

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

MARCH 13, 2012

PRESENT: Mayor Eric Christensen
Council Members: Earl Beattie, Kurt Russell, Stacy Pascoe, and Jeff Kelley
Police Chief: Rod Mohler
Public Wks Dir: Chuck Lloyd
Recreation Dir.: Dawn Lloyd
City Clerk: Sandy Gaydusek
City Attorney: B.J. Driscoll

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Rod Mohler

PRAYER: Kurt Russell

Stacy moved, Jeff seconded to approve the following consent agenda:

- Minutes of February 28, 2012 Council Meeting
- Approval of February Expenditures
- Approval of February Overall Budget & Treasurer's Rpt.
- Building Permits:
 - Phillip Stegman - re-roof
 - Jeaneal Wattenbarger - re-roof

A roll call vote was called for: Earl – aye, Jeff – aye, Kurt – aye and Stacy – aye. Approved unanimously.

Dawn said the Mayor's Youth Group is working on the Founder's Day event, and the Preparedness Fair.

Stacy said the city's current investment policy does not allow for the investment of corporate bonds. He said we are only investing in CD's which are yielding 1.9%, and as they renew the interest rate is going down. Stacy proposed to take 20% of the city's funds and invest in corporate bonds. He estimates the trust funds will raise approximately \$24,000 annually, which is about what the property tax increase would have been last year. Stacy said this is allowed by State Statute. He said he would like to revisit this issue in a year and possibly raise the percentage more than 20%. Stacy said our investors watch the account, and the corporate bonds must have an A rating. He said the bonds could be sold at anytime, but there may be a small penalty. Jeff agreed that this matter should be revisited in a year, and look at investing a larger amount into corporate bonds. Sandy presented an amended investment policy that U.S. Bank Trust provided incorporating the language to allow the investment of corporate bonds with 20% of the available funds. Stacy moved, Jeff seconded to adopt the Amended Investment Policy as drafted. Approved unanimously.

Sandy presented some information she received from other entities' regarding building permit fees. She said some of the entities scheduled their own rates, but most were using 97 UBC rates. Sandy said currently the city using 94 UBC rates and charges a flat rate of \$10 for a fence and \$15 for a roof. Doug Keele, the Building Inspector said when he was hired no precedence had been set on procedures. He said he wanted to keep on top of the building in the city, and so he travels around every other day to make sure permits are being obtained. Doug said there are

occasions when he has "red tagged" people for building without obtaining a permit first. In that case the building permit fee is doubled. Stacy said the city is paying approximately \$400 per month for Doug's mileage. He said he is concerned about spending \$400 to get a \$10 permit. Stacy said when you operate a business this has to be taken into consideration. Doug said he would cut back on his travel if directed. Stacy said he would like Doug to cut back to traveling about the city to one day per week. Stacy said he thinks Doug is doing a great job, but feels the city is losing money. Jeff discussed the re-roof and fence fees. He felt these fees should be raised. Stacy suggested the re-roof fee be raised to \$30 and the fence permit be raised to \$20. Earl moved, Kurt seconded to schedule a public hearing to consider a fee increase larger than 5% for April 10, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. at the Shelley City Hall. Approved unanimously.

Rod said he needs to fill the vacancy in the Police Department. He said they have interviewed several police reserve officers. Rod said Christian Hinton has been a reserve officer for the past five years. He said he has worked up to a reserve team leader, and been a great help to the department. Rod said Christian is willing to move to the city. Stacy felt that it is a big issue that an officer lives in the community. Earl said the city cannot require it, but it is a big issue. Rod recommended that Christian Hinton be hired for the police department. Earl moved, Kurt seconded to conditionally hire Christian Hinton as a police officer upon passing a polygraph test. Approved unanimously. He will have one year to be sent to POST, and will have an agreement that he will stay with the city for at least three years after POST or pay back some of the POST expenses. Earl moved, Stacy seconded to hire Mr. Hinton at a level 1 (\$2895 monthly) on the police departments pay scale with a six month probationary period. He will be eligible for a wage level increase one year after the hire date if the merit pay scale has not been frozen. Approved unanimously.

Sandy said since there has been a substantial turn over in personnel, she asked the city's insurance agent to see if the city's insurance premiums could be re-rated. She said the re-rate came back at \$11.60 reduction per employee which is approximately \$220 per month based on the current employees on the roster. Sandy said the only draw back is that this will change the city's twelve month contract to expire in April instead of August. She said this will not be as convenient to figure the budget, since insurance rates have been so erratic, however the rates are locked in for twelve months. Sandy said the city has the option to be re-rated again in August, and worse case scenario would be that the city saved \$1100 for the five month reduction. She said the city could continue with the April expiration and try and figure the budget as accurately as possible. Stacy moved, Earl seconded to use the re-rate and renew the contract for April, but to look at another re-rate in August to get back on a budget friendly schedule. Approved unanimously.

Sandy said EIRWWA held a public hearing to consider raising the sewer connection fees to \$3600. She said the hearing was held, and the EIRWWA Board voted unanimously to raise the fee to \$3600. Sandy said the city will be required to pay EIRWWA \$3600 for each new ERU connecting. The Council discussed raising the city's connection fees to \$4000 with the city keeping \$400 for its future infrastructure needs. The Council discussed a sewer feasibility study

to see what the appropriate amount would be for our infrastructure needs. There is a grant available through DEQ for half of the estimated \$50,000 to complete the study. Stacy suggested that the city do their own study with the new sewer camera that is now available. The grant funds would not be available for at least a year, and then it would take six months to complete the study. Jeff felt the city should still pursue the grant after the first of the year because it will be needed for the city's comprehensive plan. Sandy said Kathleen responded and said Urban Renewal Funds could be used as a grant match for a sewer study. Earl suggested that the city use Urban Renewal Funds for the entire study to expedite things so we know how much we need from the connection fees for the city's infrastructure. Jeff suggested that the city continue looking at the condition of the lines with the camera. Stacy suggested we seek bids for an engineer to complete the sewer study. However, if Urban Renewal funds are being used, the Urban Renewal Board would have to handle the project. Jeff moved, Earl seconded to schedule a hearing to consider increasing the sewer connection fee to \$4000 on April 10, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. at the Shelley City Hall. Approved unanimously.

The Council discussed the sewer feasibility study and felt the project should be pursued as long as URD funds could be used for the entire project. Sandy said she would contact Kathleen Lewis with SICOG to make sure.

Sandy said the Mayor discussed the trade for connections immediately instead of a lease with the EIRWWA Board at their last meeting. BJ said the EIRWWA Board would like a written proposal for the trade of connections for the city owned property that the treatment plant sits on. He said he will draft a simple proposal requesting 67 connections for the property as described in the lease agreement draft. BJ discussed the overflow issue where some overflow may go on to city property not covered in the trade. The council felt that could be addressed later, and for now to draft a simple proposal.

Jeff discussed the proposed Spray Park project. He said he graciously appreciates the offer from the Foster family which is a very generous offer. Jeff said he received an email from Wade Foster revoking the offer of the \$350,000 donation due to the inactivity on the project. Jeff said he researched the project with cost comparisons from other contractors who also were at least \$150,000 over the estimate. He said he discussed the costs with Cheryl Sanders (Foster), and said the city could not go forward due to the cost. Jeff said Dawn gave Cheryl some pamphlets for playground equipment if she is interested in changing the scope of the project. He said it is unfortunate that the project could not be pursued because of the response of the citizens wanting a Spray Park. Jeff said a lot of women commented that the pool is boring. He said there is a shift in a lot of communities to Spray Parks.

BJ presented the ordinance he drafted rezoning a 6.5 acre parcel of land owned by Rich Eaton from R1 to RA. Earl moved, Kurt seconded to suspend the reading of Ordinance #546 on three different days and read the title of Ordinance #546 once. Sandy read the title of Ordinance #546. Stacy moved, Jeff seconded to adopt Ordinance #546 rezoning a parcel of land to RA as read. Approved unanimously.

Sandy said Allan Corbett brought some paperwork into her regarding the Vista Estates Subdivision which lies approximately ¼ mile outside of city limits, and owned by Clint Bradshaw. The paperwork was requesting that Lot 5 in that subdivision be vacated to use as an easement to four lots that Mr. Corbett currently owns, that is not part of the subdivision. Among these documents was a letter from Allan Jensen, the Bingham County Administrator stating they did not object to the vacation of that easement, however according to I.C. 50-1306A it is the responsibility of the city to vacate any portion of a subdivision within one mile of the city. It is the County's responsibility to approve the subdivision, but the city's responsibility to vacate it. BJ said he did some research on this matter, and it did not make much sense, but it appears this is right. The Council felt if Mr. Corbett wants to pursue this matter before the city he should follow Idaho Code and submit the necessary paperwork, such as a petition to vacate, copy of the plat, owners name and addresses within three hundred feet of the property, etc. Sandy will contact Mr. Corbett and inform him.

Dawn said she is currently holding baseball sign ups.

Rod said there has been extra patrol as requested at the drop off zone at Sunrise Elementary. He said things are going well and the traffic is flowing smoothly. It is understood that there is a group of parents attending the School Board meeting to protest the new drop off zone and crosswalks. Jeff said he will attend this School Board meeting.

Stacy said he would like to discuss what the city is paying monthly for a prosecuting criminal attorney. He said Dan Acevedo is being paid a flat rate of \$1650 per month. According to the average number of misdemeanors this comes to approximately \$58 per misdemeanor. He wondered if the city is paying too much for this service. Stacy said he was told that Mr. Acevedo subs some of his work to Dave Cannon. The Council discussed the time that is spent each month working on misdemeanors. BJ said based on attorney rates, the \$1650 probably covers about ten hours of work each month. Earl said the officers work well with the current prosecutors and feels the cost for this service is probably in line. BJ said he would get a copy of attorney rates and see if this is in the ball park.

Kurt said he attended a Tree Committee meeting and Arbor Day is scheduled for May 19th this year. He said it will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the City Park. He said they may possibly plant trees at Pillsbury Park or on the Nature Trail.

Kurt thanked the Department Heads for all of their time and efforts. He also thanked the city crew for the great job they do.

Sandy said Jed Young/Hidden Treasures decided not to proceed with a public hearing to consider the variance to add a lean to on to one of his buildings. He indicated he has some other options.

Mayor Christensen said this is the 11th year the city has been designated as a Tree City. He said the requirements of spending \$2 per capita and holding an Arbor Day celebration have been done each year.

Adjourned: 9:20 p.m.

ATTEST: Sandy Lydmark APPROVE: Eric R. Christensen