

# CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

November 15, 2022  
6:00 P.M.

## DRAFT MINUTES



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**Location:** Bonney Lake Justice & Municipal Center, 9002 Main Street East, Bonney Lake, Washington.

Audio starts at:  
06:00:00

### I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Michael McCullough

A. Pledge of Allegiance

**II. ROLL CALL:** Administrative Specialist II Kasee Gallagher called the roll. In addition to Mayor Michael McCullough, elected officials attending were Deputy Mayor Terry Carter, Councilmember Angela Baldwin, Councilmember Justin Evans, Councilmember Gwendolyn Fullerton, Councilmember J. Kelly McClimans, Councilmember Dan Swatman, and Councilmember Tom Watson.

Staff members in attendance at the physical location were City Administrator John Vodopich, Chief Financial Officer Cherie Reiersen, Chief of Police Bryan Jeter, Public Services Director Ryan Johnstone, Administrative Services Director Chuck McEwen, Water Production and Distribution Lead Jim Miracle, Administrative Specialist III Carol Paul, Administrative Specialist II Kasee Gallagher, and City Attorney Jennifer Robertson.

Staff members in virtual attendance using the City's BlueJeans conference line were Superintendent of Public Works Jack Niehuser and City Clerk Sadie Schaneman.

### III. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. **Presentation:** FCS Group Water Rates Presentation.

*Chief Financial Officer Cherie Reiersen*

Chief Financial Officer Cherie Reiersen introduced Chris Gonzalez with The FCS Group who gave a presentation of the Comprehensive Rates Study that was completed for the City. Mayor McCullough opened the floor to the public for questions. The citizens present shared thoughts and asked questions including:

- The reason utility rates in Bonney Lake are significantly higher than other surrounding cities.
- The reason for the high utility rates in the City of Bonney Lake.
- Questions on lift stations and topography within Bonney Lake.
- Clarifications on the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Bonney Lake and the City of Sumner regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Capital Improvements.
- Affordability to citizens of Bonney Lake.
- Possibility of building a wastewater treatment plant in the City of Bonney Lake.

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06:01:03

Council asked questions and shared their thoughts including:

- The impact inflation will have on rates.
- The possibility of using flat rates for utilities.
- The cost of utilities in the City of Bonney Lake versus neighboring cities.
- Possible reduced base rate scenario.
- Minimizing the rate increase to citizens with low usage.
- Uniform volume rate for commercial versus residential.
- The possibility of using ARPA funds to reduce rate increases of utilities for citizens.

Audio starts at:  
08:18:51

## B. Council Open Discussion:

*Councilmember Watson:*

Communities for Families Coalition. Councilmember Watson shared that he attended the Communities for Families Coalition Meeting on November 3, 2022. He stated that the Beyond the Borders organization was discussed. This group provides aid to people in need in the community.

*Councilmember Swatman:*

Cost of Living Raise for Non-Represented Employees. Councilmember Swatman stated that he had a concern with the planned 1.5 percent cost of living increase for non-represented employees. He said that he would like to see it match the 2.5 percent increase that represented employees receive to promote internal equity. Councilmember Swatman asked that this item be pulled off the Consent Agenda and move to Full Council Issues on the next Council Meeting on November 22, 2022.

*Councilmember Evans:*

Senior Center. Councilmember Evans suggested that the council to take two-hundred-thousand dollars from ARPA funds to make some much needed improvements to the Bonney Lake Senior Center. He stated that there is a definite need, and he would like to see funds allocated to support a group of one of our most vulnerable community members.

Councilmember Baldwin added that she would like to see a plan put forward to move the Bonney Lake Historical Society to a new location.

There was a general council consensus to discuss allocating funds to the Senior Center at a future workshop in January 2023.

Audio starts at:  
08:30:24

## C. Review Of Council Minutes: October 25, 2022, Council Meeting and November 1, 2022, Council Workshop

The draft minutes were forwarded with corrections to the November 22, 2022, meeting for approval.

Audio starts at:  
08:30:52

**D. Discussion:** Ad Valorem Public Hearing.  
*Chief Financial Officer Cherie Reierson*

Introduced by Chief Financial Officer Cherie Reierson who stated that information was left out of the agenda packet regarding the Ad Valorem Public Hearing. City Attorney Jennifer Robertson shared that since the information was provided in a previous packet, there is no need to pull this item from the Consent Agenda on November 22, 2022. Chief Financial Officer Reierson gave an overview of the Ad Valorem Public Hearing. There was no council discussion on this matter.

**IV. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 8:33 p.m. the Meeting was adjourned by Mayor McCullough with the common consent of the City Council.**

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Sadie A. Schaneman, CMC, City Clerk

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Michael McCullough, Mayor

Items presented to Council at the November 15, 2022, Workshop:

*(1) FCS Group Utility Rates Presentation, Chris Gonzalez.*

*Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all documents submitted at City Council meetings and workshops are on file with the City Clerk. For detailed information on agenda items, please view the corresponding Agenda Packets, which are posted on the city website and on file with the City Clerk.*