

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

MAY 11, 2020
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Karen Drown	Clerk
Michael Higbee	Council President	Elizabeth Barker	Treasurer
Pam McClain	Council Member	Regie Finney	Public Works Director
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Scott Bybee	City Engineer
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Autumn Jones	Billing Clerk
Andrew Wright	City Attorney	Concerned Citizens	

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 7:02 PM.

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.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of April 27, 2020 – Working Session
2. Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Monthly Department Head Report
4. Commission Minutes
5. Clerk Report
6. Treasurer Report

Pam McClain moved to approve the consent agenda. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

MONTHLY CITY ENGINEER REPORT:

Scott started with good news that the city had been awarded the ICDBG grant for \$454,000.00. He noted they were hoping to bid the project in June and have construction start in July. The grant has until October of 2021 to be finished.

Scott added that building permits have not dropped off because of COVID-19.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Consideration for the Mayor to sign Cares Act Grant for Buhl Airport: Mayor McCauley stated that because of the recent passage of the CARES Act the Buhl Municipal Airports was eligible for a \$20,000.00 grant. This grant would need to be used for on going expenses and could not be used for capital improvements.

Pam moved to approve the mayor signing the Airport CARES grant application. Michael seconded the motion. During discussion Pam asked if there was anything specific it will be used on. Mayor McCauley noted there wasn't anything specific at the time but did note that the money didn't have to be spent all in one year. Michael clarified that it could not be used for the big project that is being done at the airport. Kelly noted he had read it was good for four years and stated he appreciated it. There was a vote on the motion and all voted yes. The motion passed.

Review and Consideration for the Mayor to sign Airport Project Construction Contracts: Mayor McCauley noted that Kent Atkin with JUB was still working with Idaho Materials on the contracts and he didn't have the numbers complete for the meeting so this agenda item would not be considered at this meeting.

Discussion and Consideration of Swimming Pool Opening: Regie started by informing council that currently he didn't have enough qualified lifeguards and to get training with facilities closed has caused more issues. He also noted the new heater was ordered but parts were delayed with no certain date. Teresa outlined the process that had been started in January and February to start hiring pool staff. As of today, she noted she had one application for a pool manager, three new lifeguards and one returning lifeguard. The concern of having enough man power even if they were trained was a concern. Also, the requirements for additional training to meet CDC guidelines because of COVID-19 adds additional training. Mayor McCauley noted the city is up against deadlines for training and staffing.

Mayor McCauley asked Council members if they had questions. Pam noted the pool opening had been the number one question she had been asked the last week. Her concern is how would the information be put out so the public would know the reasons why it would not be opening, such as the heater, social distancing, and training. It was noted that Filer was opening but as a recreation district they are regulated different. Karen stated that once a decision was made notice would be put out on all social media platforms, she would also contact the Buhl Herald and give notice to the Boys and Girls Club. Michael stated he had no questions but had kind of figured

and was sad for the kids and the community. There were no further questions. Mayor McCauley also noted that this was a heartbreaking decision.

Pam moved to not open the city pool for the 2020 summer season due to lack of training and staffing, delayed heater repairs and requirements of social distancing. Michael seconded the motion. There was a vote on the motion and all voted yes. The motion passed.

It was summarized that this was a very difficult decision.

Teresa also added the CDC does not want patrons using the locker rooms for dressing and undressing. Also all surfaces would need to be cleaned regularly and the resources to meet those requirements are limited or unavailable.

Council Concerns

Kelly noted that his plans had changed and he would be attending the May 19th special meeting in person for the budget discussion.

Citizen Concerns

As a citizen Pam McClain noted that Arctic Circle had met with their corporate office and their dining room would be remaining closed until June 1st.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Pam McClain moved that the meeting be adjourned; Michael Higbee seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk