

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

JULY 11, 2022
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Regie Finney	Public Works
Kelly Peterson	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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of June 27, 2022 – Working Meeting
2. Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Monthly Department Head Reports
4. Commission Minutes
5. Clerk Report
6. Treasurer Report

Marla Sisson moved to approve the consent agenda. Kelly Peterson seconded the motion. There was discussion and the motion passed.

MONTHLY CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Regie updated Council on the current projects as Scott was off for the week.

They held the pre-construction for the Highway 30 intersection and have been doing some pre-work with moving water meters. ITD has allowed to bid TAP #1 & TAP #2 at the same time. Regie stated they are adjusting the man hole lids on 1400 North so if someone questions why the new road is being tore up, it is part of the process. It was noted there was positive feed back from the community on the park and parade events for Sagebrush Days.

There was a discussion about the future of a traffic light at Williams Drive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation and Update from Southern Idaho Tourism and 2023 Budget Request: Melissa Berry, director of Southern Idaho Tourism presented to Council tourism numbers with a comparison before and through the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that Box Canyon has seen one of the highest growth rates in the state. She stated they are constantly balancing between the promotions of the area and listening to Idahoans. She noted the budget request of \$350.00 and Karen noted they had received the letter that morning in the mail had it was already included in the preliminary admin budget.

Update on Magic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization: Twin Falls County Commissioner Brent Reinke presented additional information about the Magic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization. He noted they had held their first meeting and will be holding two more meetings in July and August. He added no one knows how this will take shape for the next couple years. He stated other area's saw and increase of their MPO to stretch to include smaller outreaching communities. There were questions from Council and Brent stated that if the City of Buhl is not paying into the plan, then they have no vote on the plan. He also stated that Trans IV goes away September 1, 2022. He noted this is a City of Twin Falls issue but it could include truck routes, the third crossing discussion and the farm to market road. He concluded that he doesn't know if it will benefit Buhl right now.

The July 20th meeting will be discussion of the fees and August 24th will be addition progress on the plan itself. He stated Jerome County is not sure if they will participate and City of Jerome in not interested. Brent was also attending the Buhl Highway District meeting this same evening. Brent concluded by stating the city could always join but the plan will be developed.

Amanda moved to amend the agenda as it was posted prior to the deadline to include the addition of the review and consideration of the door-to-door application for Encor Solar. Marla seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Door-to-Door Application from Encor Solar: Amanda moved to deny the application for Encor Solar. Kelly seconded the motion. Kelly stated that if the company didn't think enough of Council's time to attend a meeting and provide the information then the application should be denied. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Marla asked if the other Council members had the opportunity to review her comments from the AIC conference. She discussed holding a retreat and Karen noted a number of other cities hold workshops prior to the business meetings.

There was a discussion about holding meetings with the school district, the chamber, the Buhl Economic Council, the library board, planning and zoning, and town hall meetings.

There was also a conversation about newsletters to include in the utility bill to explain recent council actions. Marla also presented an idea of attending the school registration to gather information from those citizens that would like additional information from the city. Michael noted that she could come up with the information or contact information sheet but doing the actual work needed to be employees.

Michael noted the recent opening of Evelin's position as admin clerk position and the recent resignation of Sam in the parks department. Karen noted that resignation had been rescinded.

There was a discussion of the Magic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization presentation with the possible drawbacks and benefits.

The meeting on September 26th was noted the budget would be complete so additional planning meetings could be discussed and planned for the future council agendas.

Amanda asked about the work on Juniper that had left holes and areas that had sunk. Regie noted that was Intermountain Gas and he would reach out to them.

It was noted the joint meeting with the fire district was scheduled for July 18th and 6:30 pm. Karen and Autumn would be attending the district meeting scheduled for July 13th at 6 pm. Andrew Stevens noted the district meeting had been moved to July 18th at 8 am.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: There were none.

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 7:53 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk