

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 14, 2022
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Regie Finney	Public Works
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Amanda Hawkins	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Marla Sisson	Council Member	Reba Puente	Library Director
Karen Drown	Clerk	Concerned Citizens	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of February 28, 2022 – Regular 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. There was discussion and the motion passed.

MONTHLY CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Scott noted that URA would be meeting on Wednesday at 10:15 am and Planning and Zoning would meet at 10:30 am. He noted Sagecrest is working on finalizing their permit from the State of Idaho for the care center. Scott and Regie have been discussing the next ICDBG application project. The URA is discussing considering a third project area downtown to address parking concerns. There was a discussion about the projects that affect Fair Street and Williams Street. Amanda asked if plans for those projects could be emailed to see the layout. Scott also noted that Burley Ave will be patched as soon as weather is permitting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation and Review of Summer Serve Program: Bill Deburin with Twin Falls Reform Church and the Summer Serve program provided a video presentation about the Summer Serve program and event. He explained after the video they had discussed several areas within the City of Buhl and their group and decided they would like to take on 14th Ave N this year. This area allowed for parking as they have a couple hundred people come out the day of the event to work. There is some pre-event planning but most of the work is done starting early on a Saturday morning. They will work with the city on safety and traffic control. They will be contacting the residents of that area before the event to see what they are in need of for their properties. They are planning on June 11th for the event and lunch will be provided for the volunteers and dinner for the volunteers and the residents. Bill noted they do fund raising through their congregation and leverage local sponsors for supplies. It was asked if it is all of 14th Ave N and Bill noted it would be just between Birch Street and Fruitland Ave. Consensus of Council was very positive and thought the event was a great idea.

Review and Consideration of Co-Sponsorship of Sagebrush Days Parade with Chamber of Commerce and Review of 4th of July Weekend Activities: Rich White outlined the events that are currently being planning for the 4th of July weekend. They are hoping to include a street dance with live music, vendors and a beer garden on Saturday the 2rd. On Sunday the 3rd has a church service at McClusky Park and horseshoe tournament. And then the 4th would be the parade with the same route as previous years, vendors and beer garden in the park and fireworks. The Chamber was asking for co-sponsorship of the parade to send in application to the Idaho Transportation Department to close Highway 30. Rich explained because of the concerns last year about and entry into the parade if the chamber and the city co-sponsor the chamber cannot turn down any entries; if they didn't co-sponsor and the chamber does the parade on their own, they can say no to entries but they cannot use State Highway 30.

Michael moved to co-sponsor the parade. Marla seconded the motion. Rich also explained the chamber has discussed an entry fee for entering the parade to help cover the costs the chamber incurs for the event. There was discussion about those costs which include port-a-pots and the chamber insurance to cover their events. Kelly questioned if the city still covers half of the port-a-pots and Regie confirmed they do and also additional ones at Eastman Park. There was further discussion of the events from the 2021 parade including the entry of the Proud Boys and events that followed, Michael noted that having the float right behind the color guard was distasteful and he had residents contacting him before he even got home. Kelly noted that everybody offends someone, he stated he doesn't agree with Democrats on abortion; but if we start with these guys then who is next, he added it is a slippery slope. He added he is not defending anyone but everyone has the right to congregate. There was additional discussion about the closing of

Highway 30 and what other options would be if it had to remain on city streets. Chief Engbaun noted it could even cross Highway 30 because it would close the street longer than 30 minutes. There was a vote on the motion with Marla, Amanda and Kelly voting yes and Michael voting no. The motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Library Board Appointment: Michael moved to appoint Mavis Easterday to the Library Board. Marla seconded the motion. Marla noted she would be a great addition to the board. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Arbor Day Proclamation: Michael moved to approve Mayor McClain to sign the Arbor Day Proclamation. Kelly seconded the motion. Karen noted a tree would be planted in April to celebrate. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of ICDBG Closeout Package: Scott detailed the work done in the Idaho Community Development Block Grant project. He stated the project did come in over budget and due to design changes, that benefited the project but the city won't have to go back in 10-15 years to change, he also noted there was additional rock. The project ran over time and the snow storm hit and he couldn't get out and measure what was needed to close out his portion. Once the final package is submitted to the Department of Commerce about 30 days, they will release the 5% of funds they have been retaining during the project. Scott detailed the payment request before Council which was \$335,827.02 of which the URA has paid \$152,969.95 leaving \$182,857.07 left for the City of Buhl. Michael moved to approve the closeout and payment of \$182,857.07; Marla seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Highway 30 Project Bids: Aaron Wert with HMH Engineering presented to Council the bids received for the Highway 30 project that were opened March 4, 2022. IMC bid \$398,168.00 and Kleopfer bid \$340,086.14 which made them the low bidder. Michael moved to approve the bid to Kleopfer for \$340,086.14. Marla seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Highway 30 Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for Scope of Services: Regie explained this agreement was for the inspector and administration of the project because it is a state highway. Aaron noted that HMH Engineering is certified to Idaho Transportation Department Specifications. There was discussion about this project and the traffic in the area along with Williams Street. Regie stated he is working with Aaron to look at Williams for a stop light. Marla moved to approve Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for Scope of Services. Amanda seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Discussion of JMA Figures and Information from Joint Meeting: Autumn presented figures she had calculated based on the numbers presented from the rural fire district and the special

meeting. She noted she broke it down because the city budgets capital and operating and maintenance separately where as the district looked at it together. She noted that both option 1 and 2 for capital both have shortfalls. Michael noted the money proposed from the district for the station isn't possible. He added the district still came and asked for more even after the city has said we are funding more. It was asked why would we go out and spend \$4 Million without going to the voters.

Michael had a statement he had prepared concerning this topic he put together after the special joint meeting. He stated it is hard to watch the goal posts move over and over again with the district from working with them on the fire truck to hiring a chief to the consulting services. The district is not being held accountable like the city is.

Autumn noted the city has not received a copy of the fire districts 2020-2021 audit yet; we received the 2019-2020 audit in January of 2021. Pam requested Autumn email Mike Ruffing requesting the audit. Pam also suggested having some town hall meetings on this topic to discuss the concerns with the community. It was noted the next joint meeting is April 18th at 6:30 pm.

Kelly agreed with Michael and added we can't keep going the way we are going. People are making life changing decisions on where to spend their money. He noted the district has an agenda that doesn't include the city and he hasn't seen anything to change his opinion one bit. He felt we need to look and either going with the Joint Management Agreement with modifications or consider splitting. From what he can see the district wants the city to fund the building with the proposal they provided.

Michael continued by stating the chairman of the district has stated annexation was the best option up until six months ago and it was the district clerk that firmly stated that annexation is off the table now. Over the years the district has said we need to do things together and then the city finds out the district is doing things on their own, including purchasing vehicles. He added it is said the city couldn't help with the ambulance and he clarified the city did help and went out and found a grant to cover the city half. He also noted the district has a savings that is limiting their levy rate and the only way to spend on expenses is to have city pay for it. From looking at the figures presented by Autumn the quint that was purchased 50/50 should have been 27% city and 72% district to have it fair but the city agreed to try and smooth things over. He also noted frustration with the pitch that, if the city doesn't fund the way the district wants then the city doesn't want a good fire department. He concluded with the department does have a good staff and equipment which is crowded. He is frustrated at all of this and when the city has to file a request to get minutes from our partners. He doesn't want to give up.

COUNCIL CONCERNS: Amanda asked if contact was made with the owner of 816 Broadway. Karen noted a certified letter was sent to both the owner and renter informing them a

hearing was scheduled for Monday, March 28th at 6:30. At this point not response has been received.

Amanda asked about the creating of the community service department. Karen explained that before it was created expenses and revenue were scattered between the police, admin and public works budgets to clean up that process the department was created. Michael stated city council voted to create the fund to track expenses. Michael asked if there was a problem since this had come up several times. Amanda asked a question about parking and how that was enforced. Chief Engbaum stated that Rick Brook usually makes the contact and if he cannot get compliance then Rick comes to the police department and signs a citation that the police then serve. Chief Engbaum noted that his department is handling a murder case and parking is on the back burner. Michael noted that if there are concerns, they can be brought up and discussed and Pam would administer that to city staff.

Amanda asked if there is an Easter Egg Hunt scheduled. Rich White said it is scheduled for April 16th with the kids parade right before. Karen added the parade is coordinated between the library and the school. Rich concluded that there is still a chamber they have just been struggling the last year.

CITIZENS CONCERNS:

MEETING ADJOURNED – Michael Higbee moved that the meeting be adjourned; Amanda Hawkins seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk