

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Elizabeth Barker	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Karen Drown	Clerk
Pam McClain	Council Member	Regie Finney	Public Works Director
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Scott Bybee	City Engineer
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Concerned Citizens	

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 7:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of January 27, 2020 – Working Meeting
2. Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Monthly Department Head Reports
4. Commission Minutes
5. Clerk Report
6. Treasurer Report

Pam McClain moved to approve the consent agenda. Michael Higbee seconded the motion. Kelly asked a question concerning payables in the police department and the difference between the locations used for service of vehicles. Jeremy noted it was the choice of the officer on where they took their vehicle. He also noted that he had noticed the difference in costs between the when he was coding the payables for the meeting. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

MONTHLY CITY ENGINEER REPORT:

Scott stated that Mayor McCauley had received notice that the City of Buhl had been invited back for the second round of the ICDBG application process. He noted that it does not guarantee we will receive the grant but it is good news. The deadline to resubmit is March 6th and with the update the schedule of the project will be redone to go into the spring of 2021 but he is still hoping to complete in 2020. He stated we should know by the end of March if we receive the grant. The money itself is authorized by the Federal government and is available when they decide to release the funds.

Scott also noted there are a lot of people looking at development around Buhl. The inquiries vary from small subdivisions to larger ones with 5 acre lots and larger. The inquiries are located east of town and also south. There was a short discussion if any of these inquiries involve the street bypass for Fair Street. Scott noted they do but that is going to involve three different property owners and the city hadn't heard from the Williams family for about six months.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Renewal request for Door to Door application for The Bin Bath: Karen explained the owners of The Bin Bath had requested to renew their door to door application for the 2020 calendar year. They would continue to hang their information on the cans after they were picked up to notify citizens of their services. Karen also noted there had been no complaints issued against them. Michael moved to approve the renewal of the 2020 Door to Door permit for The Bin Bath. Sue seconded the motion. There was a short discussion about the services they provide for not only the smaller garbage carts but also larger dumpsters. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Swimming Pool Heater update and discussion: Regie presented to Council the estimated cost of replacement of the heater for the swimming pool. He noted that administration did apply for a grant for the pool and the park restrooms but did not get the grant. Regie noted that the heater was on its last leg and that it was down most of the summer last year. When it did run either Regie or Sam had to come in, in the mornings to start it because there was no automation anymore. The company that worked on it the previous years had issued a quote that Regie had used in the grant application. That bid was just under \$35,000.00 but he had not budgeted that amount in the 2019-2020 Parks Department budget. Elizabeth explained that \$35,000.00 was doable. There is \$18,000.00 set-a-side for future expenditures and she felt she could find the remaining in administration. Kelly noted there was no better qualified company to do the job than Boiler Maintenance who submitted the quote.

There was further discussion that to do this the budget would have to be reopened which requires public notice twice in the Buhl Herald, a public hearing and publication of the ordinance. Elizabeth noted there might be some additional changes that are needed in other departments such as a grant in the police department for a server, which could all be done with the same amendment if there were additional needs. Michael moved in moving ahead in the process to amend the budget for 2019-2020 for the swimming pool heater. Pam seconded the motion. Michael amended his motion to include any other additions in other department also. Pam seconded the amended motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review of 2018-2019 Audited Financial Statements: Elizabeth began the review with explaining that the job of the auditor is to review the financial statements that are prepared by the administration and run tests on those to see if they accurately reflect the position of the city. She explained there are two kinds of within this audit. There are proprietary funds which are the utility funds and that operate like a business with services provided and fees charged for those services. Then there are the governmental funds which is the general fund that is primarily funded with property taxes but also has some additional funding sources for specific departments. She also explained that a number of these funds have set-a-side amounts for future purchases. In the utility funds there are capital reserves which are built up to have matching funds to go after grants for projects such as replacing water and sewer lines like we have been doing.

She explained this year began a new process in tracking fixed assets for the city. There was a new module in Caselle that would be used to track those assets and create new reports. She noted in previous years the auditor had calculated the annual depreciation but new GASB rules require the city to calculate those figures.

There was a discussion about the restricted and committed fund balances in the fire, street and general funds. Elizabeth explained the fire was part of the Joint Management Agreement and the street and general fund are policies that Council had approved and review each year as the minimum for each of the funds.

There was further discussion about the way property taxes are calculated and those amounts available to the city. Annually the city is restricted to no more than a 3% increase to the highest of the previous three years. There is discussion in the state legislature this year that could change or even freeze increases. House Bills 353 and 355 are ones that AIC is watching because changes that may help one city are going to hurt others.

Elizabeth reviewed the actual figures with graphs to show trends in the different funds and also to show the comparison on where the funds come from. She also discussed the requirements in the audit to have the PERSI information, which is all prepared and provided by PERSI.

Pam stated how much she and Council appreciate the reviews like this and looking at the audit with this detail. She stated she always learns something from them

Council Concerns: Michael had a continued concern about the crossing at Highway 46 and the railroad. He would like to contact them to see what the time frame is for repairs. Pam noted she attended the Buhl Chamber of Commerce Banquet the prior weekend and the Idaho Transportation Department was the guest speaker. She asked that question but was never really given an answer. Michael stated he had heard of other citizens ruining tires and rims at the crossing. Regie noted the new director for Region 4 had not been there very long.

Citizen Concerns: Jim Renaldi also noted the water off the adjoining properties wasn't helping the crossing.

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 8:47 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk