

CITY COUNCIL WORKING MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 2022
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Regie Finney	Public Works
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Jason Scott	Public Works Director
Amanda Hawkins	Council Member	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Marla Sisson	Council Member	Concerned Citizens	
Karen Drown	Clerk		

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of October 10, 2022 – Regular Meeting
2. Bi- Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Clerk Report
4. Treasurer Report

Michael Higbee moved to approve the consent agenda. Marla Sisson seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review and Consideration of 113 Sunset Circle concerning Nuisance declaration: Karen handed out pictures that Rick Brook had taken that afternoon. She added that according to Rick the property is in compliance with code. Amanda stated it looks very nice. There was a discussion about the vehicles that remain on the property. It was noted the red truck is registered, the white truck Melinda will be selling and the jeep and the trailer Melinda is working on getting the titles in her name and will be going away in the future. Michael stated to Melinda she needed to think about the future and how she is going to maintain the property. No action was taken by Council on this agenda item.

Discussion of City Pool Operations: Kelly began the discussion by handing out a photo of the pool from 1910-1911 when it was a pond with dirt and poles to jump from in the middle and he

stated that is what a free pool looks like. He stated the pool as it is now was built by the WPA (Works Progress Administration) and CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) in 1940-1941. He added that when it was a dirt pool it was filled by the “J” Coulee with irrigation water. He stated that Frank Buhl donated the land. It was questioned how many people got hurt with the poles in the middle to jump from. There was additional discussion and Kelly noted that in 1981-1984 the deck was redone. Amanda commented that in 1982 it was still free. It was noted the pool has never made money and it has been considered as part of what you get for living in Buhl, Idaho. Regie stated it took \$3,000 to paint it this year and the infrastructure is old. The heater was installed in 2005 and went out in 2018. Kelly rebuilt the filtration system but it will need to be redone in the coming years and it is going to take major work and cost money. Mayor McClain stated she recently met with the Blue Cross Foundation that is working on promoting walking, playing outside and riding bikes. She also added never remembering when the pool ever made money. Michael added that the budget money used to cover the pool expense doesn’t allow for raises to other employees. Mayor McClain commented that maybe this is not solved this year and nobody wants the pool to go away but questions how to stop the money flow. There was a discussion about the age limit of 13 and it was noted the pool was becoming a babysitter. Michael added we cannot even open the bathrooms due to vandalism. Regie again discussed the condition and estimated based on the leaks and repairs needed about \$100,000 to \$350,000 to repair. Kelly added that if any part of the pool is touched for upgrades, then an ADA lift must be added, which there is a plan designed. Amanda questioned if this could be put out to the community and maybe contact the contractors currently working on Banbury’s for help. She added we live in a great community that are willing to help. Ideas that were brought forward to think about included focus on management, possible fee increases, annual pass drive. Amanda recommended talking to the manager of the Gooding Pool and there was a discussion about recreation districts running the pools around us and how they have different opportunities. Mayor McClain asked Autumn to run the numbers to see what it would take to break even. Michael also provided ideas as renting the pool out for private events, having it open for the weekends. He noted it is apparent why private pools charge and thought it was fair to look at fees since it had been 10 years. Manpower is a big issue and need to start thinking before January. Mayor McClain asked to have this on the November working session agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of Future Growth and Planning: Karen presented to Council a diagram showing potential stakeholders for future planning for the City of Buhl. She explained that after attending a recent training through AIC and additional information she would like to request looking at planning firms to help work through drafting a new comprehensive plan and update city code for planning and zoning. There was a discussion about this process and Michael requested to have a time on a future agenda to have Scott bring a map and discuss the future.

Consideration of November and December Council Meeting Dates: Michael moved to cancel the December 26th working session. Marla seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Amanda asked for an updated council meeting list.

Amanda asked a question regarding the Ratzlaff property on 4000 North and the silage smelling. Andrew Wright stated he had just reviewed that and with regards to the Idaho Right to Farm Act it was up to code. It was zoned Ag and annexed into the city.

A recess was taken from 7:43 PM to 7:45 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Michael moved to enter executive session with provisions of Idaho Code 74-206, subsection 1.a to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent (does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general). He requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. Mayor McClain excused everyone except Council members, Andrew Wright and Karen Drown. Executive session was entered at 7:46 PM. Michael moved to adjourn Executive Session. Marla seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed. Executive Session adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Consideration of Appointment of City Planning & Zoning Clerk: Marla moved to approve the appointment of Jazmine Mills as the Planning and Zoning Clerk. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Michael Higbee moved that the meeting be adjourned; Marla Sisson seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk