

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

APRIL 9, 2018
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Karen Drown	Clerk
Michael Higbee	Council President	Regie Finney	Public Works Director
Pam McClain	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Kyle Hauser	Council Member	Eric Foster	Police Chief
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Cynthia Toppen	Library Director
Andrew Wright	City Attorney	Scott Bybee	City Engineer
Elizabeth Barker	Treasurer	Concerned Citizens	

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 7:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ... Minutes of March 26, 2018: Kyle Hauser moved to approve the minutes; Pam McClain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Monthly Claims for Payment: Pam McClain moved to approve the monthly claims for payment; Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Monthly Reports: Pam McClain moved to approve the monthly department head reports; Kyle Hauser seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Clerk/Treasurer Report: Pam McClain moved to approve the clerk/treasurer report; Kyle Hauser seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Monthly Report: Scott updated Council on the URA sewer project in area #1. He explained the project is currently under budget by \$120,000.00. They are looking at adding several areas to use that money but they have to have the Department of Commerce approval to do that. He added the savings came from the bid coming in under projected figures, there had been no big issues and on previous projects there had been a full time inspector which Regie has been doing that job.

The second part of the project on Elm Street also continues with clean up and reforming the street. In the future a pavement overlay will be going down. Scott noted this project is also under budget.

Scott updated on Council and a number of Commercial projects. Those include North Canyon Medical Clinic, St. Luke's Clinic, and the recent project of a new building and gas pumps at Oasis at the corner of Highway 30 and Clear Lakes Road.

New home applications continue to come in and inquires on a couple of other possible subdivisions have been considered.

He added that there had been several RFI in regards into the Seneca facility but had not heard anything back on. Mayor McCauley and Scott also informed Council there had been a company based out of Australia considering property in Buhl. Mayor McCauley noted they manufacture parts for mining equipment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update from Southern Idaho Tourism: Melissa Berry presented to Council the annual figures for tourism in the state and Magic Valley region. She noted that numbers were down for the winter because of low snow levels. She updated Council on a new brochure for Buhl and also the welcome signs that had been approved several months before which should be in place by October. She added that they had redone their website to make is easier for visitors to navigate and that a new video had been done of a loop through the state with Buhl being a part of that. The video will be available in several languages.

Discussion of Insurance Comparison: There was an update that Blue Cross would allow a renewal date of September which Mary Comer had stated previously they would not allow. There was discussion about a plan that the school district has through North Canyon Medical Clinic but the plan is only available through their agent. Mayor McCauley stated he had spoken with Tim Powers with North Canyon Medical and questioned the plan but also informed him that we were not shopping for a different agent. Mayor McCauley asked Council if this was something that they would like to have their agent come and make a presentation on their options that are available. Michael explained the health insurance market from his angle at the pharmacy and noted the reasons why these different plans can be offered. Consensus of Council was they would like to see a presentation from North Canyon Medical Clinic at an upcoming meeting.

Budget Discussion – Council Direction to Department Heads: Kyle began the discussion in stating he would like to see better areas for walking traffic on Main Street. Pam noted she would like to have more requirements for new subdivisions on curb, gutter and sidewalks in new developments. Scott stated the current code requires curb, gutter and 5' sidewalks. There was further discussion about the older areas of town where the curb and sidewalks are bad and the options available to improve those areas. It was noted that the curb is the city's responsibility and

the sidewalk is the homeowners. Mayor McCauley noted that another area that needs to be looked at is bottle necks in traffic with the increase in residents.

Michael noted several areas that he still believes need to be looked at are in Fire the purchase of a quint and in police more presence in the schools with a resource officer. In public works he stated more employees to help with projects.

Department heads were asked if there was anything that they see in their departments that Council is not seeing. Chief Foster noted communications will need to be looked at because the radios that are currently being used are getting old and new ones are running about \$5000.00 per hand held. He would also like to look into having Tasers again. Regie would like to look seriously at getting entry level personnel and train them up because he will have several leaving in the next 1 to 4 years. Cynthia stated the library will need to look at expanding because of the growth and the only direction the library can go it to the West which is Grannies Drawers. Chief Stevens noted the fire department will need to look at expansion and it needs to be centrally located. He also stated that are now carrying Nar can to deal with overdoses. He also stated he needs to find more EMT volunteers because of the aging population of the current ones.

COUNCIL CONCERNS – There was none.

CITIZENS CONCERNS – Cynthia commented she had seen an article about a memorial for police dogs killed in the line of duty was looking for a home where there could also be a park.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Kyle Hauser moved that the meeting be adjourned; Pam McClain seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk