

CITY COUNCIL WORKING SESSION

MAY 24, 2021
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Assistant Clerk/Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Regie Finney	Public Works
Pam McClain	Council Member	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Reba Puente	Library Director
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Concerned Citizens	
Karen Drown	Clerk		

Because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic Buhl City Council made this meeting available telephonically. Due to technical issues the connection was lost several minutes into the meeting.

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 6:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of May 10, 2021 – Regular Meeting
2. Bi-Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Clerk Report
4. Treasurer Report

Kelly Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda. Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of Co-Sponsoring of Sagebrush Days Parade: Jeremy Engbaum, representing the Buhl Chamber of Commerce Board, presented the proposed route, which was the same and the previous years, to Council members. Pam moved to approve the co-sponsorship of the 4th of July Sagebrush Days parade for July 3rd. Sue seconded the motion. There was

discussion about the route going up around the Desert View Care Center. Jeremy explained the floats that can make the corners do that portion of the parade, those that cannot make the corners continue down Burley Ave and back to the starting area. Regie noted the ICDBG project will be working on Burley Ave at this time, he will work with the contractor to make adjustments to get the parade through. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Beer Garden at Chamber of Commerce Farmers Market at Chamber Office: Rich White with Magic Valley Brewing presented the proposed plan to hold the Saturday Farmers Market at the Chamber of Commerce Office building, which was previously on Main Street. He would also requesting to have a beer garden with the event. Michael moved to approve the Farmers Market at the chamber office with a beer garden, every Saturday from 2-6 pm. Pam seconded the motion. Karen noted a catering permit is required for this each time the beer garden is to occur. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Idaho Central Credit Union Credit Cards and Reward Program:

Karen presented information regarding the current Visa cards that the city has through Zion's bank and some concerns that have come up in the last six months. She noted the city had been approached by Idaho Central Credit Union with a program that would provide 2% cash back rewards on all purchases which from the number Karen had ran that would approximately double the rewards the city is currently getting. Pam made a motion to approve switching to the Idaho Central Credit Union Visa Program. Kelly seconded the motion. Michael asked if any of the local banks had been contacted. Karen stated they had not, Mayor McCauley added that their programs were not close to this. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Swearing in of Officer Faught: Mayor McCauley recited the official oath swearing in Officer Brent Faught.

Review and Consideration of Proposed 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget Amendment and Hearing Date:

Karen presented information regarding an amendment to the 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget. This amendment deals with Airport, Streets and Utilities. Airport was to budget revenues and expenditures for closeout of the two runway construction grants and the American Rescue Plan grant. Streets was to budget revenues and expenditures for the City of Buhl/ITD project to widen Highway 30 at the Fair Street intersection. Utilities was to budget revenues and expenditures for the installation of water and sewer lines to the National Cemetery. Karen noted this one was an estimate because the federal governments budget doesn't begin until July 1 and amending the budget again would take more time. Michael moved to approve the proposed budget amendment

and set the public hearing date for June 14, 2021. Pam seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Budget Discussion: Historical Salary Comparison: Autumn presented historical salary information comparing previous years of actual salaries budgeted to salaries spent. It also detailed the number of employees in each department for the previous ten years and the current years employees that are split between departments.

Budget Discussion: Council priorities for departments, additional staff, city facility improvements: Pam began the discussion by stating she would like to be alongside or ahead of the game when it comes to the growth we are seeing. Michael added sidewalks and trails as in previous years, he noted how good the parks were looking. He also noted we shouldn't be too liberal with our funds because costs will go up for the city also. Regie stated some of the sidewalks will have to be pushed because there is no concrete for these projects.

There was a further discussion about salaries of employees compared to the private industries and that once the city was losing employees to other cities and now it is the private companies that are competing for them. Kelly noted the housing market is not sustainable and it will either flatten or fall. He fills we need to look to the future but not to far ahead. Sue added the city has hired good employees and they are doing a good job. She asked how to we reward these people and do our darndest to keep them.

There was a general discussion about the different projects that could be coming down from planning and zoning and the economics of development.

Mayor McCauley noted there could be the potential need for a third stoplight. He added that Buhl has the infrastructure in water and wastewater to handle this growth but it all has to be worked through.

COUNCIL CONCERNS – Michael asked what the agreement was for North Park and who is responsible for what portions. Regie noted the city maintains the sprinklers but the school district does the pump and maintenance. The city does help with maintaining the parking lot. Karen noted she will send out a copy of that agreement to Council members.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Michael Higbee moved that the meeting be adjourned; Kelly Peterson seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk