

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

JUNE 8, 2020
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Regie Finney	Public Works Director
Michael Higbee	Council President	Scott Bybee	City Engineer
Pam McClain	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Reba Puente	Library Director
Elizabeth Barker	Treasurer	Autumn Jones	Billing Clerk
Karen Drown	Clerk	Concerned Citizens	

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 7:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of May 11, 2020 – Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of May 19, 2020 – Special Meeting
3. Monthly Claims for Payment
4. Monthly Department Head Reports
5. Clerk Report
6. Treasurer Report

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

MONTHLY CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Scott updated Council on the progress of the ICDBG project for completing infrastructure under Burley Ave before the rebuild of that street. The project will also have work in other parts of the town. He noted that building permits continue to be submitted and the new Sagecrest Development has begun dirt work and are working with the state on their plans. Lastly Scott noted the rate committee would be meeting next week to look at utility rates.

Mayor McCauley noted the first airport grant had come through and we are waiting on the second grant. He noted they hope to start the work in June.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update for Sagebrush Days Events: Mayor McCauley updated Council that plans are moving forward with permitting and scheduling. Michelle with the chamber is ordering extra porta-pots and hand cleaning stations. He stated he wanted Council time for any input or concerns to relay to the chamber. He added that Michelle noted that historically when the 4th of July falls on a Saturday there is a smaller crowd. Pam stated she likes to hear there will be more cleaning stations and options. There was no action taken on this item.

SIEDO Presentation and 2020-2021 Budget Request: Connie Stopher with Southern Idaho Economic Organization presented information to Council on how they have been helping businesses in the Buhl area. With the recent COVID-19 pandemic they have helped businesses with Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. They have also been holding virtual events for site selectors and getting feedback that the information the site selectors are receiving has been very helpful. Ervina Covcic also with SIEDO presented information on the work she has been doing with specific businesses in the Buhl area to help advanced their businesses or research new products. She also noted they had been doing a social media promotion for the area.

Connie then discussed the presentation of the fee structure for the upcoming year. Because there had been cancellation of events this year and the money that would have been used are being used to provide credits back to the communities that support SIEDO.

Mayor McCauley informed them the request would be considered in the budget discussions.

Review and Consideration of Firework Stand Applications: Karen noted the applications received for fireworks stands are the same applicants as previous years. Once the applications are approved by Council, they will be sent to the fire department for inspections before opening. Kare noted the one stand that has a tent setup did include a plan to address COVID-19 recommendations.

Michael moved to approved the firework stand applications. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Dr. & Mrs. Jones Agreement: Mayor McCauley informed Council that he and Scott had approached Dr. and Mrs. Jones about purchasing 15 foot of frontage of their property on Highway 30. The city would like to extend the turn lane from the Valley Co-Op

turn lane until the turn lane for Highway 46. Mayor McCauley detailed some additional information that had come up in the conversation concerning and interruption of the Jones irrigation water during the construction of the water treatment plant. At that time, there was a verbal agreement of an easement that would remove the irrigation line and they would be provided a frost-free source to replace the lost irrigation water. The problem is that was never put in a written agreement 10 years ago. Mayor McCauley also explained that during the construction and interruption the Jones had used their home service line to water the garden area. The usage for that timeframe was also used to calculate their equivalencies for the SRF and Water Bond on their utility bill. Scott had gone back and recalculated what the difference was if that additional usage had not been used in the original calculation. The difference would be paid back to Dr. and Mrs. Jones. The other portion of this discussion was the 15 feet of frontage and Dr. and Mrs. Jones had agreed to a purchase price of \$5,000.00 for that property.

Michael moved to approve \$5,000.00 for the frontage land purchase. Pam second the motion. There was a discussion about traffic flow and current and future traffic lanes in the area. There was additional conversation about the options of waiting for ITD to do the project which could be 5-7 years out. Scott noted the city intends to meet with ITD to see if they have any fund available to help with the project. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Michael moved to approve the easement on Dr. and Mrs. Jones property at 702 Highway 30. Sue seconded the motion. Karen noted the frost-free was provided 10 years ago after construction was complete and the Jones have access to that since, the large usage on their account was only for three months which was the same three months which was used to calculate the equivalencies. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Budget Discussion – General Fund Projected Revenue Allocations for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021: Elizabeth reviewed the projected reviews for the general fund. Two major impacts to those revenues what the shift in interest and investments are now being split with the other departments for whom the money is being saved for and the other effect is the impact that COVID-19 is projected to have on the revenues. She noted that some of the projected revenues had come from AIC and others were her projections. She noted that the City of Buhl is very fortunate to be sitting where we are today. Mayor McCauley stated he had seen other state and city entities had been doing layoff and we have been very luck to not have to do that because all our departments have been running lean. There was a discussion with the use of the spreadsheet Elizabeth created about projected expenses on operating and maintenance, capital projects and salaries. After running several options consensus was to start with a 2% increase for salaries to each department.

A recess was taken from 8:30 pm to 8:35 pm.

School Resource Officer:

The meeting reconvened with a discussion of the school resource officer position and the options because the funding will not be coming from the school during the next budget year. Mayor McCauley noted that if the city funds it fulling in the next budget year, he felt it a good idea to go back to the school in the future to have the discussion about funding a portion again. There was additional discussion about staffing and what Jeremy is looking at for the next year.

Library:

There was a discussion about the future of the library and if the board was looking at forming a separate district. Reba stated the direction of the library board is to remain with the city. The other discussion concerned the new/carpet, moving and purchase of Granny's Drawers. Council suggested to suspend those items and revisit in the 2021/2022 budget discussion.

Fire:

There was a discussion of the training grounds that were listed in the future needs. Discussion of those and the relation to a new station location advanced to removing the training grounds and inserting an amount for consulting fees to help review for the new station location and design.

Police:

Jeremy noted the only major expense in addition to prior years is computer upgrades for the office and the cars which he would like to breakup over a two-year project.

Administration and Planning/Zoning:

Staffing would be doing some switching of job duties and the addition of training hours for a consultant. Other capital projects were for building upgrades.

Streets:

Council had an in-depth discussion about the options for sidewalks around town. Consensus of Council was to have a thorofare from the schools across town. Regie noted and maps were presented showing the current sidewalks and future sidewalks planned through grants already being worked on. Council chose to drawdown the fund balance by \$190,000.00 to replace approximately 14 blocks of sidewalks.

COUNCIL CONCERNS – There were none.

CITIZENS CONCERNS – There were none.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Michael Higbee moved that the meeting be adjourned; Pam McClain seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk