

The budget workshop of July 1, 2014 convened at 6:12 p.m. at City Hall. Present for the workshop were Mayor David Anderson, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Ron Smith, Connie Wells, and Tom Mayo, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, Police Chief Robert Boone, and Fire Chief Pat Warkentin. Also present were Ruth Sutton, Dale Simpson, and Dave Gray.

The group reviewed the general fund budget. The budget workshop ended at 6:40 p.m.

Joining the regular meeting were Water/Sewer Department Plant Operator Doug Ladely, City Mechanic Keith Fairchild, Lineman Cody Reichert, Line Foreman Brian Kerins, Electrician Steve Neumeyer, Economic Development Coordinator David Sims, Water/Sewer Operator Mike Wade, Power Plant Operator Adam Isaac, Billing Clerk Jean Diel, and City Attorney Andrakay Pluid. Also present were Stacy Brown, Al Brown, April Isaac, Jerry Higgs, LeRoy Vogl, Marcia Cossette, Denys Knight, Len Pine, Arron Clark from the Bonners Ferry Herald, and Ken Baker.

Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mike Wade spoke to council regarding the proposal to merge the water/sewer department with the street department and placing both departments under the street superintendent. He said he has been in this line of work for nearly 20 years and has a class 3 wastewater license, a class 2 collection license, and a class 1 water treatment license. Mike said he also runs the cross connection control program for the city and is the backflow assembly tester. He thinks it is wrong to join the departments and said the water/sewer department needs to separate themselves from the rest of the city so the individuals can excel at what they do rather than being so scattered. He feels that it takes years of studying to get certifications and licenses to run the water and sewer departments. It is crazy to put someone in charge of the water/sewer department that does not understand the water/sewer department. He agreed that the water/sewer department has some problems. Mike commented on the job description that was advertised having no qualifications. He also thinks the whole process was a farce and the decision of who to hire was predetermined. Mike said no one asked him about his qualifications during the interview and there were three pages of questions that were downloaded from the internet.

Ken Baker spoke to council regarding the Boundary Volunteer Ambulance helping to develop fire station 2 so it could be a remote dispatch site and have housing for the overnight EMTs. Mayor Anderson said we will agendize the issue for the next meeting.

Doug Ladely spoke to council regarding the water/sewer department superintendent position. He said all departments were notified last Wednesday afternoon that the water/sewer and street departments were going to be merged and then it went to council that evening. Doug said the personnel in the street department were not aware of the merging and they were told that they would be working some on water/sewer issues. Doug said if anyone works on water or sewer lines that they must be certified and licensed. He said the street employees have not been informed of this. He also said regulatory issues need to be addressed and whoever comes in and takes this position needs to know the water/sewer treatment and operations and rules that govern. He said we are talking about public safety. He would like council to think about this as it is a big decision.

David Sims said he generally does not speak to council at the public portion of the meeting but speaks to them individually. He said he was told by a member of the council that was on the water/sewer superintendent interview team that he no longer has input. David said he does not think the merging of the water/sewer/street departments has been well thought out. He said at times there are public works departments and often the person in charge is a professional civil engineer. He does not think we will find such a person in house. He also spoke of morale and said the merging of departments would not help. David said public health is so important and he does not think the city administration takes it seriously. He gave the example of merging with the North and South Hill Water Districts and said we got a tank from the North District and another from South Hill Water District. He said the north tank is an underground concrete tank with an a-frame metal roof over it. DEQ came up and did a sanitary survey in 2010 and said there were signs of rodents in the north tank. We did the best we could and grated around the eaves of the roof and Mike Woodward ordered a new fiberglass door with a nice seal and there was a bill attached to it for \$300. Previously there was a piece of plywood that we had used. He said there was a member of city administration that gave David grief about the expensive door and how he was cow towing to the regulators. When the water line projects were being done the tank was drained so they could fix the entryway into the tank and there were about ten mice that had been in the water tank. He said the water crew got them out and he also queried if the water was clean. He said the water tank needs a new concrete cover. Someone needs to be encouraged to get the tank lid replaced this summer. John Griffin was surprised that we had mouse traps in the north tank. Council needs to think about someone who understands the water/sewer regulations and takes public health seriously. Connie asked about John Griffin being in charge and asked why he did not get this done. David said council should talk to Mr. Griffin.

Jerry Higgs said it has been 13 years and asked where the final four lights are that were to be installed in the Marx Addition. He asked when they would be installed and said the Marx Addition residents have been paying taxes and want the street lights. He said citizens were invited to a session with tea and cookies with the Mayor and his wife. Jerry said he brought the lighting plan that was discussed when they were originally annexed and at the meeting the residents came to a compromise regarding the street lights. Jerry said the street department supervisor has a loyalty to the city administrator and he spoke regarding the raises, promotions and retirement. Jerry spoke of underhandedness and said morale at the city is in the toilet and some people are not going to wake up until competent authority comes in and reads them their rights. Ron Smith said people were invited to come to the Mayor's meeting with citizens of the Marx addition to discuss annexation issues, it was not just a social event.

Len Pine from the Boundary County Chaplain Corps offered to open council sessions in prayer and asked council if they had made a decision. He read a public prayer by Samuel Dunbar from 1760. Len is thinking about the governance of the city and in the affairs of the city or county or whatever that people remember they are servants to the creator and then things will improve. Len again offered to serve in that capacity.

Police Chief Robert Boone gave the police report. In the last reporting period the police made two DUI arrests, one excessive DUI, investigated one unattended death, made two felony

controlled substance arrests, one possession of marijuana/paraphernalia arrest, investigated one vehicle accident, and wrote 34 speeding tickets including nine in a work zone. Yesterday two children were taken into custody and the CPS hearing is tomorrow. The Bonners Ferry Police Facebook Page is active and it has received 200 likes. Law enforcement explorer post applications will be taken starting next week in partnership with the Sheriff's Office, Forest Service, and Border Patrol.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin said there were five fire calls in the month of June. Last night there was an urban wild land fire interface training on the rim of the city near Atlanta Street. It was a training with Idaho Department of Lands and the Forest Service. Many residents of the neighborhoods favorably commented to the fire department about their forward thinking and planning. The fire department has garnered many LED lights from the fire cache in Coeur d'Alene that were free. The lights will be used for scene lighting and will be installed on the fire equipment. Fire department will be in the parade and also on scene for the fireworks celebration. Alan Hamilton will be setting off the fireworks.

Stephen Boorman said the Cow Creek corner widening project has been completed. It is now 22 feet wide. There is a package for council review regarding the Smith Creek Hydro. He said the Chamber of Commerce has purchased their own insurance for Kootenai River Days. Stephen said the north side tank does need a roof on it but there have not been any more problems since the repairs were made.

David Sims said EDC did apply for a Mobility West grant to provide technical assistance for the highway project committee. Another grant that may be applied for is for the Library Fab Lab. David said Gem Grants can only be given to a city, county, or tribe. The Library may ask the city to apply for a Gem Grant for this project. It is due in September.

Connie moved to approve the consent agenda. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll; and approval of June 17, 2014 regular council meeting minutes and June 25, 2014 regular council meeting minutes.

Mayor Anderson said he would like the water/sewer/street department issue to go to executive session for discussion, and he suggested not making a decision. Ron wanted to talk about it now and make a decision. Rick, Connie, and Tom would like to take it to executive session for discussion and not make a decision tonight. Tom Mayo moved to not make a decision on this issue until the next meeting. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “no”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Mayor Anderson said he is in favor of the wage proposal and said this brings the enterprise funds employees closer to market standards. He likes the people working for the city and wants to keep them here. He said if the proposal goes into effect it will make this fiscal year a nail biter. Ron Smith said he is in favor of it and thinks we need to do it. He would not have a problem implementing the increases at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Rick Alonzo is in favor of it but thinks the way the budget is looking that it should begin October 1. Connie Wells said she

understands that there have not been very large raises in the past but she is concerned about the general fund. She learned tonight that the general fund is short \$108,000 for balancing the budget. Tom said council does care about the employees but they don't seem to agree. Ron Smith moved to adopt the salary plan that was proposed and make it affective October 1. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. Ron amended the motion to be effective the first pay period after October 1. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “no”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Ron Smith asked if there will be consideration for Andrakay’s salary proposal as it is a contract. Mayor Anderson said it will be discussed.

Keith Fairchild, Brian Kerins, and Steve Neumeyer left the meeting.

Tom Mayo moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Fodge Pulp for the firewood at the golf course if they take birch. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Tom Mayo moved to approve the special event permit for Jordon Productions, Inc. for Three Ring Circus on July 6, 2014 at the fairgrounds. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Connie Wells moved to approve the special event permit for Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce for Kootenai River Days on July 25-27, 2014. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Attorney Andrakay Pluid said she reviewed the contract from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and item #6 states that we take responsibility for past and future contamination and this causes her concern. Stephen said we have done soil tests in the past. Andrakay said she recommends taking out the past clause for contamination. Tom Mayo asked since we have soil tests from the past if BPA would remove that portion of the contract. Stephen said he doubted if BPA would remove the clause. He also said the city owns the property that the substation sits on. Ron Smith has a problem with considering a contract until it has gone through legal. Mayor Anderson agreed. Tom Mayo moved to table this issue. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The backup operator was discussed for the water department. Rick Alonzo moved to sign the agreement with John Griffin for backup operator for the water department. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Police Chief Robert Boone said he was informed when he was hired that take home vehicles were allowed. He said the policy is for take home vehicles in the city limits. He also said there are officers that live outside the city limits that have been told it was okay to take vehicles home. Mayor Anderson said he remembered talking about being short-handed and thought that was brought to council but since it was not in the minutes it must not have been brought to them and this is a public issue. He said take home vehicles are a benefit to the employees but it is good for public safety. Tom Mayo thinks we should follow our policy and does not remember it being

changed. He read a portion of the policy about take home vehicles for k-9 officers and if there is a change made by council. Connie remembers the take home vehicles being discussed but does not remember anything about vehicles going outside the city limits. Rick said he wrote the policy and remembers discussing the fire chief being allowed to take a vehicle home and that is about 4.2 miles out of town. He thought the limit for take home vehicles should be within a five mile radius or so as this would benefit the citizens of Bonners Ferry but that was not approved. He is in favor of expanding the distance for take home vehicles. Ron Smith said all county officers were allowed take home vehicles so they could respond quickly. He asked if there are not enough vehicles in the police department for all the officers and questioned what we do about that. Robert Boone said we had a vehicle that went down and the grave yard shift officer took another officer's vehicle that lived in the city limits. Police Chief Boone said we need to set a reasonable limit and track the benefits. Rick said now people have to live within 15 miles of the city limits in order to work for the city unless there is an exception made by the city council. Ron does not have a problem with them but does not want them to be used for personal use. Connie has a problem with the 15 mile limit but might go along with a five mile area outside the city limits but thinks this is a benefit to the employee and it should be accounted for. Mayor Anderson said we must follow policy so at this time there is not an exemption for out of town take home vehicles. He further said if law enforcement sees a benefit for the city take home police vehicles that he will listen. Police Chief Boone said five miles outside of town is reasonable and the officers do not get paid for the fifteen minute briefing time they put in before their shifts. Andrakay said we can change the policy now. Rick Alonzo moved to expand the limits a police officer can live to have a take home vehicle to be five miles outside city limits. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin spoke regarding the communications grant match. Stephen said Fire Chief Tony Rohrwasser from South Boundary Fire District has put in much time for this grant for communications. Stephen said Tony has contacted E.L. Automation who has space on the city tower to make sure the equipment won't interfere. Ron asked if law enforcement would be involved. He said the system is for fire and ems at this time. Pat said the funding came from federal grants and Tony is the only full time fire chief in the county and he spends much time writing grants and he also goes back east to the place where grants are approved as he is on the board. Pat said at some point in the future if other departments or agencies wanted to get involved they could as the equipment would be there. He spoke of the difficulty of radio service in Boundary County and this system will help improve communications immensely. Pat said there is a match required for the grant and TransCanada has put in \$5,000 but there remains about \$15,000 or so. Ken Baker said it is \$17,000. Pat commented that the grant match portion for the city may be a small building. Stephen said the first question is whether the city wants to help with the grant match. Tom asked how the radio system works. Pat said it is through the Sheriff's Office Dispatch. Stephen said if the city wants to put in a match by building a building near the tower we may have to hire a contractor to do it. Stephen said the building will be city property and we may be able to lease out the building or a portion of the building to others. South Boundary will own the equipment but Doug Ladely said it is designed for growth. Ron Smith spoke regarding the dispatch agreement and how it should be revisited since the 911

system has been installed. He said the City of Bonners Ferry is part of Boundary County. Rick Alonzo moved to approve attachment to the tower pending contract approval. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Andrakay Pluid spoke regarding the information systems policy and said ICRMP recommends that we have such a policy. She said it puts the employees on notice that their city issued computers and cell phones are public information. Tom asked how many city cell phones are in service. There were about half a dozen. Connie Wells moved to add the information systems policy to our personnel policy. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Rick Alonzo moved at 8:22 p.m. to go into executive session per Idaho Code 67-2345 (1) (a), (b), (e). Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. Executive session ended at 9:35 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Kris Larson, City Clerk