

CITY COUNCIL WORKING SESSION

FEBRUARY 22, 2021

203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Michael Higbee	Council President	Regie Finney	Public Works Director
Pam McClain	Council Member	Autumn Jones	Assistant Clerk/Treasurer
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Scott Bybee	City Engineer
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Concerned Citizens	
Karen Drown	Clerk		

Because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic Buhl City Council made this meeting available telephonically.

PUBLIC HEARING opened at 6:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

Michael moved to amend the agenda and add an update from Southern Idaho Tourism which is not an action item, he requested a roll call vote. Sue seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Pam asked if Scott would present to Council the application for the RENY (Middleton Subdivision. Scott informed Council this was a three-lot subdivision north of 4225 North, just north of the Old Farm Subdivision. Planning and Zoning has heard and approved. There are some needs with water rights that need to be worked out before the city is comfortable in signing off and sending it to Twin Falls County. He noted each lot was 1 acre which is big enough for a well and septic so they won't be connecting to city services.

Pam asked for testimony regarding the application.

Jennifer Schoth, Buhl, Idaho stated she owned the lavender farm to the west of the proposed subdivision and she had concerns about the water issue because the water for her property comes through the subdivision. Scott explained the owners of the subdivision will need to pipe or relocate the ditch but they still have to provide water to all users.

Jim Renaldi, Buhl, Idaho asked if any covenants where on the subdivision. Scott stated none had been filed with the city but they can with the county.

Pam closed the hearing at 6:07 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of February 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting
2. Bi-Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Clerk Report
4. Treasurer Report

Kelly Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda. Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Update from Southern Idaho Tourism: Melissa Berry with Southern Idaho Tourism presented her annual update to Council. She noted the previous year had been interesting and hospitality was hit very hard. Hotels were down about 80% but a positive the local region was only down 1.6%. She reviewed a number of areas they have been working on promoting such as Box Canyon and Balanced Rock and Buhl is a hub for a number of them in the area. With COVID they did a virtual fam tours and webinars for local businesses. She stated they are not seeing a slow down in outdoor recreation but COVID fears are still out there.

Review and Consideration of Public Hearing Testimony of Subdivision Application: Scott recommend the subdivision be approved but not allowed to go to the county until the water situation is resolved to the city's satisfaction. Michael moved to approve the RENY (Middleton) Subdivision but it not go to the county until the water rights are figured out. Kelly seconded the motion. Michael asked about the covenants that were questioned in the public hearing. Scott explained the city encourages covenants but does not require them and in lieu of covenants the city code dictates. Scott also added that if covenants are set, they must be recorded with the county, but they are not enforced by the city, they have to be enforced by a home owners association. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Awarding of Bid for 2021 ICDBG Sewer and Water Line Construction Project: Scott stated the city had been awarded \$454,800 from the Department of Commerce. The project had bid 2 weeks ago and two bids had been received. Scott was recommending a bid for \$950,000.00 to the lowest bidder. The project would be reviewed and the lowest priority lines would be removed to bring project down in cost. Scott noted it is much easier to make a project smaller than bigger. Scott informed Council that Walton, Inc. was the low bidder and the other bid came from Idaho Materials and Construction. Scott was recommending approval to send to Department of Commerce. Michael moved to approve and send back a contract not to exceed \$950,000.00 and notify the Department of Commerce. Sue seconded the motion. There was discussion of the actual awarding of the bid and Scott noted they were missing the price for two pipe sizes, but it would be coming back to Council after the Department of Commerce has approved. Pam asked if the businesses along Burley had been notified. Regie stated there was preliminary notification but nothing set until a closer date is finalized. Michael also noted this was the third grant from the Department of Commerce since he has been on the Council which total about \$1.5 million between them. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Council Concerns – There were none.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Sue Gabardi moved that the meeting be adjourned; Kelly Peterson seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk