

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 8, 2021
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor		
Michael Higbee	Council President	Karen Drown	Clerk
Pam McClain	Council Member	Autumn Jones	Assistant Clerk/Treasurer
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Concerned Citizens	
Kelly Peterson	Council Member		

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

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 7:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of January 25, 2021 – Working Meeting
2. Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Monthly Department Head Reports
4. Commission Minutes
5. Clerk Report
6. Treasurer Report

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

MONTHLY CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Scott notified Council the ICDBG project went to bid with those being opened on February 2, 2021. The city received two bids that are valid with both coming in over budget but Scott noted it is easier to reduce a project plans that to add to the plans with the Department of Commerce. He summarized some of the work which will include a sewer line right down the middle of Burley Ave. Pam asked what the detour plan was for Burley Ave during the project and Scott stated the would be proposed by the contractor and approved by the city. He added the part of the

project would open that area for long term growth opportunities and the city wants to have the utilities in before the project to rebuild Burley Ave so the new road won't have to be torn up.

He is still working with Veterans Administration for the water and sewer lines out to the veteran's cemetery and that project will happen in the next couple years.

Scott updated council that based on current permits the city will be seeing a shortage of buildable lots. He also noted the city has met with Twin Falls County regarding the Area of Impact and the current agreement that needs to be reworked because of conflicts with Idaho State Code.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of Additional New Water Shares: Autumn explained the city had received an additional 9.23 shares of water for the Courtyard Subdivision which was developed a number of years ago. She recommended to put the 9 shares into the lottery along with the 6 that were already approved for lottery and the city would keep the .23 shares. Kelly moved to accept the 9.23 shares and distribute them with the others. Sue seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Lottery for Newly Acquired Water Shares: Karen noted that each individual was contacted directly in regards to the additional 9 shares and were informed that a lottery would be held for 15 total shares, if they were interested, they could put their name in from 1 to 15 times and each draw would be good for 1 share. Those drawn in the lottery were Debbie Klug for 3 shares, John Conner for 1 share, Ed Alvord for 2 shares, Megan Myers for 3 shares, Mike Irish for 3 shares, Ashley Wilson for 1 share, Justin Payne for 1 share and Flint Jacobson for 2 shares.

Review and Consideration of Water Share Transfers from Lottery: Michael moved to approve the lottery and distribution of lottery outcome. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Police Department Surplus Request: Karen explained the letter from Chief Engbaum regarding this item had been in your packet. This was the last Ford Crown Vic the city owns and it has a blown motor. Michael moved to surplus the 2010 Ford Crown Vic. Pam seconded the motion. Kelly asked where would it go and Chief Engbaum stated it would be stripped of all police equipment and markings and sent to salvage. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Discussion of Joint Fire Meeting: Mayor McCauley noted it had been six months since the last meeting between the Buhl City Council and Buhl Rural Fire Protection Board and with the special meeting scheduled for Monday, February 15th, he had asked for this item to discuss the agenda items. There was a discussion and Karen noted Pam had requested an update on what the district was doing, Karen stated she had passed that request onto Neal so the district would have time prior to the meeting to have information together. The consensus from Council was they need more transparency about what action the district was taking, any updates on a new district fire building and contract for services. Mayor McCauley also asked for clarification of the city as the administrator for personnel and for fire services. There was further discussion that Andrew is starting in new 10-year plan and budget and if the situation is unknown how does he plan. It concluded that Council felt it was time for the district to present their plans.

COUNCIL CONCERNS – There were none.

CITIZENS CONCERNS – Rick Maritt, Buhl, Idaho, came before Council with a concern about the 2nd Amendment and wanted Buhl to be a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary City. He stated that Joe Biden stated, “he is coming after your guns.” He noted other cities such as Nampa, Eagle, Star and Gooding have become sanctuary cities. He will be going to the Governor Little next. Kelly asked how will it protect rights. Rick stated if Buhl becomes a sanctuary city is protected by city and state and makes law enforcement not able to be deputized by federal government.

There was a question of the legal definition of sanctuary city and it was explained a resolution is not a law. Councilmembers also noted when they take the oath, they swear to uphold the United States and Idaho Constitutions.

Arnie Wagner, Buhl, Idaho, explained Twin Falls signed one with migrants. He added he is not going to support the federal or National Guard taking away guns. They are trying to get Council on board with this.

Nancy Zito, Buhl, Idaho, stated the state passed something last year.

Velma Hopkins, Buhl, Idaho, stated becoming a sanctuary city would give support to surrounding cities.

John Howsden, Buhl, Idaho, noted is started in Virginia and if more get on board the government will have to listen.

Tiffany Hindman, Buhl, Idaho, stated she fled the state of California and they too swore to uphold the constitution but they are making it difficult to buy guns.

Rick Maritt ended with strongly encouraging everyone to join the NRA (National Rifle Association).

Justin Kemp thanked Rick for bringing it up.

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 7:57 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk