

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2022
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain	Mayor	Regie Finney	Public Works
Michael Higbee	Council President	Jason Scott	Streets Dept Lead
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief by phone
Amanda Hawkins	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Marla Sisson	Council Member	Reba Puente	Library Director by phone
Karen Drown	Clerk	Concerned Citizens	
Autumn Jones	Treasurer		

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Kelly Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda with adding Amanda Hawkins under those who attended the meeting. Michael Higbee seconded the motion. There was discussion and the motion passed.

MONTHLY CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Scott stated there were several items of concern raised at the public hearings at the last meeting that he wanted to address. First was the two business accounts that Michael stated could be reviewed. Scott stated the accounts were being reviewed and at this time they both being billed the minimum. Second was a concern about pressure in the McCollum area. Scott noted he had checked the pressure two houses down on Robertson three different times over the weekend and the pressure was 60 plus PSI each time. He will meet with Herald Miller with his findings. He

discussed the concern of chlorine at the bottom of town and there was a discussion of water setting in a line.

Scott noted Harvest Hills is waiting on Idaho Power. Wilbur-Ellis has submitted three more building permits and are doing what they said when they came to town of cleaning up dust and noise.

He concluded by informing Council about the large public records request that had been received concerning the Seneca property. He explained that when the property was sold it didn't follow Idaho Code to divided the property correctly. He added the city has been working over 3 years to try to complete it with them. He concluded there are two things that the new owners and the city don't agree on which are the dividing of the plat and the billing of the bonds to the property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review and Consideration of Fee Schedule Resolution: Amanda stated she would like to go with what the City of Wendell has, she noted Filer is \$5, Gooding is \$10 if fixed, and Twin Falls is \$10 for puppies, \$10 if fixed and \$25 for unaltered. Karen clarified what the City of Wendell fees are; Amanda state Wendell's is \$5 if fixed and \$10 if not fixed.

Michael stated they had asked the admin staff to look at these fees and he questioned how this was figured. Karen explained the process of issuing a dog tag and between the time with an admin staff to pay for the tag and the police staff to verify information, issue the tag and enter it in the system there is approximately one hour used plus the cost of the tag itself. Kelly questioned that on the meeting on June 22nd Council meeting all council approved the recommended fees unanimously and now it is being questioned. He noted there is a cost for the time it takes people to provide services.

Autumn and Karen explained that if the fees were changed in the resolution from what was presented at the public hearing and new notice will have to be published and a new public hearing be held.

Amanda moved to go to public hearing for dog tags for spayed or neutered to be \$5 and unfixed to be \$10; she requested a roll call vote. Michael seconded the motion. Marla voted no, Michael voted no, Amanda voted yes, and Kelly voted no. The motion failed.

Marla moved to adopt Resolution No. 429 to keep fees as presented at the public hearing; she requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion.

Michael stated the admin staff spent a lot of time to gather the information and he wished it would have been brought up before putting to a public hearing. He added the city already agreed on it when Council decided to take it to public hearing. Marla stated next time she would like to look at impound fess. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted no and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Discussion on Engagement Survey: Amanda stated she brought this forward at the last meeting; it was questioned what she would like from the outcome. She would like incentives for employees. Pam noted they did a pool party a few years ago for employees and families. There was a discussion about gift cards and other items but anything under that would have to be reported as compensation because of IRS rules. The discussion continued with what information council would be able to use from the survey as Michael state Council is not part of the administration who could review the information provided.

Michael added that he couldn't sleep after the meeting on August 1. He added employees are upset about being asked to do tasks they don't have time to do and miss information going that creates more work to try and correct. He stated there are a number of employees that have feathers ruffled and it will take more than a survey. Employees want to be treated properly from Council and department heads.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Consideration 6th Ave South Street Closure: Jenny Cowden came before Council to request a street closure for actually 6th Ave North (not south) for a Football Jamboree. She noted that as of this meeting there were 40 teams signed up. The teams will be playing on both the football field and the practice field by the elementary. They would like to setup concession areas and be able to have attendees cross back and forth safely. Regie noted that public works can provide barricades and provide garbage cans. Michael moved to allow the closure of 6th Ave North. Marla seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of LHTAC/Local Agreement for 2022 Children Pedestrian Safety Program: Regie informed Council the grant was awarded for \$250,000. This project would be next spring along with TAP #1 and TAP #2. Kelly moved to accept the agreement with LHTAC/Local Agreement for 2022 Children Pedestrian Safety Program; he requested a roll call vote. Amanda seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Karen noted a Walkability Study that will be taking place Monday, August 22 and Tuesday, August 23 that a firm is putting on through the Department of Health and Welfare. She will email out the flyer for the event.

Final Review of 2022-2023 Proposed Fiscal Budget: Autumn explained these final budget sheets were prepared with the information that had been discussed in prior budget discussions.

Michael moved to save in the administration budget \$7500 for HVAC and \$100,000 for future fire equipment; he requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Michael moved to approve the Administration budget as presented; he requested a roll call vote. Marla seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes, and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Michael moved to approve the Planning and Zoning budget as presented; she requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. It was confirmed this funding would begin October 1st and it was clarified the full-time building inspector position was in this budget. Autumn reviewed the change in revenues and expenses for that position. There was no further discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Michael moved to approve the Code Services budget as presented; he requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Kelly moved to accept the Police budget as presented; he requested a roll call vote. Marla seconded the motion. It was clarified this budget includes the new detective position and the increase to full time for the part time records clerk. There was no further discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes, and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Marla moved to approve the Parks and Rec budget as presented; she requested a roll call vote. Amanda seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Marla moved to approve the Police Forfeiture budget as presented; she requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Michael moved to approve the \$125,000 expenditure for the Burley Ave Project; he requested a roll call vote. Marla seconded the motion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Kelly moved to approve the final Streets budget as presented; he requested a roll call vote. Michael seconded the motion. It was stated it is good to see grant funded line items. Regie was questioned about filling the open position. There was no further discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes.

Marla moved to recommit \$7143.00 to the renovation project; she requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes.

Marla moved to approve the Library budget as presented; she requested a roll call vote. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Marla moved to approve the Airport budget as presented; she requested a roll call vote. Amanda seconded the motion. Autumn noted that except for \$2500 for property taxes the airport is self-funded by hanger leases and FAA and other grants. There was no further discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Michael moved to accept the General Fund Contingency budget; he requested a roll call vote. Marla seconded the motion. Michael explained it was set aside for potential lawsuits. It was discussed that Seneca's new owners don't want to pay the bond fees. It was explained the plant was built for their needs. Scott stated he met with industries before building to review their future needs. Michael noted Chobani as an example of building their own waste treatment plant and pulling away from City of Twin Falls who helped provide funding when they came to town. There was no further discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes.

Marla moved to approve the Water budget as presented; he requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. Michael noted this budget has a decrease from last year. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted no and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Autumn noted a line was added for the Moon Glo sanitation services. Kelly moved to approve the Sanitation budget as presented; he requested a roll call vote. Marla seconded the motion. Regie did clarify that the delivery of a new truck was about a year out. Michael questioned Amanda if she was voting no on budgets but not bringing anything up in discussion. Amanda stated it was made clear at the last meeting. There was no further discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted no and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Marla moved to approve the Wastewater budget as presented; she requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted no and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Marla commented it is confusing why Amanda is voting no but not making any statements during discussion. Amanda stated she didn't feel she needed to argue anymore. She added she will make her feels known earlier next year.

Marla moved to approve the Utilities Grant budget as presented; she requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. Kelly questioned about the Veteran's Cemetery Project. Scott noted there were changes in the administration at the federal office and since then there had been no response. There was no further discussion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

Autumn stated the public hearing for this budget was scheduled for Monday, August 22.

Discussion with future of JMA chairperson and JMA: Mayor McClain stated she had discussed with Andrew Wright and she is resigning as chairman of the Joint Management Board. She is suggesting a neutral third party, such as a county commissioner, to run those meetings. She stated she would still be the administrator of the fire department under the city and JMA. Marla stated she doesn't see anything changing. At the last meeting the boards did rounds and rounds and ended in the same place. Mayor McClain stated she has sat in those meetings for years with the same results. Marla added the city's backs were against the wall with the budget and had to get something done. Marla stated she was in favor of this. Michael moved to request this change to the Joint Management Agreement be on the next joint meeting agenda. Marla seconded the motion. Michael noted that if this doesn't work the city needs to look at splitting. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Regie came before Council and announced his retirement as of December 31, 2022, taking Kelly and his wife's advice. He stated with the grants that are coming in it is a great finale. He noted his replacement needs a good solid construction knowledge with the work that is coming. He will be taking flex time and PTO but not until after the Highway 30 project is complete. Kelly stated he appreciates all the good Regie has done for the city. Mayor McClain asked to have the recommendation for Public Works Director on the next agenda. Michael also thanked Regie for all the good for the city and work he has done; he noted his staff works very hard for him.

Kelly wanted to thank the city hall administration staff for the months of changes and special projects they have worked on. He stated he relies on the staff a lot and they have worked on this

budget for months and spent hundreds of hours. He wanted to say thank you and he is personally grateful for the work and help.

Michael stated he wanted to address something from the last meeting when Amanda referred to the city as “they”. He stated the city is the applicant in the public hearing and two comments made included “They are doing this to you,” and “pulling the wool over your eyes,” and in his twelve years on Council he has never seen that. He added there had been some super-heated stuff between him and Tom in the initial discussions but ultimately it was voted on and it was the direction of the city. Last year he stated for the minutes his opposition to the budgets with increase to salaries. As a Council member we are speaking as a city and representing the city, and are liable for what is said outside of the meeting when representing the city. He added the information being very incorrect from the citizens about bonds going up \$50 and doesn’t know where that is coming from and the misinformation scares him, and scare tactics that are going around. He stated the admin was super short staffed last week and he was receiving frantic phone calls from staff on how to handle all the requests that were coming in the day of the meeting. It is not fair to city administration when Council is not prepared. In these public hearings the city is the applicant and we were arguing against ourselves when it was time to listen to the citizens not a council discussion, and city admin staff shouldn’t be arguing against city council on the city’s position. It was discussed at a prior meeting and moved to public hearing at which the city should come as a united body, it is not the purpose of the public hearing to be arguing against each other and the city administration. He added it feels pre-planned and coordinated arguments against the city. He noted that Council members should not be discussing or receiving testimony ahead of or outside of the public hearings. Mayor McClain stated if anyone does, they should recuse themselves. Michael continued stating he was hurt because he received a text from a friend that Amanda’s mother was posting the while meeting was going about correcting her in the meeting and he was just trying to follow the law and it was so hurtful and disrespectful. He stated he doesn’t understand the mentality of “me against them” from the start. The administration, staff, Council and he certainly feels it. He stated the Council is the city. He concluded he wanted to get this off his chest because it hung really heavy after the meeting.

Mayor McClain stated there was a quote that stated she was the highest paid mayor in the state. She added she has removed herself from all Buhl Chats on Facebook as it is hurtful. She has asked people to come and visit with her and no one has. Michael noted Buhl Chat is the least Christian activity he has ever seen in the City of Buhl.

Marla stated it is very hurtful and she doesn’t feel like a body and doesn’t feel like Council isn’t moving forward. She stated what she saw on social media prior to the meeting and noted to her husband that this meeting was going to be rough. She suggested looking into an intern and get six or seven posts per day on Facebook.

Mayor McClain read a Thank You card form Cheryl Jarrell.

Scott explained that a lawn can be kept green with 12,000 gallons of water. Mayor McClain explained the history of the bonds and has always wanted to have an example of 12,000 gallons of water to show.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: David McClain stated Regie Finney never ceases to impress him. He added Regie is always will to answer his phone and could not ask for better support for a business owner.

Onnie Granados commented he retired after 20 years from Oregon State University. He added they are in Buhl because they chose it. It is a remarkable city and Council; there are a lot of people that don't know anything but this is a wonderful place. He stated everyday you should wake up and try a little harder. He offered if there is anything to help with in volunteering, he is willing.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Kelly Peterson moved that the meeting be adjourned; Michael Higbee seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk