

CITY COUNCIL WORKING SESSION

JUNE 28, 2021
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Karen Drown	Clerk
Michael Higbee	Council President	Autumn Jones	Treasurer
Pam McClain	Council Member	Regie Finney	Public Works
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Concerned Citizens	

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

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 6:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of June 14, 2021 – Regular Meeting
2. Bi-Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Clerk Report
4. Treasurer Report

Michael Higbee moved to approve the consent agenda. Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. Karen added to her report with an update of topics from the Association of Idaho Cities Annual Conference. She summarized the legislation that has affected city government the most this year. These included election changes which got sent back to committee but will probably come back next year, transparency laws to reporting of expenditures with an implantation date of 2025 and the new tax reform that are delaying the Idaho State Tax Commission in producing the new L-2 form and levy information to complete property tax allocations. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of 2021-2022 Beer, Wine, Liquor and Game Table Licenses: Michael moved to approve the applications as presented. Pam seconded the motion. Karen pointed out that the Tractor Grille had also applied for a wine license in addition to the beer license they had last year. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Rate Committee Recommendations: Autumn reviewed the information that was provided to the rate committee at their meeting on June 22, 2021. Michael moved to approve the recommendations of the rate committee of an overall increase of .88% to the utility bill. Kelly seconded the motion. There was discussion that this increase is still low historically but it provides the opportunity to take care of the departments. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Update of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding: Karen updated council on the first tranche of money that had been allocated to the City of Buhl. The request had been completed and funds should be arriving in the coming weeks. There was a discussion on the funds and projects they can be allocated for.

Budget Discussion – General Fund Projected Revenue Allocations for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022: Autumn reviewed the documents outlining the tentative figures that could be calculated prior to the state releasing new forms and figures. She noted it is conservative because the amount we receive for new construction in prior years is going to be calculated completely different this year. There was further discussion about the future needs items that needed firm confirmation to continue with the budget process. Those included the \$100,000 for fire savings, Kelly noted saving money is great and is in support of it, but feels the District has a different agenda than council does. The \$140,000 for training grounds which cannot be decided until meet jointly. The library had \$1,500 for Chromebooks and \$16,000 for RFID system, Reba noted that she is working on ARPA grants to cover those items.

Autumn then reviewed the allocations that were being presented for each department with salary recommendations from department heads and a 1% increase to operation and maintenance. There was discussion about the spreadsheets and the figures being used. After that discussion consensus from Council was to see the increase in tax revenue, the cost of one-time expenditures from the last three years and last year vs projected allocations. It was decided to start the July 12th meeting at 6 pm to allow time to discuss this topic again.

COUNCIL CONCERNS – Pam questioned the Gleason situation with the storage containers. Mayor McCauley noted a letter had been returned from their attorney. The city staff had

gathered facts from statements made in said letter and those had been returned to Andrew Wright. He will be completing a response and will send it out.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Kelly Peterson moved that the meeting be adjourned; Pam McClain seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk