

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

JULY 12, 2021
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Michael Higbee by phone	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	Reba Puente	Library Director
Karen Drown	Clerk	Concerned Citizens	

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

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes of June 28, 2021 – Working Meeting
2. Monthly Claims for Payment
3. Monthly Department Head Reports
4. Commission Minutes
5. Clerk Report
6. Treasurer Report

Kelly Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda. Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Monthly City Engineer Report: There was no report as city engineer was on vacation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Budget Discussion – General Fund Projected Revenues Allocations for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022:

Review & Approval of Salary Recommendations

Autumn began by asking if there were any questions on the packet that was sent out with the general fund revenue projections. Kelly asked if there was any update on the L-2 form. Autumn stated she had heard from the Twin Falls County Clerks office and they are hoping to have it out by July 26th or so. Michael questioned why a 1% increase was used on the operating and

maintenance when budget sheets show more than a 1% increase on line items. There was a discussion about the growth on the operating and maintenance line items and the capital projects. The discussion continued with reference to the presented fund balance comparison versus expenditures for salary, o & m and capital. The phone connection for Michael was lost. Sue asked where the MiiCor had gone in the administration budget as it was still listed in the police department. Karen noted that the expenses was included in the general o & m for the administration since all other technology was up to date. Pam asked if department budget sheets were available and Autumn stated that to create those a direction from council was needed on the revenue allocation spreadsheet. Kelly moved to direct the treasurer and clerk to proceed with budget spreadsheets that coincide with the proposed salaries. Sue seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Review of Proceeding with Capital Projects

Autumn reviewed the capital projects that was being presented for a drawdown of the general fund fund balance. These included administration projects, police projects, parks and rec equipment and the city portion of the fire department training grounds. There were also projects presented in the street department that would drawdown the street fund balance. Some of these projects would be carrying over from the current budget year. The phone connection with Michael was regained within this discussion. Sue moved to proceed with the capital projects as presented. Kelly seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

There was a recess from 6:53 PM to 7:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 7:00 PM

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum for the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING – Opened at 7:00 PM

Pam McClain asked the applicant to make a statement. Karen presented Council with a map of the proposed annexation. She explained the application had been reviewed by the planning and zoning board after they held a public hearing. Their recommendation was to approve the requested annexation. Marsha Brooks and Lur Napoles were owners of the property and were requesting the annexation.

Holly from 4223 North 1425 East stated she had a question on the reason why you would want to be annexed.

Marsha informed Council that in order for the Napoles's to split the property she had sold them they would either have to annex into the city or got through the subdivision process if not

annexed. Since the property had been split before an additional lot split could not be done if the property is not annexed. She also noted that since her property is between the current city limit border and the property the Napoles's bought from her with the understanding it could be split she has to annex first to allow them to annex. She stated the zoning would stay R-4 and would not be changing later as she does not want multifamily housing.

Pam McClain asked if there were any questions from Council. There were none.

She asked if there was any testimony in support of the application. There was none.

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

Hearing was closed at 7:13 PM.

REGULAR SESSION reopened at 7:13 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of Marsha Brooks and Lur Napoles: All members of the City Council having been furnished a copy of the proposed Ordinance No. 1003 and being fully apprised of the content and purpose of said Ordinance, Kelly moved that the provisions of Idaho Code Section 50-902 which require that said Ordinance be read on three (3) different days, two (2) readings by Title only and one (1) reading which shall be in full, be dispensed with and that said Ordinance be pass upon one (1) reading by title only. Kelly requested a roll call vote on the motion. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Sue voted yes, Pam voted yes, Kelly voted yes and Michael voted yes. The motion passed.

Kelly moved to approve Ordinance No 1003, annexing the Brooks and Napoles properties. Sue seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. Sue voted yes, Pam voted yes, Kelly voted yes and Michael voted yes. The motion passed.

Southern Idaho Economic Development Presentation: Connie Stopher presented an update of the events and work that her staff had done over the last year. She reviewed resources SIED had created to promote the area and local events. She detailed how they handled the FAM tours virtually and provided local products, they were the first in the country to hold this type of virtual event. She also reviewed the Operation Facelift program and some local businesses that had benefited from that program.

Ervina Covcic updated Council on the events and projects she had helped local businesses through the REDS program. It was discussed about future programs and projects for expand the current programs. Connie did note the requested amount for SIED was again reduced by 17% this year because of COVID-19. Kelly moved to approve including fees in the administration budget. Sue seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review and Consideration to revise Title 7, Chapter 1 Water System Regulations and Protection:

Chris Wingfield attended and presented to Council a situation he has with an irrigation well that was shared by his property and the property formerly owned by his in-laws. When the in-law's property was sold the well was on that property which leaves his property left without water for his yard. He noted that both homes are connected to the city water for drinking. The current well was drilled in 1975 to 80 feet deep. He was here to ask if a revision of the code could be considered to allow him to drill a well on his property.

AJ, water department superintendent, stated he was against allowing the drilling of a new well. He stated this would open the flood gates to more wells. This was a concern in trying to monitor any cross connections back into the city water system. Pam noted there are reasons rules are set into place. Andrew Wright added that if an exception is made then that affects everyone in the future. There was a discussion about possible other options for this situation. AJ noted if there could be an agreement to continue to use the well as they had in the past. Chris noted there was an agreement for the remainder of this season but it isn't a smooth process. Michael moved to have public works and water department to look at ordinance and update this winter. Sue seconded the motion. There was a vote on the motion with Sue, Pam and Michael voting yes, Kelly voted no. The motion passed.

COUNCIL CONCERNS – Michael voiced a concern about opposing political factions or groups in the Sagebrush Days Parade. There was a discussion with Rich White, President of the Buhl Chamber of Commerce Board, concerning the float that was entered by the Proud Boys. He stated they are meeting and looking at options and legal recommendations moving forward. There was additional discussion about the coverage through social media and troll accounts are pushing the issue. Even with the negative comments it has been noted it is one of the best in the area. Pam stated we need to count our successes and the West End truly came together to pull off all the events, including the softball game, trout feed, pancake breakfast, parade and fireworks. Rich read the statement the chamber had issued and will continue to issue. Sue noted policies needed to be looked at to address situations in the future

CITIZENS CONCERNS – There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Sue 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 for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated, but imminently likely to be litigated. He requested a roll call vote. Pam seconded the motion. Sue voted yes, Pam voted yes, Kelly voted yes and Michael voted yes. Karen Drown remained for the executive session everyone else was excused. Executive session was entered at 8:26 PM. Kelly moved to adjourn Executive Session. Sue seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed. Executive Session adjourned at 8:34 PM.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Sue Gabardi moved that the meeting be adjourned; Michael Higbee seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk