

CITY COUNCIL WORKING SESSION

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Elizabeth Barker	Clerk/Treasurer
Kyle Hauser	Council President	Karen Drown	Asst. Clerk/Treasurer
Pam McClain	Council Member	Mark Korsen	Fire Chief
Michael Higbee	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Firefighter
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Paul Madalena	Firefighter
Bill Nungester	City Attorney		

WORKING SESSION called to order at 6:00 PM.

Elizabeth Barker confirmed a Quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ... Minutes of September 14, 2015: Kyle Hauser moved to approve the minutes; Pam McClain seconded the motion. There was no discussion; the motion passed.
- ... Bi-Monthly Claims for Payment: Pam McClain moved to approve the monthly claims for payment; Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Clerk/Treasurer Report: Kyle Hauser moved to approve the clerk/treasurer report; Pam McClain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Fire Truck Repairs Discussion: There was a discussion about both proposals for Engines #1 & #2 and the repairs need. Mark brought an example off of another truck to show council members one of the problems. Mayor McCauley stated that he and Mark had talked to Regie about having Jason Scott, public works mechanic, look at the problem and see if it was something that he could fix on Engine #1. Mark stated that the pipe works; it just leaks when it pumps but he is really interested in talking with Jason. Mark also commented that Engine #1 drafts really well.

Engine #2 completely failed the recent pump test and Mark commented this engine had issues with drafting since they bought it. Michael suggested repairing Engine #1 and hold off repairing Engine #2 for now. Mark stated that Engine #2 would not be put in an emergency situation. He added that he is trying to find other solutions for replacement of

Engine #2. An option might be the City of Twin Falls just purchased a new engine so their old one might be going up for sale and it has been taken care of properly.

There was a discussion if Jason could repair Engine #1 if it would need to be pump tested again. Mark stated his crew would do a complete inspection after repairs.

Michael moved that if Engine #1 cannot be fixed in house then to expend the money to fix Engine #1 but not to exceed \$10,900.00. Kyle seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed. It was noted that money had been budgeted in the general fund for future fire department equipment and that funds could be allocated from this line item.

- ... City Airport Lease Discussion & Consideration: Council members were provided a copy of the proposed lease in their council packets so discussion was opened on the draft lease. Pam questioned how leases are calendared to review every ten years. Karen explained there is a way and she is working on setting the system up for all leases. There was a discussion about Buhl being one of the highest airports in the area for lease rates. Discussion continued with the amount of space for tie downs and if they are used by Rick Robinette would that take up space used by other pilots. Mayor McCauley stated that Rick would continue to lease the current buildings and this new lease would provide for his 5 full-time and 4 part-time employees.

Mayor McCauley also commented that Tadd Warner with Armstrong Consultants was researching how the city is involved in the flowage fee. Elizabeth commented that the city receives a check every year from Kelly Oil. Tadd will be looking into that and getting back with the Airport Commission and the city.

Michael stated he was comfortable with the current lease. Mayor McCauley stated if there is any increase on other hangars then this lease would also increase. Bill would add that wording regarding the increase. Kyle moved to approve the airport lease with the changes noted. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

- ... City Pasture Lease Discussion & Consideration: Bill stated that the current pasture leases are from October 1st to September 30th; he changed that in the current draft lease to be from November 1st through October 31st to allow renters the opportunity to take full advantage of fall pasture. Michael move to approve the proposed pasture lease. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Revised Bond Payment Information: Elizabeth explained the details of the covenants of the recently refunded bonds. She provided a spreadsheet detailing figures on the requirement that each fiscal year the net system revenues must meet 125% of the debt service payment. The net service revenues are figured with everything that is billed minus any onetime charges. She also explained that the payments of the next three years have been bought down with the previous reserve funds. The spreadsheet she provided showed that currently the city is meeting the requirement but if system revenues do not change the cost will creep up and the excess will dwindle more. She also explained this is reviewed every year and she must certify that the city is meeting the requirements. The reason this was brought before council was to detail the information because in 10 years the possibility to do another refunding could be available but the city has to show the history of net revenues of 125% of debt service. Michael questioned where the savings were on the refunding; Elizabeth explained the savings could be seen in the yearly payments that are required. She commented that it was Piper Jaffrey that had brought the possibility of refunding to the city's attention. Elizabeth stated she presented this now to start the conversations about future needs with capital projects and a schedule that Scott has been working on.

Firefighter On-Call Residence Restrictions: Mayor McCauley stated it had been asked by the fire department if a fire fighter could be required to live within a 5 minute response time. He stated that e-mail correspondence between Carl Ericson with ICRMP had been provided in the packet and the question had been reviewed by Bill. Mayor McCauley had asked for Bill's legal opinion on this matter. Bill questioned what is reasonable in regards to a response time and what do other towns require. Mayor McCauley also quoted a letter provided to council by Nathan Fawcett who believes the current requirements are not legal. There was discussion about the 5 minute response time being to the station not 5 minutes to the fire/accident. Pam asked Mark if 5 minutes is too restrictive. Mark stated that 5 minutes does make it hard to attend social function outside the range and to have childcare options when the other spouse is working. He added that a 24 hour station would cause fewer headaches. There is no exact history on when the 5 minute was implemented. Michael questioned if there was compensation for the time when an employee is on-call but not on a call. Elizabeth explained that the Friday following the weekend the employee is on-call they get 8 hours of paid time off. There was a discussion at looking at pulling it back to 10 minutes but the flip side is that extends the response times to calls. Mark questioned if the on-call time is considered engaged to work or engaged to wait which falls under FLSA rules.

Pam asked if the question under review was the 5 minute response time or compensation for on-call hours.

Mayor McCauley stated that the City believes it is operating legally and appropriately but wanted a review by both council and commission. Andrew Stephens stated that the 5 minute response time does affect quality of life and limits family time. He explained there had been a fireman on staff 24/7 until SIRRCOM was established.

Michael questioned if the on-call was part of working for the Joint Buhl Fire Department and employees were aware up front to taking the position. Pam questioned if a staggered schedule would change the on-call problem. Mark stated there would still be 8 to 10 hours not covered. Sue also questioned if this is just in Buhl or do other cities have this problem. Andrew commented that in the Rock Creek Fire Department the career staff work 8-5 and after hours is only volunteers. Mayor McCauley pointed out that employees are aware of the requirements when they are hired. Andrew noted that for example in Twin Falls when you're on, you're on and when you're off, you're off. Kyle would like to see some suggestions and a solution. Michael noted that the suggestions needed to be within the Buhl fire department's scale and budget. Mayor McCauley stated the department gives the best service they can with the budget available.

Mayor McCauley asked that this item be on the agenda for the next Joint meeting and that members of the fire department come with some solutions. Elizabeth also asked to see Andrew's information because FLSA is very different for Police and Fire. Andrew added that FLSA is up to interpretation of a judge.

COUNCIL CONCERNS – Kyle stated a resident had brought a concern to him about their neighbor's property being unkempt. He asked if there was anything that could be done. Consensus of the council was to have the resident try and communicate with their neighbors.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Kyle Hauser moved that the meeting be adjourned, Pam McClain seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, Assistant City Clerk-Treasurer