

CITY COUNCIL WORKING MEETING

JANUARY 23, 2023  
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain by Zoom	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Jason Scott	Public Works Director
Kelly Peterson by Zoom	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 February 13, 2023 – Regular Meeting
2. Bi- Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Clerk Report
4. Treasurer Report

Michael Higbee moved to approve the consent agenda. Amanda Hawkins seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Pool Operations Discussion: Marla explained the use of sponsorship banners at the football field and the cost of \$500 for 4 years with \$120 cost to make the banner. Karen presented information from research with the pool rental for special events and other information she found from the City of Boise. Kelly commented about the help from the state takes someone to keep them and monitor them. He also questioned if other Council members would leave their grandchildren or children there with them. He stated the major costs are labor and chemicals. If there is longer hours there is a need for more chemicals and more hours will mean more guards are needed. It was noted that reduced hours are an option, we will need to look at them depending on staffing. Kelly added that he agreed that if kids don't have something to do they will get in trouble. He stated that if guards are needed for an 8:30-10:00 PM pool rental there is a possibly a guard

could be at the pool for 12 to 14 hours. In past years he had approached the softball team since they had worked together as a team.

Mayor McClain stated she had been approached by Ed Murray with WEMA there was a possibility of a project to save taxpayer dollars for something up to \$50,000. She also stated she is trying to set a meeting with David Carson about setting up a youth council and she would find out the best way to approach students for providing more opportunities to apply. Karen stated she would also contact Castleford Schools since several previous employees attended that school. Amanda and Marla volunteered to go to the school and try and promote more applications.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of TRIBE Color Run request: Alisa Atkinson with TRIBE presented information to Council for the request to hold a Color Run on May 6<sup>th</sup>. She stated the route would be the same as last year where they had about 120 participants. They would plan for crossing guards at the major intersections. Michael moved to approve the TRIBE Color Run. Marla seconded the motion. It was questioned if the bathrooms in the park would be available; Jason stated by they could be at that time and Alisa stated they will have some donated like they did last year. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Buhl Visitor Center & RV Park Proposal form Magic Valley Business Association: CJ Holmes, President of the Magic Valley Business Association, presented to Council information regarding the work Magic Valley Business Association does and had approached Mayor McClain last year about an idea to support businesses in Buhl. She explained the coverage MVBA has with the Magic Valley News booklets that go out each month and how they use a program through the Idaho Department of Labor to employ employee seniors for delivery of the newsletters, printing, emailing and other support work. She also detailed other programs their organizations offer businesses to advertise at local events. She stated their specialty is business promotion and their proposal would give fresh life and fresh vision. She also explained how they could work to revive events that have been held in Buhl over the years and have vendors and participants to sign hold harmless forms. Michael stated he was a little surprised by this information. He questioned if MVBA had gone and discussed any of this with Buhl Chamber of Commerce. CJ stated MVBA had asked the chamber if they wanted to be a distributor of Magic Valley News and they were turned down.

Mayor McClain noted the lease is up and stated it needed to be reviewed. She also noted chamber board member are resigning and they are struggling to find new ones to volunteer. She added she thought there had been a meeting between the chamber and MVBA. She stated there has been some miscommunication and questioned if there could be a partnership. She concluded MVBA had asked to be on the agenda and she had nothing against the chamber.

Mayor McClain noted it needed to be looked at outside of the box to support our businesses. She commented on a negative email from the Chamber that had been sent today.

CJ referenced the lease with the chamber and added the roof had shingles off that could have been and insurance claim. And also, the ceiling under the porch was half off. She referenced page 7 of the lease about insurance. Kelly stated the time he was managing the parks department the city had spent \$1,000's in maintenance and repairs on different systems at that property.

Discussion of Buhl Chamber of Commerce Update by Rich White: Rich noted CJ and MVBA is a tough act to follow. He updated Council on where the chamber stands with electing a new board, the business funds and the regaining 501c6 status. He commented the grounds maintenance is the responsibility of the city. He continued by stating membership is growing again and the annual dinner is scheduled for April 29 with the King of Hearts catering at the West End Senior Center. He questioned the intended relationship with the city and the chamber. The chamber board voted down last year to join with MVBA. He questioned the transition with MVBA and what would become of the chamber. He stated the chamber and WEMA have ran the parade for years. The proposal from MVBA had been provided to Jeremy, a chamber board member, about a month ago and it had been tabled. It was stated Buhl needs to give a reason for people to drive 15 miles and spend money here. Mayor McClain stated she would like to see a great partnership and wants to see an increase in business and the community.

Introduction of Mary Hollenbeck with REDS: Mary Hollenbeck, director of REDS, introduced herself and explained to roll. She works with funding from the Idaho Department of Commerce for grants and resources. She also explained trainings she helps put on at local libraries, visits with businesses and helps with their needs. She is housed under Region IV. A major program she is working on is Operation Facelift for local communities.

Joint meeting with Buhl Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss area growth, code updates and comprehensive plan: Karen presented information regarding the current impact area agreement, growth within code updated and comprehensive plan. It was discussed about options on how to proceed with this undertaking. A general discussion was held about a list of areas that have been questioned by staff, board members and citizens. Barbara Gietzen commented a concern is if requirements such as green space was added would there be city resources to maintain those areas. Karen noted that is a concern that if something is changed the what are the affects on other areas and how does in relate to other areas of the code. Scott Bybee commented there is a large area of the code that predates 1974 and consequently does not address a number of new situations that have come up in recent years; but the amount that needs to be updated is going to take some time. Karen noted a meeting was scheduled between staff and an individual that is retired from public service who has completed a number of reviews such as this and hopefully will provide additional information. Michael stated this joint meeting had been discussed before and then COVID hit putting this on hold, but the growth and supporting policies

need to be looked at. Brent Reinke, Twin Falls County Commissioner, presented information that Region IV might be a resource to help in the project.

Attendance at Association of Idaho Cities Spring Workshops: Karen state AIC is holding their spring workshop in Burley on April 13<sup>th</sup>. She questioned if any Council members would like to attend. Amanda, Michael and Marla would like to go. Kelly would not be able to attend.

Discussion of city's options for fire services: It was commented that Autumn had answered a number of questions that Michael had emailed after the last special joint fire meeting. Karen noted her and Autumn had a meeting scheduled with several officials with Twin Falls County to look at the information and to see if there was any additional information. It was questioned about the point that was brought up from the district regarding sales tax. Autumn stated she has emailed the Idaho State Tax Commission for clarification on the affect an annexation would have. There was a discussion about the administrative fee.

Kelly stated that annexation is not an option. He added that Karen and Autumn are being asked to find the magic spell and reviewing numbers and "what if's". He stated the district is willing to negotiate but not increase their portion, they are just willing to negotiate for the city portion. He continued by noting their remaining has been used to fund purchasing vehicles while the city had to use what is left to fund other departments. He questioned the additional time that will be in union negotiations. The new station would need city service infrastructure provided at it's cost which is \$380,000 plus 10% more now. Kelly concluded by stating he was elected to represent the citizens of the city and to continue to pay an unbalance percentage is a disservice to those who elected him.

Mayor McClain commented we think we are going somewhere and then we get close to budget and it all goes south. She stated we need to try and move forward.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: There were none.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Michael Higbee moved that the meeting be adjourned; Kelly Peterson seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk