

CITY COUNCIL WORKING MEETING

MARCH 13, 2023
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Jason Scott	Street Department Lead
Kelly Peterson by ZOOM	Council Member	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Amanda Hawkins	Council Member	Jazmine Mills	Planning and Zoning Clerk
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 December 12, 2022 – Working Meeting
2. Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Monthly Department Head Reports
4. Commission Minutes
5. Clerk Report
6. Treasurer Report

Michael Higbee moved to approve the consent agenda. Marla Sisson seconded the motion. Amanda questioned the incident at the police station. Chief Engbaum stated it fell between reports and that is why it was not included in the monthly report. He stated it was a gentleman that wanted to go to jail. Karen also noted no systems or documents were accessed. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

ENGINEER REPORT

Scott Bybee presented a map showing the proposed projects for this summer of both the city and URA. Those included water, sewer, curb, gutter, sidewalk and street repair. He noted Harvest Hills will be starting later this month and hopefully have pavement by the end of April. The URA is looking at holding a walkabout downtown for a possible URA #3 to include options for parking, curb, gutter and lighting. Scott also explained the work beginning done on Burley Ave with the old drainage system he added that URA is helping with some of that as the water

being handled comes from the URA area. He added all this work is in preparation for the full Burley Ave rebuild project. He informed Council a company had come in and videoed to the sewer line at the library. The video showed a slip lining process would be possible and would not require replacing the whole line through the library floor. He noted he is still working with DEQ on the rulemaking for wastewater but feels any changes are a ways out. He also updated Council on conversations he has had with several individuals about the planning process but they are retired and not interested. Karen also noted they had a meeting with Jerome Map who provided some ideas. She also informed Council that her and Jazmine had a meeting scheduled with Region IV Development

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Continued Discussion of city's options for fire services: Autumn summarized the findings she had for the state tax commission and that in a true annexation the city sales tax amount would not go down and the district would see about \$500 per quarter or an additional \$2,000 per year. The state tax commission ran the number for the affects of an annexation and if it had been done before HB 389 the district would receive approximately \$250,000 but sine HB 389 the district would receive approximately \$15,000.

Autumn then reviewed the spreadsheet showing the use of the proposed formula of net taxable market value of city structures only times the district levy rate and how it was equal per \$100,000 for taxpayers in the city and the district. She also reviewed what that difference has been based on the current contributions. Finally, she showed the affect of using that formula for the previous years would have been for all taxpayers. It showed both city and district taxpayers would have paid the exact same rate per \$100,000 of structures only.

She then reviewed the potential contract using the formula numbers and the figures from the districts last completed audit. This showed the district could hold the contract and fund the department with a remaining excess revenue over expenditures of approximately \$220,000. That excess could be used for hiring and admin clerk, additional operating and maintenance, funding union negotiations and capital projects.

Autumn also informed Council that depending on how the fire district was formed there could be the option to change and start taxing land. She explained that would not increase the amount they levy it would just spread it out differently across the district taxpayers. She also noted that with the meeting with the Twin Falls County officials it was noted the year 1993 when the district was formed is missing for the county records. Karen noted it was also stated at that meeting there was several \$100,000 left on the table because the district's clerk at the time didn't want to go back through the process to correct the numbers on the L-2 form for a several years.

Karen also updated Council on information she had received concerning health insurance coverage regarding the union negotiations. She stated after a recent discussion with the city's insurance broker if the union offered insurance coverage to the members it could jeopardize the

coverage the city currently has because the city is a small group plan there cannot be more than one policy offered. It was also discussed that if the eight fire department employees were removed from the city plan through a contract with the district then potentially the premium amount for the city could see a 10%-15% increase because the risk of the city has less to spread out over.

There was a discussion about the amount of money left on the table and the amount after expenses and the pros and cons of this contract. Mayor McClain stated that at this time Karen and Autumn had researched the questioned from the last special joint meeting and have provided those answers. She added they have reached the end of the research.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of Local, Buhl School Sidewalk, Buhl (TAP 1) Local Professional Agreement with HMM, LLC: Michael moved to approve the professional agreement with HMM, LLC for the Local, Buhl School Sidewalk, Buhl (TAP 1). Amanda seconded the motion. There was no discussion, but it was noted it will be nice when it is done. The motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Local, Buhl School Pedestrian Pathway, PH 2 (TAP 2) Local Profession Agreement with HMM, LLC: Marla moved to approve the professional agreement with HMM, LLC for Local, Buhl School Pedestrian Pathway, PH 2 (TAP 2). Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Review and Consideration of Week of the Young Child Proclamation: Michael moved to approve the Proclamation setting April 1-7, 2023, The Week of the Young Child in Buhl. Marla seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed. Mayor McClain read the proclamation into the record.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Karen informed Council that the prior week Buhl's water superintendent AJ Grey had attended the Idaho Rural Water Conference and entered Buhl's water into the Great American Water Taste Off contest. Buhl took third in the state with Hollister taking first and Rogerson taking second. She noted all three systems are managed by AJ.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: David McClain gave some history on the formation of the rural fire district. When it was first formed a Idaho House Bill was passed to allow the formations of district such as this. The first year they borrowed money from the bank to run the district. He noted that Buhl determined they didn't need to tax bare land in that process.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Marla Sisson moved that the meeting be adjourned; Amanda Hawkins seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk