

CITY COUNCIL WORKING MEETING

MARCH 25, 2024
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Kelly Peterson by Zoom	Council Member	Jason Scott	Public Works Director
Marla Sisson	Council Member	Maegan Hanson	Library Director
Karen Drown	Clerk	Concerned Citizens	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of March 11, 2024 – Regular Session
2. Claims for Payment
3. Clerk Report
4. Treasurer Report

Marla moved to approve the consent agenda. Michael seconded the motion. Michael questioned the utility comparisons worksheets that had been included in the treasurer report. Autumn noted they are right on track to where it was budgeted. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote. Michael voted yes, Marla voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of TRIBE Color Run Proposal: Marla moved to approved the TRIBE color run for May 4th. Michael seconded the motion. It was noted there might be a possible new route using the walking path. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote. Kelly voted yes, Marla voted yes and noted she is the secretary of the TRIBE organization, and Michael voted yes. The motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Week of the Young Child Proclamation: Marla moved to approve the Week of the Young Child Proclamation. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion. There was a roll call vote. Marla voted yes, Kelly voted yes, and Michael voted yes. The motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Railroad Right-of-Way Closure: Jason presented to Council the closing of the railroad crossing on 12th Ave S. He stated it cannot be repaired and there are safety issues with Wilbur-Ellis's traffic. He spoke with the railroad company and they have no problem closing it. Karen noted when Andrew Wright reviewed this, he noted this would be a closure of the right-of-way across the tracks but it is not vacating the right-of-way. Michael questioned if EMS used it; it was noted they go down Main to Burley for that side of town. Marla moved to approve the closure. Kelly seconded the motion. It was noted Wilbur-Ellis does not use the crossing; and the previous closure was only done with a barricade on the directional traffic side of the tracks. This would be jersey rails completely across the road. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote. Michael voted yes, Marla voted yes, and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Calendar: Michael moved to approve the tentative 2024-2025 budget calendar. Marla seconded the motion. It was discussed Council Members available dates for the scheduled meetings to insure a quorum. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote. Kelly voted yes, Marla voted yes, and Michael voted yes. The motion passed.

Review and Consideration of 2023 Pool Season Roundup: Autumn explained the revenue loss for the 2022 pool season was \$54,758.04 and for 2023 it was \$63,133.86. She reviewed the daily expenses versus daily revenues. Michael noted for every day we were open we lost more money per day. He added salaries went up 46%, equipment went up 36% but chemicals went down 18%. Autumn noted the pool manager will be coming back for her third year as manager and fourth total. Autumn stated it would require a 402% increase to break even. Michael noted he doesn't want to be in a situation like Caldwell where their pool isn't open at all. It was noted this will never be zeroed out; but Autumn added the city shouldn't continue losing exponentially year after year. Marla agreed with prior conversations that we needed to pay lifeguards more but can't continue to lose money. Kelly agreed we can't keep hemorrhaging city money and say that it is what you get for living here. Michael suggested an increase to \$3.00 for children and \$5.00 for adults which would be 150% increase. Staff would look at cost for candy, soda and ice cream. There was a discussion about promoting the pool season through every avenue the city can. Marla noted she would consider 150% or even 200%. Mayor McClain noted Council needs to bite the bullet and make the tough decision. Kelly agreed with the 150% increase. Michael moved to increase the pool usage fees by 50%. Marla seconded the motion. Kelly discussed the margin of profit on snow cones was 80% to 90%. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote. Kelly voted yes, Marla voted yes, and Michael voted yes.

Review and Consideration of Library's Request for City Pool use for Summer Reading Program:

Maegan Hanson, Library Director, presented a request for exclusive use of the pool on July 31st for an incentive for the summer reading program. Marla noted it is a great incentive. Maegan noted the end of program usually has about 84 attendees. Michael moved to approve the use of the pool for the library. Marla seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Update on Public Works Projects – Sanitation, Arsenic Filter Rehab:

Sanitation: Jason stated he thought we should proceed with the sanitation RFP. Autumn noted the questions proposed last time with be answered in the proposals. Jason noted we have advertised a street/sanitation position and suggested still having a sanitation staff and budget even if we contract for one person. Michael noted looking in five years it will hard to go back to what we have now. Autumn noted the current funds and revenue from surplusing would be moved into a restricted reserve fund and invested if ever needed. Jason added the city staff could be absorbed into other departments. Marla stated she thought it was a good idea to move forward.

Arsenic Filter Rehab: Jason stated he has signed a quote to rehab filters with a new air-wash grid. They are also discussion with Corona a third-party company to do a system analysis. Michael questioned from the tour a couple years ago it was stated the filters were not even being used. Jason noted we are running right at a level close to the limit and needs to be repaired. Jason also noted there are leaks in the chemical room that needs some work for safety issues. Engineers are designing a chlorination system to allow for that work to be done.

Review and Consideration of Clearwater Financial Addendum #2 to Master Service Agreement for Sanitation Services Scope of Work: Marla moved to approve Addendum #2 with Clearwater Financial. Kelly seconded the motion. Michael questioned if the money to pay for this was in the sanitation budget and Autumn confirmed the money in the sanitation budget. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS: Mayor McClain read a statement.

We need to make sure that we comply with the law with regards to employee privacy issues. If a member of City Council would like to discuss any issues pertaining to complaints, discipline, etc. of a city employee, those will first need to be discussed with the mayor, who is the chief city administrator per Idaho Code 50-602. After review of the complaint, discipline, etc. if it needs to go before City Council it will be listed under an executive session on the upcoming meeting agenda.

Kelly said he had comments but he would hold them until he was at the meeting in person next time.

Michael stated a concern from the last meeting that during citizen comments, Jon Thomsen brought up a topic that was only discussed in executive session.

Mayor McClain noted an upcoming meeting with Wilbur-Ellis and she will be discussing the weeds, cleanup and Hyster traffic with the president of the company.

Mayor McClain also stated that Councilwoman Amanda Hawkins had contacted a former employee and asked what was needed in the water department. Mayor McClain wants Amanda to inform the rest of the Council was she was told.

Kelly added his concerns are the same as Michael's

MEETING ADJOURNED – Marla Sisson moved that the meeting be adjourned; Michael Higbee seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All vote aye. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk