

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

JULY 29, 2024  
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Pam McClain	Mayor	Jeremy Engbaum	Police Chief
Michael Higbee	Council President	Scott Bybee	City Engineer
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Maegan Hanson	Library Director
Amanda Hawkins	Council Member	Andrew Wright	City Attorney
Marla Sisson	Council Member	Jazmine Mills	P & Z Admin
Karen Drown	Clerk	Concerned Citizens	
Autumn Jones	Treasurer		

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Autumn Jones confirmed a quorum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Consideration of Utility Rate Resolution: Michael moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-8. Marla seconded the motion. Amanda questioned if there was a total. Michael and Autumn both noted the net effect is zero. Amanda referred to section 6.1.c for the bonds; Autumn stated that is the total fees of \$147.70. Amanda questioned where we have changed it and see different amounts but doesn't change overall. Autumn confirmed that was correct; a residential account will not see an amount change in their total overall bill. Amanda questioned who would see the affect by capital improvement. Autumn again clarified the page number; Amanda was referring to page 4. Michael explained his motion from the last meeting. Autumn noted those customers that have larger meters will see a change in that of the 4.90% which is applied based on their meter size. Autumn noted that sewer only accounts will see a change and landowner will see a decrease. Amanda questioned if they will change for the \$147.70. Autumn noted commercial accounts already differ from the \$147.70 amount because of equivalencies. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote on the motion. Kelly voted yes, Amanda voted yes, Michael voted yes, and Marla voted yes. The motion passed.

Budget Discussion – Third Review of Admin, Planning & Zoning, Code Services, Police, Parks & Rec, Police Forfeiture, Streets, Library, Airport, Contingency, Water, Sanitation, Wastewater, Utility Grants: Michael moved to approve budget level 3 budget sheets. Kelly seconded the motion. Kelly

stated it was no Autumn's fifth year in a row she had been within dollars on her estimate with the final property tax calculations. Autumn confirmed it was her third year. Kelly thanked Autumn for her hard work that she put into this and is within \$5,000 of actual amount. Michael noted he appreciated the detailed list of changes to these sheets and had no questions.

Amanda questioned if we were all finished up with what needs to be done as the walking path goes. Jason noted the concrete is all good. Amanda asked about a section by the Elementary needs to be fixed that has never been fixed. Kelly questioned where by the elementary; Amanda stated by their maintenance building. Jason stated the school district was to fix that because it was removed for their sprinkler system to be fixed. Amanda questioned why the section between Pizza Planet and Clark's Garage wasn't done. Jason stated that wasn't part of the plans. Amanda questioned why would you put sidewalk in and not curb and gutter. Jason stated it was an ADA/pedestrian path not a curb and gutter project and not all was changed. He added from the driveway to the corner was done to get the water out of the corner. Michael noted there was no sidewalk through Pizza Planet it was just parking lot. Amanda questioned if the city did that on their dime. Jason and Michael confirmed that was part of the grant. Mayor McClain asked Jason to list what was done on the city's dime for the record. Jason added the curb from the driveway to the corner was put in for a legal ADA ramp. Amanda asked about the area where the sno-shack it. Jason said it would be on the plans. Amanda noted she wouldn't mind looking at the plans. Michael questioned if Amanda's questions had to do with the motion on the table. Amanda said they did; she then questioned sidewalk replacement for \$15,000. Autumn clarified which budget. Amanda said it was on the admin budget. Autumn clarified \$10,000 was last year for the section in front from the fire department to the corner and the \$15,000 is from the corner to the alley. Amanda noted the Vaquero's sidewalks do pertain to this budget. Kelly questioned the sidewalk Amanda was so concerned about and who owns that property. He noted her father or grandfather for family and it was split 60/40 he stated he had looked at it and this was now the third or fourth time she brought it up. Amanda stated she asked for the plan and we could move on as she had other questions. Mayor McClain stated she has noted several times that grant is closed and finished. Amanda stated they were also told to go over there and fix it and they only fixed half of it. Michael and Kelly questioned who was told. Amanda stated public works and they went later and fixed the other side where water was running. Jason stated they had to wait to have the pole taken out. Mayor McClain stated the walking path has nothing to do with Michael's motion or these budgets.

Amanda requested clarification for the amount of \$15,000 for trees. Autumn confirmed Amanda was done with the admin budget; Amanda confirmed she was done with that question. Mayor McClain questioned why this hadn't been brought up until now, this was the third night of budget. Amanda noted she had quite the list and nothing had been brought up. Autumn outlined the \$15,000 was in parks for trees, Jason added that Leo applied for a grant to replace trees in Eastman Park. He stated a lot of the cottonwood trees are hollow and not safe. The grant is to remove those trees, grind the stumps and replace the trees. Amanda questioned how many trees and if the city has an arborist.

Jason stated it is for five trees and the arborist training takes five years; Teresa added the individual that was training for that is no longer on earth.

Amanda questioned the police vehicle grant and if it would cover everything to outfit the vehicle. Autumn noted the grant was for \$11,000 and the total equipment was \$14,000 so the other \$3,000 would come from the police forfeiture budget.

Amanda questioned the increase of the library of 3% to 3.4% and if other departments get similar increases. Autumn explained the library is different than other departments as there is a required amount by the Homling Foundation that has to be met, but it also can't go over the levy rate, and she added when House Bill 389 was passed that limits L2 growth then the same percentage is applied to the library contribution. Autumn added the "Piece of the Pie" discussion is the consideration of distribution to all the other departments.

Autumn did note there was a \$1,000 increase in the Parks budget because of a formula error so it was more than the previous meeting. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes, and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed. Mayor McClain thanked Autumn for all her hard work. Autumn noted she will be gone on August 5<sup>th</sup> but hopes to attend via ZOOM but these worksheets should be the same next week.

Amanda asked if she had a question next time, if those could be asked. Mayor McClain clarified not to miss read what she was saying, but it is a big difference when questions are not asked along the way.

Review and Consideration of National Fitness Campaign: Mayor McClain explained several weeks prior she had an interview for a grant opportunity. She noted this was a little different than a pickle ball court and referred to the document provided in Council packets. In the interview they talked about several locations. She added this would be possibly \$150,000 to \$200,000 and help to get a \$50,000 grant. It would also allow to get local sponsors to help with the artwork. She explained they are asking if they can come and do a presentation to get Council buy-in for the possibility. Marla stated she would be interested in a presentation. Michael noted it is mostly insurance companies. Mayor McClain added they reached out to Buhl as the lady the mayor spoke with her mother-in-law lived in Buhl. Amanda clarified this would not be enclosed so it would be used only 5 months out of the year. Mayor McClain commented it would be more like 8 months or longer. Michael added the \$200,000 grant is money from private donors not tax money from the state or federal government. Amanda questioned if the city would be responsible for the upkeep. Mayor McClain noted if it is in conjunction with the school there could be a possible agreement. Michael added most people want a better quality of life. Mayor McClain noted that during COVID people couldn't even buy a bike in Twin Falls as they were sold out. Amanda stated the concerning part for her is the money part and more work for city employees; but she is not saying it isn't a good idea. Mayor McClain said it was

an opportunity to see what is available. Kelly stated he was in favor of extending and invitation. Mayor McClain stated they need Council to have buy in as the City does not have the money to do this; but she walks every October for \$1,000. Michael moved to extend an invitation to the National Fitness Campaign to present their information. Kelly seconded the motion. Michael noted he doesn't want to give up on the idea of a pickleball court and gave examples of people using other cities facilities that are similar. Amanda asked if anyone had talked to the school district about them getting a grant for the pickleball court. Marla stated not yet. Michael stated there is confusion between the school district and the tennis association on the facility. There was no further discussion. There was a roll call vote on the motion. Marla voted yes, Michael voted yes, Amanda voted yes, and Kelly voted yes. The motion passed.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Mayor McClain read the below statement.

We need to make sure that we comply with the law with regard to employee privacy issues. If a member of the City Council would like to discuss any issues pertaining to complaints, discipline, etc. of a City employee, those will first need to be discussed with the mayor, who is the chief City administrator per Idaho Code 50-602. After review of the complaint, discipline, etc. if it needs to go before City Council it will be listed under an executive session on the upcoming meeting agenda.

Mayor McClain announced on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM Clearwater Financial will be presenting on the Comprehensive Plan. She stated it will be workshop for Comp Plan 101. They will explain what a comp plan is, why it is important, and the process to create one. They will also detail what a good plan would look like for Buhl and resources for people, capital, and time that would be required to complete it. They will also discuss who would be responsible for completing the necessary task, such as the Mayor, Council, city staff and Clearwater Staff withing the \$30,000 grant budget. She noted it will be recorded.

Michael stated Rick Norris came to seem and talk about the walking path. He said he sees them all the time on the path and Rick commented the path has really changed their lives and then asked if the city could double it. Jason noted there is always child pedestrian grants. Michael added there is always people out using it and conversing. He stated it is quite an awesome thing for our community.

Mayor McClain also noted she was invited to the Sagebrush Days feedback meeting, but has another commitment at that time. She will send her comment and comments she received from others. The meeting is scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Teresa stated she could go for the city. Michael added there had been a couple of people that came in upset about the parade route change before the event and they and come back in and stated they liked it better and apologized. Mayor McClain stated the only two complaints she had received were from people you had big parties had their homes along the old route. Michael also noted Jeff Gabardi with WEMA said it was the smoothest since he had

been involved with the event. Amanda questioned why the road was block at Main and Highway 46; people figured out they could go the back way off Juniper until they blocked it. Jason noted they had a record number of floats.

Mayor McClain noted there would be another meeting the following Monday where Autumn would be by ZOOM, Karen would be back, and Michael would be gone.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Marla moved that the meeting be adjourned. Michael seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted yes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk