

Mayor David Sims called the City council meeting to order October 4, 2016 at 7pm. Present for the meeting were Mayor Sims, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Connie Wells, Adam Arthur, and Ron Smith. Also present were City Administrator Mike Klaus, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, Police Chief Vic Watson, City Electric Department Superintendent Kevin Cossairt, Line Foreman Brian Kerins, Lineman Cody Reichart, City Electrician Steve Neumeyer, and Deputy Clerk Jean Diel. Also present were Craig Johnson, CEO of Boundary Community Hospital, Lauren Kuczka, David Koon, Eldon Koon, Boundary Community Hospital Board of Trustees Chairman, Jerry Higgs, Marciavee Cossett, Necia Maiani from Welch-Comer, Star Lara, and Robert Hanover.

Mayor Sims shifted the order of the guests that were present for the meeting. The Mayor introduced Necia Maiani from Welch Comer, who summarized the work completed since June, 2016 on the Cassia Water tank project. Necia submitted contract documentation for Council to consider. Item one is the pay request number seven for \$15,960 reflecting payment for all outstanding work (minus retainage). Item two is a balancing change order in the amount of <\$1,520> for quantities that were not used. Item three is pay request number eight (Final Payment or Release of Retainage \$54,325). Welch Comer will notify the City when they have received receipt of tax release.

Boundary Community Hospital CEO Craig Johnson presented power point explanation of the up-coming supplemental levy for funding capital improvements and specific equipment. The funds will be spent on a main fire alarm panel replacement, climate control system upgrades for the hospital and the nursing home building, surgical equipment, radiology equipment, and laboratory equipment.

Police Chief Vic Watson gave his report for the activity for the last two weeks. There was one domestic battery in presence of a minor, one domestic disturbance, one hit and run, one petit theft, one vehicle accident, one drug paraphernalia, one meth/paraphernalia, one possible controlled substance and firearm, and eight speeding violations. The Chief also added that things are slowing down from the summer month activity but the next phase is the slick roads in the winter months. He is concerned that there were three recreational vehicles that hit the UPRR Bridge on Bonner Street. More signage may have to be posted to alert the drivers of the height. It may have changed since the last measurement sign was put up and both sides should be posted. The two pick-ups were driven from Boise.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin reported there were two EMS calls, two alarms, one to the new Shopko also adding they will have to be given keys to allow fire to enter in an emergency, one gas leak, and one open burn call. Ten members attended extrication classes.

Before City Administrator Mike Klaus began his report, the Mayor wanted to pass along a compliment to Mike and City Planner Lisa Ailport for their presentation of the alley vacation public hearing. Mike reported the Augusta Street Project will be paved next week, the Bingham

Street project is ready for paving, with the sewer main and water and sewer line repaired. The electric crew finished their project on Pine Island Road replacing the primary line and they are working on a three phase line out at the dam.

Connie Wells moved to approve the consent agenda with Adam Arthur second. Roll call vote was taken, Ron Smith, yes; Rick Alonzo, yes; Connie Wells, yes; and Adam Arthur, yes. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll.

Rick Alonzo moved to approve Final pay request to S&L Underground for Cassia Tank Project. He moved for Pay Request Number Seven, recognize a balancing change order, and Pay Request Number Eight contingent upon receipt of tax release. Connie Wells seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Ron Smith, yes; Rick Alonzo, yes; Connie Wells, yes; and Adam Arthur, yes.

The first reading of Ordinance 558 repealing Ordinance Number 369 was read by Mike Klaus. Connie Wells made the motion of waiving the reading rules and adoption of Ordinance 558 repealing Ordinance Number 369. Rick Alonzo second. A roll call vote was taken: Ron Smith, yes; Rick Alonzo, yes; Connie Wells, yes; and Adam Arthur, yes.

Council was asked to consider the hiring of Tyson Bennett, Jake Porter, Andre Rosengrant, and Jesse Williams as firefighters. Pat Warkentin said he is encouraged by their youth and he believes they want this for the right reasons. Ron Smith made the motion to hire Tyson Bennett, Jake Porter, Andre Rosengrant, and Jesse Williams as firefighters. Connie Wells seconded. Mayor Sims asked for those in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Sims said the amendments to the billing policy have been looked at for a while. Issues came up this summer with particular customers prompting us to look at sections of the policy. He said we wanted to make sure the policy was consistent with the latest Idaho Supreme Court Ruling from last spring dealing with capitalization fees. City Administrator Mike Klaus said in January of 2017 he would like to see an amendment pulling the billing rates out of the billing policy as they are in the fee resolution and there are times the billing policy does not get amended to reflect the proper rates. This would reduce the billing policy by about eight pages. Mayor Sims said we would only have the billing rates in one document instead of two. Mike read the proposed items and amendments to the billing policy and facility extension policy. There are new additions in Section D (4) regarding medical conditions and a 30 day extension if a certificate from a doctor or public health official is obtained and Section E (4) (c) giving account holders the right to a hearing before the Utility Grievance Board. In Section E (5) concerning reconnect requirements, the word "may" was changed to "shall" requiring services to be brought up to City standards before reconnection. Mike also had an alternate to Section E (5) allowing customers 60 days to bring the service up to City electric standards after purchase of property. Mayor Sims said the City of Bonners Ferry has a requirement for all new services that the meter must be external to the structure and must have an external main disconnect. The customer that is delinquent on their utility account gets a letter that tells them if they are

disconnected for non-pay that they will have to bring their service up to City standards. The City was not doing a good job of making this policy available as it was not on the website. He said we have people who cannot pay their electric bill that are facing another large expense before they can get their power turned back on. Mayor Sims has heard this could cost the customer between \$300 and \$1,000 depending on what needs to be done. He checked with six different utility companies and none of them have the requirement of service upgrade before reconnection. Mayor Sims is questioning if it is fair for us to be penalizing the folks that are least able to pay their bill. He started looking at the City facilities and some of them do not have the external disconnect so we are asking some of our customers to do something we don't do ourselves. Mayor Sims thinks the policy to require external disconnects on new services is good. Many of the older residences and businesses do not have the external disconnect. He spoke of electric code not requiring it unless the main box is more than 36 inches from the meter. Mayor Sims said in talking with our electric crew they want to upgrade our system and see things improve and he agrees. He thinks it would be better to have it in our policy that when property sells that the upgrade happen within 60 days of the connection rather than when there is a disconnection for non-pay. Ron Smith asked to hear from the electric crew. Kevin Cossairt, Line Superintendent, said he spoke to the Electrical Inspector about the 36 inch rule, and his interpretation of that code is right at the bottom of the meter which makes it external. This is for safety reasons, because without an external disconnect the fire crew cannot enter a burning building until the electric crew arrives to shut everything off. Kevin said it is a safety issue for the meterman, electrician, and linemen, and he does not want to put a price on safety. He is all for the external disconnects and if the City needs to follow the policy, let's go for it as we have the means. Mayor Sims said we definitely need to get as many houses upgraded as possible but questioned how to do it in a way that is fair. He said it is not wise to require people to do something that we do not do ourselves. Mayor Sims said strict enforcement started about three years ago. Kevin said it was required in the period from 2000 to 2003 and then Brian said it was enforced starting in 2008. Kevin said if Northern Lights sees a service without an external disconnect they will give a time certain for the person to get it installed. Mayor Sims said there is a difference in requiring everyone to meet the policy rather than just the people that cannot pay their bills. He said if you look online at Northern Lights, they do not require an external disconnect. Kevin said this has been City policy for 30 plus years and he has never heard of a policy going backwards. Mayor Sims agrees that it is wise to upgrade but there is a better way to do it than the way we are. He said in a landlord/tenant situation the tenant will get the shutoff notice and if the service is disconnected the landlord has to bring the service up to standards.

Steve Neumeyer said the NEC does not require an external disconnect, but it is a safety issue especially for the people working in the electric utility. Right now the electric crew is in the process of changing out the electric meters to automatic read meters. When a person pulls a meter under load, it is a hazard so we are having two people on these meter change outs. He said the serving utility can supersede the NEC. The conversation ensued about the timing of the requirement for installing the external disconnect. Mayor Sims still thinks it would be better to

have the requirement met when property changes hands, possibly allowing 60 days for compliance. Steve Neumeyer thinks about 90 percent of the services in the City limits are not compliant. The newer subdivisions are compliant. Mayor Sims said the statistic is that people stay in their homes seven years so we would eventually be compliant. Adam Arthur asked how many disconnections we have per year versus the property sales. Mayor Sims thinks when a person is requesting electric service after a property sale would be the time to require the upgrade.

Rick Alonzo asked for clarification from the Fire Chief. Pat Warkentin said when the firemen arrive on scene they get the water to the structure on the exterior and then the electric crew arrives to disconnect power and then the firemen enter the building to fight the fire. He said our electric crew has good response time. If there is an external disconnect they can flip the switch and then enter.

Mayor Sims asked the estimate of how many homes in town need the external disconnect. Steve Neumeyer said there are probably about 1,000. He said every time there is a meter that has to be pulled out of the socket it wears out the jaws, but if there was an external disconnect we could shut off the power and put a lock on it without pulling the meter. The group had a brief discussion of different meters.

Mike Klaus completed the review of the billing policy amendments. After the lengthy discussion, Ron Smith then made the motion to the adoption of amendments to the billing policy and facility extension policy by resolution emphasizing staying with item number five: Reconnect Requirements and its changes of “shall” and not include the “alternate” at this time and open up the discussion to look how to better serve the taxpayers. Rick seconded the motion, more discussion before the vote was taken among the council members, on item five, with suggestion to revise the application and communicate in a more appropriate manner to the owner. A roll call vote was taken: Ron Smith, yes; Rick Alonzo, yes; Connie Wells, yes; and Adam Arthur, yes. The mayor questioned the adoption of the resolution. A number was not on the document, he asked Mike to make the changes to item number five and the rest of the amendments and bring it back to council at the next meeting.

Mike spoke on behalf of City Planner Lisa Ailport, regarding the minor subdivision Ordinance. He gave a brief explanation of the ordinance to Council. They briefly discussed some items which included a request to report back to council from time to time when one is in the process.

Rick Alonzo made the motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract amendment for the contract with Lisa Ailport concerning holidays. Connie Wells seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Ron Smith, yes; Rick Alonzo, yes; Connie Wells, yes; and Adam Arthur, yes.

Connie Wells made the motion to authorize the City Administrator to solicit proposals for IT work. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed- Ron Smith, yes; Rick Alonzo, yes; Connie Wells, yes; and Adam Arthur, yes.

Discussion on the renewal application of the Avista Natural Gas Franchise Agreement was heard. Rick commented on how he enjoyed the reading of it. With no action needed, Mike was given permission to give notice to City Attorney Andrakay Pluid to schedule a public hearing for adopting an ordinance for the agreement.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

David Sims, Mayor

Attest:

Jean Diel, Deputy Clerk