

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 23, 2020
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

In Council Chambers

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Karen Drown	Clerk
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By Telephone

Michael Higbee	Council President	Regie Finney	Public Works Director
Pam McClain	Council Member	Teresa Robbins	Planning and Zoning Clerk
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Autumn Jones	Billing Clerk
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Andrew Wright	City Attorney	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Elizabeth Barker	Treasurer		

Because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic Buhl City Council held this meeting telephonically. Mayor McCauley outlined the process he was going to use to allow Council members a chance to have a turn at making motions and discussion. He added that all votes on the motions would be done by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING called to order at 6:04 PM

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

Mayor McCauley asked if there was anyone in attendance to testify for the public hearing to amend the 2019-2020 Fiscal Budget. He noted no one was in attendance for the public hearing

Mayor McCauley closed the public hearing at 6:05PM

WORKING SESSION called to order at 6:05 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of March 9, 2020 – Regular Meeting
2. Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Clerk Report
4. Treasurer Report

Pam McClain moved to approve the consent agenda. Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all council members voting yes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of Idaho Department of Transportation Weights & Measures: Regie presented information about the request to allow the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) access to 11th Ave S to setup a roving scale. He explained that signs would be placed on Burley Ave directing traffic down 11th Ave S then onto Burke then onto 12th Ave S which would then drop them back to Burley Ave. During the time of the roving scale 11th Ave S would be closed to other traffic. Pam moved to close 11th Ave S to allow roving scale to check truck traffic using Burley Ave. Michael seconded the motion. There was discussion about the businesses on 11th Ave S. Regie stated Sunset Bowl had access off of Burley and he had spoken to Hopkins Electric about the possibility of a closure. Regie also answered the question that 11th will only be closed when scale in is operation. He added signage would be on Burley Ave provided by ITD and removed when scale is closed. Further discussion informed council that both East and West bound traffic would be routed off Burley and make the detour loop. It was also noted the road would need to be fully closed to allow safety of the scale operators and truck drivers. There was a vote on the motion to close 11th Ave S for ITD's request and all council members voted yes.

Review and Consideration of Amended Appropriations Ordinance: All members of the City Council having been furnished a copy of the proposed Ordinance No. 998 and being fully apprised of the content and purpose of said Ordinance, Pam moved that the provisions of Idaho Code Section 50-902 which require that said Ordinance be read on three (3) different days, two (2) readings by Title only and one (1) reading which shall be in full, be dispensed with and that said Ordinance be pass upon one (1) reading by title only. Pam requested a roll call vote on the motion. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Pam voted yes, Michael voted yes, Sue voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Pam moved to approve Ordinance No 998, amending the 2019-2020 Fiscal Budget. Michael seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. Pam voted yes, Michael voted yes, Sue voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Discussion of Emergency Declaration: Mayor McCauley began the discussion stating that he had reviewed the sample declaration provided by the Association of Idaho Cities. Andrew Wright had also been reviewing and drafting in advance of passing it. Mayor McCauley asked all council members if they had any question regarding the declaration. Pam stated she had watched

the meeting earlier for the City of Twin Falls regarding them passing their emergency declaration. She noted she felt there needed to be communication from city staff to determine the timing of the declaration. Michael questioned what passing the declaration would do for the city and how does it affect our area. Sue asked what towns around us were doing and would like direction from department heads based on the information they had currently. Kelly questioned if the declaration provided different availability to funds and if it set into place any enforcement and different levels of enforcement.

Andrew Stevens explained the declaration did have potential to get funds from the federal and state levels. He explained that with the demographics of Buhl with low income and elderly and the travel of many between Buhl and Twin Falls the potential is there to get cases in Buhl. Jeremy Engbaum stated that he is currently looking at acquiring protective equipment for his staff. He also noted the police had made changes in responding to EMS calls. Andrew added that vendors are out of equipment and all agencies are reporting supplies to the state to track amounts throughout the state.

Andrew Wright noted there was potential for reimbursements and didn't see a down side to passing the resolution. He added if a need for more restrictions was needed then an additional resolution would need to be considered. Michael questioned if it changed anything done by administration. There was a discussion the declaration could help if additional temporary healthcare facilities would be needed in Buhl. Andrew noted that overtime would be tracked and could be reimbursed. Sue asked if it would help provide extra equipment for fire, EMS and police staff. Kelly noted that the coverage of overtime wages was good news, his concerns was imposing on people's rights. Mayor McCauley stated the declaration is separate from any action to control residents.

Mayor McCauley stated the declaration would be ready on Tuesday. If at such time he felt it needed to be in place he would declare an emergency and a special meeting would need to be held within seven days.

No action was taken at the current time.

COUNCIL CONCERNS: Michael asked if there were updates from the staff since the department head meeting he attended.

Administration: Karen noted the changes that had been put into place regarding customer contact, including rubber gloves to handle all payments and having customers use the plexiglass payment window to provide a more solid barrier. Information would be going up on the city website and Facebook pages in the coming days.

Public Works: Regie noted that his crews are continuing on the projects that were in process. He is asking for crews to follow guidelines for social distancing and washing hands. He is also providing hand sanitizer.

Police: Jeremy stated they have closed the office down and trying to handle citizen's concerns through the smaller window if possible. Officers are still handling calls but pulling back from the EMS calls that they would normally go to. Also fingerprinting for citizens has been discontinued until further notice.

Fire: Andrew stated they are working closely with South Central District Health on any updates. Dispatch personnel are gathering more information from callers about any symptoms so that staff are informed before arriving on scene. His staff is also working on fit testing more staff for the personal protective equipment.

Mayor McCauley added there will be articles in the Buhl Herald over the coming weeks and also provided on the website and Facebook pages. He wanted to thank Dr. Michael Higbee and Dr. Bryan Mason for the information and guidance through all the information regarding COVID-19.

Mayor McCauley also wanted to make council aware sad news the city clerk for the City of Castleford passed away unexpectedly the prior week. He stated Karen had been out to Castleford that morning to help answer questions and guide their mayor and staff through some information. He added the Buhl administrative staff were offering help from all fronts including Teresa helping take minutes to Elizabeth offering budget assistance and Autumn with billing questions.

Michael wanted to inform everyone that he had been contacted that day by two people at the pharmacy that had been tested in Pocatello and then sent home with paper prescription to fill. He added the test results would take at least four days to get back.

Mayor McCauley also noted as of noon today the library is closed until further notice.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor McCauley noted there was no need to have an executive session.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Pam McClain moved that the meeting be adjourned and asked everyone to stay healthy; Michael Higbee seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk