

CITY COUNCIL WORKING MEETING

MARCH 23, 2023
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain by Zoom	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Jason Scott	Public Works Director
Kelly Peterson by Zoom	Council Member	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Amanda Hawkins	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Marla Sisson	Council Member	Concerned Citizens	
Karen Drown	Clerk		

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McClain asked for the applicant to make a statement. Justin Cleverly stated the request was to annex his property into the City of Buhl, to connect to city services to build a new clinic. He explained he would have to put in a pump station to pump waste up to city sewer.

Mayor McClain asked if there was any testimony in support of the application. There was none.

Mayor McClain asked if there was any testimony against the application. There was none.

Mayor McClain asked if there was any testimony neutral for the application. There was none.

Hearing was closed at 6:33 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of March 13, 2023 – Regular Meeting
2. Bi- Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Clerk Report
4. Treasurer Report

Michael Higbee moved to approve the consent agenda. Marla Sisson seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of Public Testimony of Annexation and Ordinance: Michael moved to approve the annexation for Justin Cleverly. Amanda seconded the motion. Michael clarified the exact location of the property. Kelly clarified the city services that would be connected. Jazmine Mills stated it is .38 of an acre so it is required to connect to services. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

All members of the City Council having been furnished a copy of the proposed Ordinance No. 1019 and being fully apprised of the content and purpose of said Ordinance, Michael 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 passed upon one (1) reading by title only. Michael requested a roll call vote on the motion. Marla seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes, and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Michael moved to pass Ordinance No. 1019 annexing property at 720 Highway 30. Marla seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Fire Department Negotiation Points: Michael stated he had several different strategies, most of the equipment the city has got our value out of except the quint. He proposed a transfer to the district. It was questioned if it was transferred then insurance would need to transfer. He stated the money that had been saved for future fire equipment should be transferred to the district but want to use to protect of the citizens of Buhl. He also commented on the need to use the building and there are continuing costs with some being one time verses ongoing expenses. Marla agreed with the \$300,000 transferring but consideration that it is not spent until it is determined this agreement will continue. There was a conversation about the option to keep the titles for one year and then look at transferring. Mayor McClain stated we need to look at a good faith effort. Michael also noted that Teresa couldn't have said it better at the last meeting that it is always being asked what more the city can do for the fire department. There was a discussion about including an amortization schedule for the money that would be transferred. Michael also commented on rent for the station and include utilities in the cost of rent, which could be discussed with a realtor. Karen noted the cost of two commercial properties that she had seen posted and detailed the price of rent. Kelly stated if the city is paying the annual budget contribution and then not charging rent then the citizens of Buhl are still over paying. It was considered to payout the \$300,000 over term of a contract with a portion at a time to help guarantee the city funds. It was noted the district has never ran a department like this

which could present some challenges. There was a discussion with Andrew Wright about the option to consider a longer term contract than one year. He questioned if a longer contract might be better to allow for management to be worked out. Andrew Stevens stated the city could still hold titles for the equipment.

Michael moved to send to the district the request for a 3 to 5 year contract and the city retain ownership for at least 10 years. It would include \$2500.00 per month rent which would include utilities and maintenance. The \$300,000 and \$50,000 (1/2 of the \$100,000 required Joint Fire fund balance) transfer the total and a security to return if the contract fell through. Marla seconded the motion.

Michael stated he didn't want to turn over ownership of the quint as he wants to protect that investment. There was a discussion about the contract between the City of Twin Falls and Twin Falls Rural Fire District. Karen noted she had it and could email it out that night. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

There was discussion regarding employee benefits including the balances in their PTO, Comp time and holiday banks. Consensus of the Council would be to look at transferring those balances to the new district payroll.

It was also noted the excess at the end of fiscal year 2022-2023 would be split and returned to each entity as it was contributed. The current year would be separate from the new contract.

Review and Consideration of Child Abuse Proclamation: Marla moved to adopt the Child Abuse Proclamation. Amanda seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Arbor Day Proclamation: Marla moved to adopt the Arbor Day Proclamation. Michael seconded the motion. Kelly questioned what day had been selected to observe; Karen noted Thursday, April 20th had been selected. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Amanda questioned how the property clean-ups had been going. She had noticed a couple that had become worse. Karen noted if anything was noticed to send and email to Jason and Karen.

Amanda asked if anything further had been discussed about an employee engagement survey. Karen stated she had been looking into some ideas for employee retention to discuss during budget discussions but nothing had been done with a survey. Michael noted he would like to hold a pool party for employees.

Marla questioned what was happening at Main and Clear Lakes Road. Jason Scott noted the natural gas company had a substation there that they were working on.

Marla also noted she would like to look at the cost of getting dogs back. She had seen a number of comments on social media about dogs running at large. It was also noted that each time the city transfers a dog to the animal shelter it costs the city \$58.00. It was also clarified that the shelter cannot refuse a dog that we have held for the required number of days.

Brent Reinke noted that today in Boise Governor Little had vetoed the property tax bill. So, they will be in session a little longer as they really want to pass something.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Kelly Peterson moved that the meeting be adjourned; Marla Sisson seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk