

CITY COUNCIL WORKING SESSION

AUGUST 3, 2020
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Regie Finney	Public Works Director
Michael Higbee	Council President	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Pam McClain	Council Member	Autumn Jones	Billing Clerk
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Concerned Citizens	
Kelly Peterson	Council Member		
Elizabeth Barker	Treasurer		

WORKING SESSION called to order at 6:00 PM.

Because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic Buhl City Council made this meeting available telephonically.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Elizabeth Barker confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of July 13, 2020 – Regular Meeting
2. Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Clerk Report
4. Treasurer Report

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Consideration of Buhl Housing Authority Board Member: Michael moved to approve the appointment of Marie Thibodeaux as a Buhl Housing Authority Board Member. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Buhl Chamber of Commerce Beer Festival and Harvest Festival: Rich White presented information about combining the Brews for Buhl, Harvest Festival and Trout Festival into one event on October 10, 2020. He noted the event setup would be the same

as Brews for Buhl but open to all ages. He also wanted to reserve the right to cancel at any time base on COVID cases, similar to what they did with the 4th of July. There was further discussion about specific use of the park and vehicles on the grass for different purposes. Rich also addressed concerns with COVID and plans were not to have souvenir cups, everything would be single use. That would mean more trash so he was requesting additional cans and also more cones and barricades. He noted how the Mountain Home Beer Festival is a community event.

Council discussed the proposal of the event, Pam stated she has been struggling with this since the 4th of July and we have no idea what is going to be happening with the number of cases. She was not in favor and wants to cancel for one year. She mentioned that people are asked to social distance but they don't listen. Pam moved to cancel/not approve the combined festivals for this year. Michael seconded the motion. Council discussed further with Kelly agreeing with Pam. Michael noted he felt comfortable with having the 4th of July because of the small number of cases but does not have great arguments to back going through with this event. He detailed information regarding cases through the state and events that have been held and cases after those events. He stated he believes it is counter active to fighting COVID spread. Sue liked the idea of combining all the events and thinks they are a positive event for our community but doesn't think this is a safe time to have the event. Mayor McCauley stated he was in total agreement with the council for this request. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Police Department Surplus: Pam moved to approve the surplus of the police department wrecked vehicle. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Final Review and Tentative Approval of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget: Elizabeth asked if there were any questions about the budget level changes she has provided in the packet. Michael questioned if receiving money from Public Safety for COVID means less of a general fund draw down. Elizabeth explained that it did not because it is a reimbursement to the Admin Budget and it does not affect the police or fire budgets. Michael questioned if PERSI increased by 11% and Elizabeth explained that is not an increase but the percentage the city pays for a none emergency employee.

Pam moved to tentatively approve the 2020-2021 fiscal budget as presented. Michael seconded the motion. It was noted all the effort that Elizabeth has put into this budget. Pam remembered that separate motions needed to be made for several items. There was no further discussion and the motion as stated failed.

Michael moved to reserve funds of \$40,000.00 in the sanitation budget to replace the truck. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Michael moved to reserve funds of \$150,000.00 in the streets budget for the Burley Ave Project. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Michael moved to reserve funds of \$100,000.00 in the admin budget for fire department equipment. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Michael moved to tentatively approve the 2020-2021 with changes in the streets revenue of \$150,000.00 and expense \$150,000.00 for the Burley Ave Project. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Council Concerns

Michael asked how COVID is affecting city staff. Mayor McCauley noted there had been some positive tests and all precautions were taken for those.

There was a short discussion on updates regarding the DMV. It was noted the city had been notified that they were looking at possible new locations.

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 7:07 pm.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk