

CITY COUNCIL WORKING MEETING

MAY 23, 2022  
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Regie Finney	Public Works
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Marla Sisson	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Karen Drown	Clerk	Reba Puente	Library Director
		Concerned Citizens	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McClain asked the applicant to make a statement. Barbara Gietzen, Buhl, Idaho, stated the Buhl United Methodist Church has donated the building to the Food Bank. They have asked to have the property slip because if the church were to close all the property would revert back to the nation conference. She stated that if that were to happen and possibly losing the Food Bank would be a major loss to the West End community. She added the variance request is for the distance between the storage building and the main Food Bank building does not have the required distance; she added it has been that way for 75 years. Nothing structural has changed. She stated the storage building contains the freezer and walk-in cooler so moving it would not be possible.

Mayor McClain asked if there was any testimony in support of the application.

Jim Tubb, President of West End Ministerial Association and paster of the First Christian Church, stated he had been associated with the Food Bank since 2017. He added the benefit of having the food bank for the communities of Buhl and Castleford and the residents that are struggling with food security. He noted this donation from the Buhl United Methodist Church was an answer to an unprayed pray which would allow the food bank to remain even if something happened to the church.

Mayor McClain asked if there was any testimony in opposition of the application. There was none.

Mayor McClain asked if there was any testimony neutral to the application. There was none.

The hearing was closed at 6:39 PM.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of April 11, 2022 – Working Meeting
2. Bi- Monthly Claims for Payment

Michael Higbee moved to approve the consent agenda. Kelly Peterson seconded the motion. There was discussion and the motion passed.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of Testimony of Variance request by the Buhl United Methodist Church: Kelly moved to approve the variance request by the Buhl United Methodist Church. Michael seconded the motion. Kelly asked Barbara if this had been cleared with the church. She stated the process was complete with the conference just needed to finalize the variance to record the deeds. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Budget discussion: Council Spending Priorities: Michael noted several priorities that remain from the past include safe walking paths, park facilities with restrooms, and streets with more personnel. His goals for the future include additional street improvements, a grant program for citizens to redo curbs, gutters, sidewalks, safe school zones and routes to school including parking along one side and a safe attractive community the detective position should be a priority. He added it needs to be looked at for developers add parks and green space to future developments. Michael concluded to look at funds to support positions in fire service

Marla's priorities started with planning for growth and the water and traffic stud and anything to run efficiently. She stated we need to look an increasing pool pricing and grants for the pool facility. She also would like to include the detective and continue the SRO positions. In streets department add the replacement of equipment. Library look at full time position and the Admin/P&Z maintenance upkeep and the building inspector position. She concluded with the discussion of the need for staff with the QRU/Fire on-call.

Kelly stated he largely agreed with Michael and Marla's statements to have personnel to go with the growth. He feels the detective position is very important and the need for equipment to support staff. In fire the QRU staffing is a serious problem. He stated he sees no progress with the rural district and the city needs to have a contingency plan and he sees no clear path forward. He then discussed the concern for green space as we grow and gave examples between Twin Falls and Eugene, Oregon and the need to look at ordinance for green space on new developments as people want to live here now. He also discussed that the city needs to stipulate code for specific requirements for growth; as we want growth but we need to regulate to standards.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Michael questioned about the TAP grant project status. Regie noted that TAP #1 went out to bid and there were no bidders bid the job. TAP #2 had been awarded but is hoping to push #1 and #2 together to have a larger project and pull more bidders. Regie also noted that the city is applying for the Child Pedestrian Safety grant. It is difficult right now to get concrete because of shortages in supplies. Regie stated he has been reassured the TAP money will remain until it is used. There was a discussion about contractors having employee retention issues as with all businesses.

Michael noted he had been approached by a citizen about subdividing a property but where the Pierson's were looking at is outside the impact area so he directed them to Twin Falls County.

Michael questioned if there had been any other requests for development. Regie noted there had been a meeting with the Bower Family on a property south of town. There was also a meeting the owner of TKO, he doesn't have property currently he was just looking for options. Regie also stated there was a meeting with the potential new owner of Moon-Glo which currently has 75 homes and is looking at increase by and additional 100. It had also been questioned about the city providing garbage service pickup to the park. Marl questioned if we are going to need to look at going to one day a week or add recycling. Regie stated not right now but he is watching it and recycling is difficult at recycling is very limited on what can be up in the bin.

Marla questioned to options about a rec district or getting one formed. There was a discussion about the backlash for the last one and the possible reasons it didn't pass. She questioned if the city would like to give the pool to a recreation district. Regie stated that was the planned in the past. Marla noted the Filer pool is ran by a recreation district. She questioned the process to change the ordinance to include the addition of green space. Karen explained the current subdivision code would need to be reviewed and changes proposed to the planning and zoning board and then city council and public hearing would be held. She concluded with a discussion about the previous joint fire meeting. She stated she did not feel good after the last meeting and wondered if proposing a phase out plan with the new formula over a three-year period could be and options. Mayor McClain stated it could be discussed.

Chief Engbaum stated the DNA evidence is back in the murder case from earlier this year and he hopes to have a conclusion to this case very soon. There was a discussion about the safety of our community and Chief Engbaum stated he was 95% certain for the safety of any concerns. There had been officer working this case non-stop since February.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Michael moved to enter executive session with provisions of Idaho Code 74-206, subsection 1.f to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options to pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. He requested a roll call vote. Kelly seconded the motion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, and Kelly voted yes. Mayor McClain asked Regie Finney and Karen Drown to be present for the executive session and excused everyone else. Executive session was entered at 7:40 PM. Michael moved to adjourn Executive Session. Kelly 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; Kelly Peterson seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk