

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

APRIL 12, 2021
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

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

Because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic Buhl City Council made this meeting available telephonically. Due to technical issues the connection was lost several minutes into the meeting.

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 7:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of March 8, 2021 – Regular 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. Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

MONTHLY CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Scott informed Council the ICDBG grant would be starting the next day and continue for the next five months or so. And Planning and Zoning and URA would be meeting Wednesday, April 21st.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of Budget Calendar and Setting of Public Hearing Date for 2021-2022 Budget: Autumn presented the proposed budget calendar; she noted the working session that was scheduled for July 26th is proposed to be moved to August 8th to allow time for final revenue numbers to come in from Twin Falls County. She also pointed out the proposed date for the public hearing is August 23, 2021. Michael moved to set the hearing date for August 23, 2021. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Reserve Policies:

- a. Review of General Fund Reserve Policy: Autumn reviewed the history of the general fund policy and current figures. She presented three options for consideration and noted she didn't think we had felt the full effect of COVID-19 yet. Pam moved to maintain 20% of General Fund Revenues. Michael seconded the motion. Mayor McCauley agreed there needs to be a buffer to cover expenses and payroll if something were to happen to revenues. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.
- b. Review of Street Fund Reserve Policy: Autumn also reviewed the history and the current numbers in the Street Fund. Her recommendations were to leave the \$100,000 in the Street Fund. Michael moved to continue the \$100,000 in the Street Fund. Kelly seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- c. Review of Utility Working Capital Policy: Autumn concluded with the recommendation for the Utility Working Capital Policy. She noted there has not been a huge drop in collections and she is not seeing any indication from AIC or other resources of that. Kelly moved to keep reserve at \$550,000. _____ seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Fair Housing Proclamation: Karen presented the proposed Fair Housing proclamation. Michael moved to proclaim April 2021 as Fair Housing month in the City of Buhl. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Waiving Planning and Zoning Fees for West End Cemetery District: Scott presented information regarding the West End Cemetery looking at expanding further to the north on their property. This requires the cemetery district to go through the subdivision process because each plot is considered its own parcel through the county. With the city the fees since the district falls in the impact area would be \$200. He noted the fees with Twin Falls County are almost \$20,000, which they are considering those on either end. It was stated the district is doing an incredible job at the cemetery. Pam moved to waive the fees for the subdivision for the West End Cemetery District. Sue seconded the motion. Michael noted

waiving the fees does not place any undo burden on the city. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Presentation of 2nd Amendment Sanctuary City Proposal by Rick Maritt: Rick stated Joe Biden is not backing down. Ammo is going up. Guns are going up. We need to protect our guns. He provided a number of signed petitions and other documents to back his request of a resolution to set Buhl as a Sanctuary City. He also asked to have the rodeo grounds named after his father. Which Pam asked him to write a letter requesting that.

Todd Eccles of Buhl, Idaho, spoke to Council about the political climate. He stated he owns Patriot Defense and works with people and guns. He added he liked what the City of Twin Falls did and felt this needed to be done at all levels.

Mayor McCauley explained the process that had taken place in 2014 and the read Resolution No. 370. He added that Buhl has been proactive.

Charles Gaeta of Buhl, Idaho, commented he loves it here, it is a beautiful place. He previously lived in Texas and California and don't want to see this place change at all. He stated the 2nd Amendment holds all the other ones together.

James, concerned citizens from the county stressed passing the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Resolution. Wants to show state they have the support of the cities and counties.

There was a discussion about Resolution No. 370 and how it was in place and effect until the end of time or replaced. It was noted that Kelly was not on Council at the time it was passed but he stated he is fully behind the resolution and felt it was quite sufficient.

Michael moved to draft a letter to congressional representative and include a copy of the resolution. Pam seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Pam also asked to have the resolution posted on Facebook. Melanie Foster also asked if it could be emailed to her at the Buhl Herald.

Review and Consideration of Sagebrush Days and Brews for Buhl Beer Gardens: Rich White presented information regarding the beer garden for Sagebrush Days and Brews for Buhl. Sagebrush Days would take place July 2nd and 3rd at Eastman Park. The setup would be similar to the previous years. Michael moved to approve the beer garden for Sagebrush Days. Pam seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Brews for Buhl would take place on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at McClusky park. Rich detailed some additional events they would have including bounce houses for children. They would still provide free pop to any designated drivers and the VFW helps with that part of the event. Rich also added that no outside alcohol is allowed into the event. Pam moved to approve the Brews for Buhl on September 11th, 2021. Sue seconded the motion. Michael questioned the items on the handout that Rich had labeled Items for Consideration. Rich noted that Sam has gone above and beyond for these events in the past and that most of the items were not an issue except for the additional barricades that might be needed. Kelly questioned the money for the scholarship and if that had been handed out. Rich stated they didn't receive any application for it last year but they were going to try again this year. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of property purchase proposals: Karen explained the two requests for the purchase of two city owned properties and detailed the requests had been received prior and Mayor McCauley and Karen felt these should be brought before Council before just the administration saying no. There was a discussion about city owned property and the fact there was very little that the city had no use for currently. Kelly also asked about the process to dispose of any property and suggested sending a letter that if any property was surplus it would be notices appropriately.

Review and Consideration of Land Purchase from Osterkamp Dental: Scott explained the project that was being planned on the north and south sides of Highway 30 at Fair Street. He stated they had meet with the owner several times and gone over a number of questions. He noted that if the city handled negotiating and purchasing the property it would be much quicker than the 4-6 years if the state went through the process. The city has hired a surveyor and has received an offer of \$12 per square foot from John Osterkamp. Mayor McCauley stated the administration was asking for approval to have the mayor sign a purchase agreement. He added the agreement will detail items and assuring property will be brought back to current conditions. Kelly moved to approve the city to enter an agreement at \$12 per square foot times the surveyed amount. Pam seconded the motion. There was further discussion with Pam Osterkamp about her concerns of the noise, safety of patience in the waiting room and that if things could change again in the future. Michael noted the agreement would be presented to them and if there were concerns that were not addressed, they have the right to ask before sign the agreement. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Pool Opening Update and Recommended Changes: Regie presented an update to the opening of the pool. He noted that 13 lifeguards had been hired and they are working through the process. There was discussion about the days and hours of operation, the requirements still in place for COVID and new rules which include requiring

anyone under 13 to be with an adult. Kelly commented now would be a good time to put those new rules in place. Regie stated he would update them again as they get closer.

COUNCIL CONCERNS – There were none.

CITIZENS CONCERNS – Pam Osterkamp commented how neat everything is handled and that everyone in the room for the work that they do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Michael moved to enter executive session with provisions of Idaho Code 74-206, subsection 1.b to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or the hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. He requested a roll call vote. Pam seconded the motion. Pam voted yes, Michael voted yes, Kelly voted yes, and Sue voted yes. Mayor McCauley asked Regie Finney to be present for the executive session and excused everyone else. Executive session was entered at 8:45 PM. Michael moved to adjourn Executive Session. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed. Executive session adjourned at 8:55 PM.

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 8:56 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk