discussion about the battery.

Energy storage system, the best facilities and then we approved our minutes and we adjourned.

All right. Thank you.

Any other Council reports?

Yeah, back to Councilman Fullerton.

Also on June 18th Thursday at 10, AMI did attend hybrid the PSRC.

We discussed regional centers framework scoping.

Sales and use taxes for affordable housing and housing data tools.

Our next meeting will be July 16th.

2026 at 10:00 AM.

Alright, thank you. Any other reports?

No, I think I'm good now.

OK.

Any other Council reports? OK, Councilman Kleinins, this be a good place to report the AWC.

Yeah, I think it would.

Well, you could either now or in open discussion later.

If you want to leave it to your deference, I'm OK, OK.

We can do an open discussion later.

OK, OK. I will throw out a quick reminder that tunes at taps kicks off tomorrow, Wednesday, July 8th.

Our summer concert series the Open market starts at 5:00 PM with more than 40 local vendors.

Five food trucks lines for Lions Club, beer garden and family friendly activities.

The evenings entertainment begins at 6:30 PM, featuring two lane blacktop, one of the Northwest premier country rock bands performing a mix of modern country hits, classic favorites and high energy rock.

So we'd love to see everyone there.

And your friends?

Now we have the consent agenda.

Yeah. Is there a motion to adopt?

So moved second, moved in 2nd and all those in favor of passing the consent agenda. Say aye. Aye, those opposed say no right sent agenda passes.

We have no full Council issues, so we'll move on to audience comments.

During this period, Council and staff will be listening closely to your feedback. While we won't be responding directly today, Council members may discuss your comments during our upcoming open discussion.

For virtual attendees, please use the raise hand icon or ensure you've checked in with the clerks.

We will enable your mic and camera, though you'll need to unmute on your end to begin. We'll start with our guests here in person before moving to our virtual participant.

Each speaker has 5 minutes.

Please state your name for the record and kindly wrap up your thoughts. Once the timer signals your time is complete.

Is there anyone who would like to address the Council?

Hi, my name's Terry McCoy, and our families lived in the Bonny Lake area for 49 years and I want to thank Mayor Carter and the Council and police Chief Berry just for the steps they've taken in the past and are currently taking.

To make sure that there is safety in our community and specifically over at Allen York Park in the boat launch, I drive past there multiple times a week and I'm thankful for their presence.

I think it.

Provides an awareness of law and order in our community.

And.

That's it.

Great. Thank you.

Hi, my name is Steve McCoy.

I lifelong resident here.

My objective today is I want to talk about the.

Our communities and how we can continue to preserve the liberties and freedoms we've had.

I appreciate the the recognition of a 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

A significant document and I've been kind of ignorant of that in the last probably 2 years. I've done a deep dive to understand what what is this?

What is liberty?

What is freedom?

How does it work?

How do we preserve it?

Because Benjamin Franklin said he gave us Republic. If we can keep it, what does that mean?

What's very significant in the declaration, as well as our pledge is there is no freedom apart from the biblical God, apart from what Jesus did for us, there is no freedom.

There is no liberty because we have been given the right to self govern.

And and that's the foundation.

There was a guy by the name of Levi Preston who fought in the Revolution War when he was asked.

As an old age, why did you fight? He says.

Because we fought the right to self govern for us, to govern ourselves, and the British didn't want us what we have and what's kind of natural in human existence is a struggle for power.

It either concentrates itself and it takes away the freedom of the people.

Or the the power then recognizes the individual rights.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

And endowed by their creator, not by their government, by their creator, with these certain inalienable rights. And when we respect those rights, individuals have dignity and self respect, and they're able to thrive and flourish in their communities.

And I'm looking for that spirit in the city of Bonney Lake in Sumner and Milton and Puyallup and Enumclaw because we're neighbors. And that's how our that's how our that's how we thrive and flourish as communities.

And part of it means because we were taught probably you as well.

I was taught though is all about taxes without representation.

They threw.

It was way bigger than taxes without representation.

It was the British government said.

They're gonna put my thumb on you, and you're gonna do what I want.

And so when power begins to shift from the people and move into the concentrated government, that's when things go bad and you can see it in our in our nation as well

as around the world.

As Communism and Marxism begins to flourish.

Begins to thrive.

That's going to destroy us.

There is no freedom in a system of such as that, and so how do we do that in Bonney Lake?

I think there there must be some recognition of the personal of the person to self governments.

I would suspect that you have very difficult time to get people involved and get them engaged. Why?

Because they don't feel that they're important, they don't feel heard.

They don't feel their voices matter.

And you have been.

Elected with a sacred duty to represent them, and so.

As you consider taxes, they should have their voice in that, not just to come here and speak 'cause people hate this.

It's not my favorite thing either, but they should have a voice.

You should be able to vote if we're going to be paying taxes if taxes are going to be taken on my paycheck and it's the City Council that should be driving the policies and the administrative services should be supporting of that.

So it all goes back to protecting the individual rights, protecting the freedom of the individuals, and when those freedoms are transgressed.

We lose self respect, we lose dignity.

We get angry, you see.

People that are Rd. raging. You see people that are fighting, you see, you see chaos and that's government supposed to help us protect our freedoms and protect us from chaos.

And so this celebration, 250 years of freedom, this is an incredible feat.

No other country in the history of the world has done this.

No other country, according to Eric Metaxas, who wrote the book Revolution, has went through a revolution and been successful.

All the rest of them and blood baths. This one.

What recognizes who God is and liberties we get from God?

It's the only one where we got freedom, so I commend you again on your service.

I continue to do my research and I'm looking at ways and how we can.

Propagate those to that spirit of liberty, into our communities for the benefit of our communities so that we can continue to thrive and flourish.

So appreciate all the years that I've had here as a citizen.

In this area, like I said early on, my great uncle was one of the citizens. That said, let's get together. Let's put a water system in place so that we can have water.

We don't have to go to the Kelly Creek to get water when their wells dry in the summer.

That's how it works.

So let's do it. Thank you.

Councilmember Dan Decker of 12/1 Lake, Washington.

I will statement to make it comes from a transcript from a court action a little bit ago.

The word he would be me and the my would be the other person. He would also know that I have never been charged with, let alone convicted, of 13 counts.

Of felony abuse, as he states in May 14 and May 28.

My private life has nothing to do with my job as a Council member.

I've never broken any laws, not hurt anyone. Ha ha.

Note Mark versus Seattle Times 1981.

A public official's private life becomes public business when it affects honesty, integrity or fitness for office, truth or reporting about a public officials past is protected.

I have all the exhibition showing.

Excuse me. All the exhibits showing her dishonesty.

My my ex-husband.

That'd be her sharing my private.

Private mind in my child's private medical information with Mr. Decker is against the law.

There was no medical information.

That was adna parenting, identity report, RCW 70 controls that Mister Decker.

Sharing that information in public meetings and in his declaration is also a.

To justify his action, Mr. Decorated uses a First Amendment as his reference to say whatever he wants and do whatever he wants.

The First Amendment Howard does not protect individuals in making libelous statements or in disclosing private information about others, even if it's considered well, wait a minute, that's a conflict.

Even if it's considered protected speech, somebody needs to go and understand.

The conflict you just made note.

I'm protected by our CW 4230 and RCW 40, the Slaplaw and what I tell ya. Come on, we'll do it again.

I've got the rules now.

One of the First Amendment protects freedom of speech.

Yes it does.

It doesn't protect individuals from legal action if they make false statements that damage someone's reputation or invade their privacy.

Will look out for that statement, it just might come bite you.

My Mr. Decker has made multiple times in his public meetings that he is protected or protecting our mayor during his speeches and City Council meetings.

I don't recall ever saying that our mayor has written an e-mail in our chief of police.

Five weeks after I had informed him.

Almost finished guys.

No.

The mayor asked about me stocking council member Huber, the chief responded.

He followed her home and I was nowhere.

Insight. Well, I guess I wasn't following her or stalking her also.

The chief said.

I'm no threat to her.

Well, there you are, council.

I'm no threat to any of you because.

Paper is what I do.

And by the way.

Did you read the Backpage that I gave you?

Look at #8.

I highlighted it for you.

It says she pled guilty. Guilty to.

Criminal non support, which in Oregon is abuse of a child.

By law, it is abuse of a child in Oregon.

So I guess what I said about her being abusive to children is.

True punitive contempt.

7 contempts she pled guilty to it.

Part B right after and part A there.

Excuse me, part 8.

There it is, she said.

She's never seen these papers. If that's the case, why did she sign them?

See conflict, conflict, conflict. The truth is not in this woman.

Be careful, counsel.

She will not tell you.

You the truth from the information I had, and that's my viewpoint, which.

Excuse me, council, which cannot be touched by a court, I have a right to viewpoint and I have a right to the First Amendment, and I also have the right to RCW 4230, RCW 4220 and etcetera, etcetera, and a few 989 as.

Involved there from somebody doing false perjury.

And making false statements and material facts Underoath.

Think about it, Council.

You guys have that person sitting right around you somewhere.

Thank you very much.

Thank you.

Anyone else?

My name is Ernie Gilmer, 18608 73rd St.

East.

Here in Bonney lake.

So I'm president of the Bonney Lake Senior Center Advisory Board.

Reason I'm here this evening is because.

I believe this coming Wednesday ground will be broken and we'll begin the remodeling.

That's gonna happen at the Senior Center.

And so the reason I came tonight is I want to thank.

This council.

The mayor.

These people right here.

Any employee of the city.

That is going to be a part of this, the construction companies.

Thank you so much.

There's going to be a huge change and the change is happening because you took the time and.

And you sought to serve the community and especially the seniors in the community.

And so in the midst of everything that's going on, there's some good happening.

And it's because you got together. You saw the need and you pulled the trigger didn't mean that.

Didn't mean that.

Anyway, thank you so much.

I felt it was my place to comment and personally thank each of you.

Very excited about what's going to happen.

I'm hoping it's only gonna be down for a couple of months. Closed, but reality is probably a lot longer than that.

Thank you for your support.

Appreciate it very much.

Thank you.

I look forward to ribbon cutting towards either right at the end of the year or in the next year.

Be great. OK. Anyone else?

OK.

We'll now start those that are virtual. Please state your name for the record we have anybody.

No. OK.

All right. The city will now disable all video microphones for those attending. Virtually next is council. Open discussion.

Councilor mcclements.

So I just would like to quickly present my summary. I I sent a trip report to the mayor and the deputy mayor.

For my experience at the AWC, since I was encouraged by my Council Members, I thought I would share that trip report with you.

I think each of you should.

Share it with the Council member, Baldwin one at a time.

So she gets a special dose since she is an instigator, I believe.

Anyway, so I did attend AWC meeting.

Not something I would typically do, and I I wrote a report that, and I'm just gonna give you the summary.

It's fairly detailed on all the activities that I had.

And the summary.

It's probably best if I describe something quickly and then I'll read it to you.

So I.

I participated in 16 of 17 activities.

In order that the activities would be that my report would be more objective than subjective, I tried to apply a grading scale of one through 5, one being not useful and five being successful and three being no value. So as we go through.

All of those activities that I participated in there was 1/5.

Activity which was.

Is one of the networking breakfasts where I got to meet with some other colleagues and have a good discussion on making policy and the value of high density housing.

Another one was I had a few fours which was the welcome parade.

And how state and local cities are funded? Those were fours.

And then I did have a few ones. One was the.

City debt basics I unfortunately couldn't get into that because it was full.

So I I graded it A1 'cause. I think that if they offer a class, they should make an effort to let everybody go in. The other one was Washington state and local tax structure where we actually met local legislature legislators from the Senate Ways and Means committ.

And the House Finance Committee chair.

And they represented what their tax plan was, and there was a a quote. I finally found the paper from Bill Gates.

The link is in my report.

There was a paper that they quoted from and unfortunately they were quoting directly Karl Marx.

Which I find very disturbing.

So I graded that A1 and overall the overall grade was three, which was not very useful.

So I will now read my summary.

I found the conference to be of little value. Overall. There were some successful activities and then some unsuccessful activities, but given the duration I could have achieved the same results much quicker and not suffered the trauma of travel time away from family and being labeled NIMBY, banana and.

Caveman the conference could easily become more value added.

If the board would consider the following.

Move the annual meeting to Saturday afternoon. Since many elected officials work and take vacation to attend the Mid Week conference, AWC staff and city staff can be compensated for the extra time on Saturday for the trouble.

Two, any panel with legislators should represent both parties.

I'm concerned that the meeting and the training only promote bureaucratic or progressive agenda.

Not one training discussed how to make government smaller.

More efficient, deregulate or engage the private sector to solve problems.

Three, provide topics that help small suburban communities, like Bonney Lake's vital NIMBY community.

And four advocate to make advisory votes in presidential elections, economical for economical for small communities. Getting public input is so important.

And yet.

The largest opportunity for public response.

Is not tenable because municipalities don't run candidates on the presidential election years. And then #5 was don't subsidized alcohol at events, and then the table that I described with the fours and the threes and the twos and the ones that are in there to try to make.

This objective so given given this experience and my desire to improve.

The situation I will plan to attend next year and in the meantime I will work with the current board and staff to encourage a more balanced approach.

Or at least one or two concessions for training those who come from conservative municipalities.

So thank you for encouraging me to go.

And we'll see if we can make some headway so that our city can be trained and represented reasonably well at an event like this.

Thank you. I thought it was a well thought out report.

And you asked.

And so I forwarded it to Deanda Dawson, who's the CEO of AWC.

She's responded that she received it and she appreciated the constructive criticism.

Great. So that is good. And I know we as a board met in a couple or at least one specific the issue came up that you had already mentioned that we wanted to change as well.

So I think there's there's possibilities. We'll see.

Sure, anything.

Any progress forward is good because it's not progress. It's not.

Let's not use that term 'cause. I get excited.

Any changes we can make to to encourage conservative thought processes right

would be awesome. Yeah, great.

Thank you.

Any other Council discussion?

Tomorrow, Fullerton.

Yeah, I would like to.

Have Council consider soon coming up with.

Maybe hiring a consultant company?

For our upcoming retirements so that we can start the process of replacing our soon to retire administrators.

So I feel like it's extremely important that because it does have to go out forbid.

That we start now because if we're talking about the end of December, then we really need to get on this is we're already out a CFO.

And so I would like to see if we can come up with a budgeted item.

To.

Hire I guess it's called a head Hunter agency to replace and train our New City administrator so.

That's just my my two cents on that and.

Love. You gonna miss you? But we gotta start moving forward too, and and figure out what we can do.

Thank you for that.

We've we've actually been having some discussions the last couple weeks and we had another discussion about this today and we're gonna get about getting something out by I think Friday is what we talked about, right.

Regards to like getting it out on the C and all that kind of stuff and so starting to move that direction forward.

I've also had a quick discussion with Deputy mayor and he made it clear that seemed council would probably be OK if we had some overlap, so if there was a city administrator that we brought in, we were able to find somebody.

We had a little overlap, so we have some opportunities for, you know.

Institutional knowledge to kind of move forward that you guys would be OK with that?

If that's so, then yeah, we're moving forward. Appreciate the update.

Yeah, absolutely. Thank you.

Any other discussion, deputy mayor Swatman.

Yeah, just echo Councilman Folger's comments there.

Fully support the mayor in in getting you know.

As good of employees as we can find, you know, whatever we need to do a lot of that will be that one time expense kind of thing.

You know where? Unfortunately, we may have to spend what seems like some real money, but as I've always stated our, you know, employees are the heart and soul of what we do here.

And what services that we're able to provide citizens?

They are key, you know, they are the ones making the difference out there.

No matter how much we tend to give them a hard time, there are actually the people getting the jobs done.

So that's very important.

Separate subject, Mr. McClements Council member, thank you for showing up and spending your time. I think it was well worth it, albeit a little.

You know you you're very critical on your attendance there, but I think you really.

They served to, you know, push the levers and lean the dials in the direction that many people would like.

So you do an excellent job representing your people here in Bonney Lake, and it's really a privilege to have you join us in those conferences as all of our Council members did.

They spent a lot of time and effort out there.

We actually had the mayor and all of the Council members show up out there at different times and periods.

Several of the members are actually taking that extended class too, with the Wasili group.

We're out there for the, you know, Saturday after that.

So a lot of time and effort there, hopefully we'll get good knowledge sharing there.

I know I really enjoyed talking to a lot of the folks and you know, we, the mayor mentioned the CEO of AWC, you know, Councilmember McCleans. And I spent a lot of time talking to her at one meeting.

So it was pretty exciting to be able to do that and people that don't know, of course, our mayor's actually a board member on AWC also.

So it's it's a great time for Bonnie Lake and hopefully we'll be able to move the dials in the correct directions.

Appreciate it. Yeah, great.

Thank you.

I appreciate the Council's willingness to move forward too.

Customer Fullerton.

Yeah, I'd like to 2nd what, deputy Mayor Swatman said.

I want to thank you, Council Member McClements, because the the inputs and the things that you had to say are not easy.

Because it is not a conservative area, it's it's very hard to stand up for your beliefs or to say anything.

I myself have been highly concerned at a lot of the meetings that I attended, but I didn't have the wherewithal to stand up and and say something during the public comment time, which I'm ashamed of. But I would have liked to have made some comments because my.

Blood was starting to boil.

And I chose to stay silent.

And that's something that I'm gonna have to work on.

And I appreciate you standing up because that will help any of us in the future if we have something to say that maybe we will be a little less.

I don't know what the word is.

Not scared because I wasn't scared.

I just chose to, huh.

Apprehensive. That's the word I was looking for.

So I appreciate you being there and taking your time and for having the courage to stand.

Up and say what?

Half of the room was afraid to say.

Son.

Any other comments?

All right. We will move on to review Council minutes.

Customer Fullerton Council member Huebler I did not see any changes.

I forwarded my changes.

On and she's working on those. OK, great. Thank you.

Any other discussions?

All right, good, Mr. Mayor.

Oh, councilmember mcclains.

Yeah. So I I, I just would like to mention that.

You know, I just like to point out that, you know, the 4th of July was when one

person signed a Declaration of Independence, right? It took.

It took until August 2nd until everybody else signed, and then one signature may have been actually executed somewhere between August 2nd and 1897.

Right. I mean it was quite a while.

The good news about that though?

All that signing is.

They didn't just go home and clean up all the hot dogs and hamburgers and everything and stuff, they they actually went out and fought a war that lasted and it was 11 years later until the Constitution.

Became a reality, and in between that time many of them lost their property.

They lost.

Their family, they lost a lot of things, but not a single one of the 56 ever renounced their signature.

So we should take the rest of the year to make sure that we continue to recognize that commitment because it wasn't a one day commitment, it was a commitment for many of them. That was a lifetime and it was a huge thing.

So I always love to remember that part, and so I'll be celebrating this all year long.

So if if the police show up to take away my fireworks next week.

So be it.

It.

Find some blinders.

Thank you.

Any other discussion?

All right.

No executive or closed session.

So no, no more business.

We are adjourned.

And thank you everyone.