



Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

TRACKING PUBLIC RECORDS COSTS

1 message

staci patton <yayabear3@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 15, 2023 at 7:04 AM

To: Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Dave Cox <dave.cox@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Robert Muth <robert.muth@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Robert Muth <rcmuth88@gmail.com>, michael.d.johnson@ci.stevenson.wa.us, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, kristy.mccaskell@ci.stevenson.wa.us, Paul Hendricks <paul.hendricks@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, david.wyatt@ci.stevenson.wa.us, Toby Nixon <toby@washingtoncog.org>

Leana,

Good morning. In regard to item 9d on the agenda, do you track the costs associated with fulfilling "public" records? I'm blown away that the City seems to have thousands to hire facilitators to lead group discussions (which one would think you should be qualified to do). This money could be better spent, say on filling public records. The City of North Bonneville tried something similar this year and my recollection was that Ken Woodrich advised against changing anything.

When government entities start doing things to deter citizens from their right to public records, this is why public records advocates like Eric Hood and Arthur West thrive (rightfully so). Please also accept this as public comment for the meeting associated with the public records discussion.

Staci

d) *Discuss Public Records Fee Update - City Administrator Leana Kinley presents information from the Washington State Attorney General's Office for discussion on updating the city's fee schedule to allow charging for public records. In March 2020 the city changed its policy and no longer charges for public records, regardless of the format (paper or electronic). The City has gone from responding to 10-20 records requests a year before 2018 to 71 in 2019, 59 in 2020, 92 in 2021, 58 in 2022, and 36 to date in 2023 all of varying complexity.

[RCW 42.52.900: Legislative declaration. \(wa.gov\)](#)

Legislative declaration.

Government derives its powers from the people. Ethics in government are the foundation on which the structure of government rests. State officials and employees of government hold a public trust that obligates them, in a special way, to honesty and integrity in fulfilling the responsibilities to which they are elected and appointed. Paramount in that trust is the principle that public office, whether elected or appointed, may not be used for personal gain or private advantage.

The citizens of the state expect all state officials and employees to perform their public responsibilities in accordance with the highest ethical and moral standards and to conduct the business of the state only in a manner that advances the public's interest. State officials and employees are subject to the sanctions of law and scrutiny of the media; **ultimately, however, they are accountable to the people and must consider this public accountability as a particular obligation of the public service. Only when affairs of government are conducted, at all levels, with openness as provided by law and an unswerving commitment to the public good does government work as it should.**

The obligations of government rest equally on the state's citizenry. The effectiveness of government depends, fundamentally, on the confidence citizens can have in the judgments and decisions of their elected representatives. Citizens, therefore, should honor and respect the principles and the spirit of representative democracy, recognizing that both elected and appointed officials, together with state employees, seek to carry out their public duties with professional skill and dedication to the public interest. Such service merits public recognition and support.

All who have the privilege of working for the people of Washington state can have but one aim: To give the highest public service to its citizens.

2 attachments



Agenda-Stevenson 11-16-23 city council meeting.pdf
533K



Gmail - PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST-COMMUNICATION WITH DEANA SYRON CITY OF NORTH BONNIVELLE ABOUT PUBLIC RECORDS COSTS.pdf
204K

AGENDA
CITY OF STEVENSON COUNCIL MEETING
November 16, 2023
6:00 PM, City Hall and Remote

Call-in numbers 253-215-8782, 669-900-6833, 346-248-7799, 312-626-6799, 929-205-6099 or 301-715-8592, Meeting ID 889 7550 7011, Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88975507011> or via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4k9bA0IEvsF6PSoDwjvA/>

Items with an asterisk (*) have been added or modified after the initial draft publication of the Agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PRESENTATION TO THE FLAG: Mayor to call the meeting to order, lead the group in reciting the pledge of allegiance and conduct roll call.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: *[This is an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Council. If you wish to address the Council, please sign in to be recognized by the Mayor. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Mayor may extend or further limit these time periods at his discretion. The Mayor may allow citizens to comment on individual agenda items outside of the public comment period at his discretion. Please submit written comments to City Hall in person at 7121 E. Loop Rd, via mail to PO Box 371, Stevenson, WA 98648 or via email to leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us by noon the day of the meeting for inclusion in the council packet.]*

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: *[The Mayor may add agenda items or take agenda items out of order with the concurrence of the majority of the Council].*

a) *11/14 changes include:

- Added Kinley Water Leak Adjustment Request (item 4e)
- Added 2024-25 Law Enforcement contract approval (item 5b)
- Added discussion regarding charging for public records (item 9d)
- Added Planning Commission minutes (item 10d)
- Added WAGAP Housing Program Report (item 10e)
- Addition of vouchers (item 12a)

4. CONSENT AGENDA: The following items are presented for Council approval. *[Consent agenda items are intended to be passed by a single motion to approve all listed actions. If discussion of an individual item is requested by a Council member, that item should be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately after approval of the remaining consent agenda items.]*

a) **Approve 2024 Tourism Funding Awards in the amount of \$799,012** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presents the Tourism Advisory Committee's 2024 funding recommendations for council approval in the total amount of \$799,012.

b) **Approve Resolution Surplussing Items** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presents resolution 2023-420 surplussing equipment for council consideration.

MOTION: To approve resolution 2023-420 surplussing equipment.

c) **Approve Personnel Policy Update** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presents a resolution revising the personnel policy for council consideration. The changes update the requirements for public works staff taking on-call duties, and adds a policy regarding staff meals as identified in the recent audit.

MOTION: To approve resolution 2023-420 revising the personnel policy.

d) **Skamania County Prosecuting Attorney Agreement** - City Administrator Leana Kinley requests approval of the 2024 contract with Skamania County for Prosecuting Attorney services. There are no changes from the 2023 contract.

e) ***Water Adjustment** - Jason and Leana Kinley (meter no. 612800) request a water adjustment of \$450.30 for a water leak which they have since repaired.

f) **Minutes** of October 19, 2023 Regular Meeting, October 26, 2023 and November 7, 2023 Special Meetings.

MOTION: To approve consent agenda items a-f.

5. SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT:

a) **Sheriff's Report** - The Skamania County Sheriff's report for activity within Stevenson city limits for the prior month is presented for council review.

b) ***Approve Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presents the revised Interlocal Agreement with Skamania County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services for 2024-25 for council consideration. The original request was for \$150,000 over two years. The current agreement is for two years with increases of \$50,000 for 2024 and \$50,000 plus CPI plus budget increase percentages for 2025.

MOTION: To approve the interlocal agreement with Skamania County for law enforcement services as presented.

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

a) **WGAP Presentation** - Janeal Boreen, Nutrition Programs Director for Washington Gorge Action Programs, will present an update on the Stevenson Food Bank. The City has been

supporting it for many years and the current contract of \$10,000 per year expires the end of 2024.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a) **2024 Utility Rates** - The rate study and restructuring is not ready for a public hearing. Part of the restructuring includes separating 400 cubic feet from the water base fees and commercial sewer base fees. There will be a hearing at the December 21st council meeting.
- b) **Public Hearing 2024 Proposed Property Tax Levy** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presents resolution 2023-421 and ordinance 2023-1199 proposing the maximum 1% property tax increase for public comment and council consideration. These are both time sensitive and must be approved by November 30th to take effect in 2023.

MOTION: To approve resolution 2023-421 authorizing an increase in property taxes for fiscal year 2024.

MOTION: To approve ordinance 2023-1199 fixing the amount to be raised by ad valorem taxes and levied for fiscal year 2024.

- c) **Second Hearing 2024 Proposed Budget** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presents the 2024 proposed budget and associated documents based on items discussed at the October 19, 2023 public hearing. It is also available online at <https://city-stevenson-wa-budget-book.cleargov.com/11684>. Major changes include updating Tourism Fund for approved grant awards. The 2024 budget needs to be approved by the end of 2023.

MOTION: To approve ordinance 2023-1202 adopting the 2024 budget as presented.

8. SITUATION UPDATES:

- a) **Sewer Ordinance Update** - Staff will present an update on the status of the committee and timeline for presenting a revised proposal for council consideration. Meeting documents from the committee will be uploaded to the website <https://www.ci.stevenson.wa.us/publicworks/page/committee-proposed-sewer-ordinance>.

9. COUNCIL BUSINESS:

- a) **Approve Fire Chief Approval Ordinance-First Reading** - The Fire Department Strategic Plan task 4A3 suggested to "revise current policy to further engage the City in selecting the City Fire Chief." A revised copy of the existing ordinance with proposed language changes as approved by consensus at the November 7, 2023 joint meeting with Fire District 2 is attached for council approval.

MOTION: To approve ordinance 2023-1200 amending chapter 2.24 volunteer fire department as presented.

- b) **Approve Ordinance Restricting Use of Personal Fireworks-Second Reading** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presents a revised ordinance regarding restriction of the personal use of fireworks when there is a ban on recreational fires for council discussion. The first reading was on July 20th and also discussed on October 26th, 2023 and documents related to those meetings, including the video recordings, can be found on the city's website at <https://www.ci.stevenson.wa.us/meetings>.

MOTION: To approve ordinance 2023-1201 amending title 8 of the Stevenson Municipal Code adding chapter 8.58 authorizing the restriction of personal fireworks discharge during times of recreational fire burn bans as presented.

- c) **Parking Regulations Update** - Staff has been working on updates to the city's code regarding parking (SMC 10.08 Loading Zones and 10.12 Parking Prohibited in Certain Areas) based on community feedback, changing requirements, and street maintenance. Community Development Director Ben Shumaker will present an update on the progress from the committee.
- d) ***Discuss Public Records Fee Update** - City Administrator Leana Kinley presents information from the Washington State Attorney General's Office for discussion on updating the city's fee schedule to allow charging for public records. In March 2020 the city changed its policy and no longer charges for public records, regardless of the format (paper or electronic). The City has gone from responding to 10-20 records requests a year before 2018 to 71 in 2019, 59 in 2020, 92 in 2021, 58 in 2022, and 36 to date in 2023 all of varying complexity.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- a) **Financial Report** - The Treasurer's Report and year-to-date revenues and expenses through the prior month are presented for council review.
- b) **Risk MAP Project Update** - An update on the Skamania County Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) project is included for information. This project includes updating the current paper only flood maps last approved in 1986 to an interactive GIS map to better determine exact risk locations. Outreach has taken place with property owners whose parcel impact has changed (either now included or removed from the flood risk area).
- c) **Contracts Awarded Administratively** - The report on contracts, purchases and change orders over \$10,000 approved administratively over the past month is attached.
- d) ***Planning Commission Minutes** - Minutes are attached from the Planning Commission meeting for the prior month.

- e) ***Housing Programs Report** - The report for the prior month on housing services provided by Washington Gorge Action Programs in Skamania County is enclosed for council information.

11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS:

- a) Ben Shumaker, Community Development Director
- b) Carolyn Sourek, Public Works Director
- c) Leana Kinley, City Administrator

12. VOUCHER APPROVAL:

- a) *October 2023 payroll, and November 2023 AP checks have been audited and are presented for approval. October payroll checks 17323 thru 17326 total \$131,916.23 which includes EFT payments. November 2023 AP checks 17327 thru 17393 total \$834,312.28, which includes EFT payments. The AP check register with fund transaction summary is attached for review.

MOTION: To approve the vouchers as presented.

13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

14. ISSUES FOR THE NEXT MEETING: *[This provides Council Members an opportunity to focus the Mayor and Staff's attention on issues they would like to have addressed at the next council meeting.]*

15. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor will adjourn the meeting.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

- Thursday and Friday November 23-24, City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving
- Tuesday, November 5, 6pm, Joint Fire District 2 and City Council Meeting
- Monday, December 11th, 6pm, Planning Commission Meeting
- Thursday, December 21st, 6pm, City Council Meeting



staci patton <yayabear3@gmail.com>

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

staci patton <yayabear3@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 2:38 PM

To: Deanna Syron <deanna@northbonneville.net>, Joshua Good <joshuagood@northbonneville.net>, Margie Lee <mlee@northbonneville.net>, Richard Hall <rhall@northbonneville.net>, Terry Norris <tnorris@northbonneville.net>, Travis Randall <trandall@northbonneville.net>

Cc: Brian Sabo <brians@northbonneville.net>, Ken Woodrich <ken@woodrich.com>, Summer Scheyer <summers@co.skamania.wa.us>, Asa Leckie <leckie@co.skamania.wa.us>, Jeanette Foster <jfoster@gorge.net>, Perry Colburn <perryleecolburn@gmail.com>, Pat Rice <easylivingpat@gmail.com>, Mitch Patton <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>, Lisa Alexander <lbutcher@skamaniadvsa.org>

Thank you for correcting the record on your false statement. This case has everything to do with The City of North Bonneville. The Mayor and Council member Randalls role in attacking a tax paying citizen of North Bonneville over his support of Summer Scheyers opponent. Its already been proven, that Ryan Taylor fraudulently ticketed Perry over a sign that both the Mayor and Council member Randall participated in harassing Perry over. Remember, Perry was cited through "**north bonneville municipal court**". Ryan Taylor even mentions the Mayor, in the court hearing. Its a bit concerning that you cannot see the connection, but Im not surprised. You all spend your "council comment" time, attacking Perry, therefore its very much about the City of North Bonneville and how its elected officials/employees treat a tax paying citizen.

Do you have to track your time, on time cards? Like, supporting documents that it really took you the better part of 4 days?

On Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 2:13 PM Deanna Syron <deanna@northbonneville.net> wrote:

Staci,

Most of my requests take me less than a couple of hours. I was speaking only to the request from 9/7/2022, which took me the better part of four working days, equaling about \$650 in my own salary pay. I also had to spend other employee's time to go through all of the emails and phone logs during that time, as well as get affidavits.

So to correct the record, it wasn't thousands. But our wages are paid by taxpayer dollars and my time is better spent on more urgent matters that affect all citizens, rather than a request regarding a case that has nothing to do with the City of North Bonneville. However, you still possess the right to request as you wish and I will fulfill as required by law.

Deanna Syron, CAO

Chief Administrative Officer

City of North Bonneville

(509) 427-8182

deanna@northbonneville.net

NOTICE: Under Washington State's Public Records Act (RCW 42.56), e-mail communications to and from this or any City of North Bonneville email account can be subject to public disclosure to a third-party requestor.

From: staci patton <yayabear3@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 1:51 PM

To: Deanna Syron <deanna@northbonneville.net>

Cc: Brian Sabo <brians@northbonneville.net>; Ken Woodrich <ken@woodrich.com>; Summer Scheyer <summers@co.skamania.wa.us>; Asa Leckie <leckie@co.skamania.wa.us>; Jeanette Foster <jfoster@gorge.net>; Perry Colburn <perryleecolburn@gmail.com>; Pat Rice <easylivingpat@gmail.com>; Mitch Patton <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>; Joshua Good <joshuagood@northbonneville.net>; Margie Lee <mlee@northbonneville.net>; Travis Randall <trandall@northbonneville.net>; Richard Hall <RHall@northbonneville.net>; Terry Norris <tnorris@northbonneville.net>; Lisa Alexander <lbutcher@skamaniadvsa.org>

Subject: Re: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

Thank you Deanna.....Im confused though. The reason I did the request was because I was told that during that meeting where you all verbally attacked Perry Colbun, that you had

stated records requests were costing you thousands of dollars. If you dont track costs, how did you come up with that statement?(especially since it appears there were only

7 records requests last year.....somethings not adding up).

On Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 1:35 PM Deanna Syron <deanna@northbonneville.net> wrote:

Staci,

Attached is the documentation you requested regarding the tracking of our public records requests. Keep in mind, [ESHB 1594](#) requires all agencies to track and log the following information with regard to public records requests:

- Identity of requestor (if provided)
- Date and text of request
- Description of records produced in response to request
- Description of records redacted or withheld and the reasons for redaction/withholding
- Date of final disposition of the request.

Agencies with \$100,000 or more in annual staff and legal costs associated with fulfilling public records requests during the prior fiscal year must take this tracking several steps further (additional tracking is optional for agencies with costs of less than \$100,000/year). We are not in that bracket, therefore do not track costs associated with requests.

This satisfies the original request from March 3rd, 2023.

Sincerely,

Deanna Syron, CAO

Chief Administrative Officer

City of North Bonneville

(509) 427-8182

deanna@northbonneville.net

From: Deanna Syron
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 2:39 PM
To: staci patton <yayabear3@gmail.com>
Cc: Brian Sabo <brians@northbonneville.net>; Ken Woodrich <ken@woodrich.com>; Summer Scheyer <summers@co.skamania.wa.us>; Asa Leckie <leckie@co.skamania.wa.us>; Jeanette Foster <jfoster@gorge.net>; Perry Colburn <perryleecolburn@gmail.com>; Pat Rice <easylivingpat@gmail.com>; Mitch Patton <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

Staci,

You can keep your opinion to yourself. Lets keep this professional, as it should be. I'm not worried about our auditors, as I don't create false documents. I will fulfill your request in the next 14 business days. I am not an elected official, I do my job and would like to stay out of your politics.

Deanna Syron, CAO
Chief Administrative Officer
City of North Bonneville
(509) 427-8182
deanna@northbonneville.net

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From: staci patton <yayabear3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 2:26 PM
To: Deanna Syron <deanna@northbonneville.net>
Cc: Brian Sabo <brians@northbonneville.net>; Ken Woodrich <ken@woodrich.com>; Summer Scheyer <summers@co.skamania.wa.us>; Asa Leckie <leckie@co.skamania.wa.us>; Jeanette Foster <jfoster@gorge.net>; Perry Colburn <perryleecolburn@gmail.com>; Pat Rice <easylivingpat@gmail.com>; Mitch Patton <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

"Please keep assumptions that I would send you something "fishy" out of your future requests."....."in my opinion", if something smells fishy, I will pass on to the State Auditor.

When I hear elected officials/city employees attacking a tax paying citizen with untruths, I do believe its my God given right, to assume whatever I choose. Keep in mind as

you "gather this information", there is something called metadata, that shows when things are created. Maybe Ken can fill you in on that from the Sherry lawsuit.

On Thu, Mar 9, 2023 at 1:30 PM Deanna Syron <deanna@northbonneville.net> wrote:

Staci,

Please allow up to 14 business days to process this request, due to short staffing and a major software transition. As a public records officer, it is my duty to fully release portions of requests that are not exempt from disclosure, and I take my position seriously. Please keep assumptions that I would send you something "fishy" out of your future requests.

Sincerely,

Deanna Syron, CAO

Chief Administrative Officer

City of North Bonneville

(509) 427-8182

deanna@northbonneville.net

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From: staci patton <yayabear3@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 8:36 AM

To: Deanna Syron <deanna@northbonneville.net>; Brian Sabo <brians@northbonneville.net>; Ken Woodrich <ken@woodrich.com>; Margie Lee <mlee@northbonneville.net>; Joshua Good <joshuagood@northbonneville.net>; Richard Hall <RHall@northbonneville.net>; Terry Norris <tnorris@northbonneville.net>; Summer Scheyer <summers@co.skamania.wa.us>; Asa Leckie <leckie@co.skamania.wa.us>; Jeanette Foster <jfoster@gorge.net>; Perry Colburn <perrylecolburn@gmail.com>; Pat Rice <easylivingpat@gmail.com>; Mitch Patton <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>

Subject: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

Deanna,

I have attached a document from Skamania County in reference to documenting time/costs associated with public records requests. As you can see, even

they, who are a much bigger government entity than teeny little North Bonneville, do not do a good job in logging time/costs associated with filling

public records requests.

I will not suffer through listening to all the last meeting, as hearing Joshs vile untruths(in my opinion going off the FACTS) made me want to VOMIT! But, I

hear that you were potentially bitching about all the public records requests costing you thousands of dollars(it sure is funny how public servants think its

their money,and that they work for a private corporation).

Please accept this as my public records request. Please fill via email with a pdf. Keep in mind, whatever supporting document you provide, if it smells fishy, I

will be passing on to the state auditors office:

All supporting documents that show time/costs associated with filling public records requests.

Staci