

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

MAY 9, 2016
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Eric Foster	Police Chief
Michael Higbee	Council President	Regie Finney	Public Works Director
Pam McClain	Council Member	Scott Bybee	City Engineer
Kyle Hauser	Council Member	Cynthia Toppen	Librarian
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Bill Nungester	City Attorney	Concerned Citizens	
Elizabeth Barker	Treasurer		

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 7:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Elizabeth Barker confirmed a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ... Minutes of April 25, 2016: Kyle Hauser moved to approve the minutes; Pam McClain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Bi-Monthly Claims for Payment: Pam McClain moved to approve the monthly claims for payment; Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Monthly Reports: Kyle Hauser moved to approve the monthly reports by department heads; Michael Higbee seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Clerk/Treasurer Report: Pam McClain moved to approve the clerk/treasurer report; Michael Higbee seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Monthly Report by City Engineer: Scott reported that the URA block grant had been approved by the Department of Commerce and that he anticipated receiving a contract soon. He believed that construction would be underway by mid to late August. Michael asked if the department always gave a yes or no answer to an application or whether the department would sometimes award a reduced amount. Scott replied that the Department of Commerce had the authority to award a smaller amount than what was requested but noted that in this instance, the full amount was granted. Kyle asked the amount and Scott responded that the grant is for \$350,000.

Scott also noted that building permit activity is picking up and that there is a P&Z meeting next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning and Zoning Board Appointee: Michael Higbee moved to approve the appointment of Holly Hoppole to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Kyle Hauser seconded the motion. Pam asked if this fills all the available slots on the commission and Scott replied yes. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Consideration of Rick Robinette Airport Lease: Tom noted that Rick is completing the sale of his farm and is now ready to proceed with the lease at the airport. He stated that Rick currently has 6 or 7 employees and is in business there full-time. Pam moved that the council authorize the mayor and clerk to sign the Land Lease – Building to be Erected Thereon by Lessee with the instruction that the appropriate dates be filled in. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Questions for Department Heads:

Library – Pam asked if Cynthia had an estimate on the cost of replacing doors. Cynthia said she did not because she wasn't sure if the draft problem was because of the doors or the window. Michael asked if Public Works could install a new door. Regie responded no, a licensed contractor would have to do that in order to keep the warranty valid. Michael suggested looking into using weather stripping as an alternative. Kyle asked about the condition of the air-conditioning unit. Cynthia replied that it is still functioning but that Quigley's can't predict how long it will last. Cynthia noted that the U of I had recommended some energy efficient options. Michael asked Cynthia if she would consider budgeting half the amount this year and setting aside those funds for the future or if she had room in her operations and maintenance budget for it. He also asked if the Foundation had money available for this. Cynthia noted that when the most recently replaced unit had unexpectedly gone out, the Homling Foundation and community donors had covered the cost. Tom asked Cynthia to pursue energy efficient options for replacing the unit.

Police – Michael asked how the department is currently managing without audiovisual equipment for interviews. Eric replied that the officers use body cams or voice recording. He noted that this is problematic when the officers leave the room. He also stated that he is pursuing grant options. Kyle asked Eric what his priorities were in terms of his needs. Eric stated that his first priorities were the vehicle and the K9 program. There was discussion concerning the function of a school resource officer. Eric also stated in response to a question that he may have room in his O&M budget for countertops this year; last year new desks were the line item in the

O&M budget. Michael asked what the plan for parking would be if the Masonic Lodge sells. Eric stated that all but two officers take their cars home so he felt that the department could manage without the parking space. He also stated that he will be meeting with Jackie Frey of FEMA next week to discuss grant funding.

Fire Department-In response to a question from Pam regarding demonstrating to the taxpayers that they are getting value for their money spent, Andrew replied that he felt it was critical to have a long-term plan and to identify triggers that would pinpoint the need to make changes in equipment, facilities or services. He noted that the department is not currently tracking their loss vs saved numbers and that that is a practice that could be implemented. He agreed that his department needs more visibility in the community and noted that only 10 to 15% of the population actually gets to see them at work, which in many ways is a good thing. Andrew read the five questions that Michael had posed in an e-mail to him. Andrew elaborated on his responses which he provided in the written Joint Fire Board Needs Assessment which had been distributed to council members. Pam asked about St Luke's Emergency Services establishing a satellite in Buhl. Andrew had called them regarding that question and they responded that because of the high quality of the Buhl Volunteer QRU, they had put resources in other places. They stated that they might consider contracting to have an apparatus in Buhl if we had an available space for one. There was discussion about the requirements for QRU volunteers and Andrew stated that he would like to see an additional five to six volunteers. His idea is to use money from the Loden fund for the training which is required now to qualify as a QRU volunteer. Michael asked about the possibility of charging for EMT calls. Eric stated that since the city receives tax money, we cannot charge additional fees for those services. Michael asked if three of the budgeted items (bunkers, training apparatus and air scrubbers for trucks) were required immediately or if savings could be set aside for future purchases. Andrew stated that while training apparatus was not required immediately, there is an immediate need to replace the bunkers. In the future he plans to replace these bunkers as needed, rather than waiting and replacing them all at once.

Public Works – Regie provided information concerning the cost of a replacement garbage truck and the residual value of the current one. It was also noted that it might be possible to get \$45,000 for the Street Department backhoe. There was discussion concerning the potential purchase of land by Well #3 and the fact that the land was currently owned by Clear Springs. Scott provided information on how far apart the wells would need to be and stated that 5 to 7 acres would be an adequate amount of land. There was extensive discussion regarding the condition of the water towers and the plan for repainting the interiors.

Administration - Elizabeth reviewed with the council the information on upgrades and improvements to City Hall that Karen had prepared. There was also a discussion about personnel needs in the Planning and Zoning/Building Department.

COUNCIL CONCERNS –

* Michael asked for an update on the valuation on the Seneca dorm. Tom stated that he had just received information from Doug Vollmer that the value of the dorm has been appraised at \$520,000 provided it is empty. Tom also noted that Seneca had paid the first year's membership for the City of Buhl to join SIEDO (Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization), a cost of \$4600.

*Kyle stated that the state was in the process of renewing alcohol licenses and asked what the time frame was for the City. Elizabeth stated that the renewal date is in June.

*Michael asked for information regarding the possibility of a federal grant for safe pathways for schools. Regie replied that he is working on that application and needs the document that was prepared for the City as a result of our participation in a Blue Cross initiative. Pam has the document and will get it to Regie.

*Michael asked Andrew if it was true that the Winn house on 9th Avenue North was going to be the site of a controlled burn for the Fire Department. Andrew stated that that was just a rumor.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Kyle Hauser moved that the meeting be adjourned; Pam seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Barker, Treasurer