

Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of December 15, 2015 to order at 7:10 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council Members Ron Smith, Connie Wells, Adam Arthur, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Mike Klaus, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, Water/Sewer Superintendent Adrian Dice, Electric Lineman Derrick Barras, City Mechanic Jimmy Dorhofer, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, and Police Chief Vic Watson. Also present was Mayor-elect David Sims, Eric Olson from HMH Engineering, Marcia Cossette, Loretta Hunsaker, Mike Walcott, Susan Stagliano, Kari Dameron, and Jessica Tingley. Council President Rick Alonzo was gone on personal business.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing for fee increases. Loretta Hunsaker read comments from Ruth Sutton into the record, as she could not attend the meeting. Ruth Sutton's comments were against the rate increases for water and sewer. Loretta Hunsaker said she spoke to several people about the hearing this evening, and she thinks we should have advertised the hearing better. Mayor Anderson said the hearing notices were in the Herald. There being no further comments, Mayor Anderson recessed the hearing at 7:14 p.m. (Clerk's note: there was one written comment received from Amy Bridges, 6903 LaBrosse Hill Street, in opposition to the water and sewer rate increases).

Mike Walcott from Inland Forest Management spoke to council. He said the logging project at the golf course has been worked on for a couple years, and one of the goals is to remove some of the trees near a couple tee boxes to let the sun in. He said there are a few other areas that need tree removal for sun exposure. He said another issue is the site of the golf course from the highway, as it is a beautiful view. They have walked the property with ITD (Idaho Transportation Department) as much of the timber along the highway is on the State Highway right of way. ITD is in favor of the tree removal. Due to slope instability and the sensitivity of the golf course the logging has to be done when it is cold. Mike said cold weather conditions are a must. He said it is difficult to find a contractor that is willing to take on this project but Matt Maggi may be interested. Mike Walcott said Dick Staples has been helpful with the project. Mike said some of the root disease infested trees in the southwest corner of the golf course will be removed also and this should help with the cash flow. Connie Wells asked if ITD will donate the trees logged from their right of way. Mike said ITD is not concerned about it. Most of the trees from the right of way are ponderosa pine, and it does not have much value. Connie said she is glad ITD is cooperating with the City on this project. Mike said another challenge will be to coordinate with the contractor's schedule during the cold weather.

Mike Walcott left the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Eric Olson from HMH Engineering gave a power point presentation on the Augusta Street project. He said a public open house was held last month, and tonight's presentation will focus on the crossing area near Valley View School. Eric showed an aerial view of the Valley View crossing area. The street width at the crossing is 32 feet wide. Eric said the Community Choices grant is for \$484,000. A raised, narrowed concrete crossing is included in the project as well as \$3,000 for 150 feet of fencing. He said there may be some contingency to help cover costs. Another slide showed bump outs with flashing lights. Eric read a statement regarding narrow, raised crosswalks and how they slow vehicle drivers down and they make drivers aware of the

crosswalk. There is fencing planned to separate the sidewalks from the roadway. Greenspace is also planned to be placed between the sidewalk and the street giving further buffer for pedestrians. Eric showed a slide of rectangular rapid flash beacon (RRFB) lights that could be used. The estimated cost for a pair of these lights is \$10,000. The RRFBs show very good statistics for making vehicles slow down and yield to pedestrians. Another option for the safety of the crossing are gates that could be installed and kept closed during school hours. Eric said there was overwhelming support of the gates from the public hearing comments made. Eric read the summary of comments received including a petition with 70 signatures. He also read the pros and cons of the gates for road closure during school hours. Crossing guards are also a safety measure that could be implemented. Eric also summarized the accidents that took place on Augusta Street since 2010. There were two vehicle accidents and one was due to the driver having a seizure and the other was alcohol related.

Eric recommended installing a narrow, raised crossing and fencing. He said this was agreed to by the Traffic Safety Committee. He also recommended using adults to assist with crossing and possibly review a crossing guard program. He said we could consider implementation of additional measures including RRFBs and gates.

Ron Smith said the main reason the school wants to implement the gates is that there are kindergarten children crossing the street several times per day. Ron said adults assist with kindergarten children crossing.

Mike Klaus gave a summary of the Traffic Safety Committee meeting held earlier today. He said the group agreed to the raised crosswalk, with a narrower path, and fencing. Two places of disagreement were the flashing lights and the gates. There was a split vote for the gates by the committee members. Mike said it is unique for the school to have a kindergarten on one side of the street and the main school on the other side. Mayor Anderson asked if we have spoken to the school district. Eric said we had a meeting on site with the new principal of Valley View and the School Superintendent Gary Pflueger. Mayor Anderson said it would be nice to speak to the School Board and request funding. Ron Smith said according to Susan Kiebert there may be additional funding available, and if not we could approach the School District Board. Mike said we could go out for bidding add alternates for the options. Mayor Anderson asked when the project will be out for bid. Eric said late March or April. Mike said the project is scheduled for construction after school is out.

Police Chief Vic Watson gave the police report for the last two weeks. There were two trespass arrests, one felony drug arrest, one threat, two felony warrant arrests, one investigate suspicious, and one runaway. He said it has been quiet.

Fire chief Pat Warkentin said the fire department responded to an odor call. There was a propane leak at the trailer court and a gas leak on Oak Street. Avista responded to these calls also to check things out. He said they also respond to carbon monoxide calls and gas calls. Arista's equipment is better than that of the city's.

Miek Klaus showed a power point presentation to council. There was quite a lot of water near the intake at Myrtle Creek, even covering the walkway. Another slide was the Moyie Line

move, and Mike said the poles are now moved out of the roadway. Mike showed another line project near Moyie with the electric crew and Jimmy working at night. Mike showed a slide of a home near the cemetery road and a manhole that deflects the water if any debris comes in front of it. He showed how the water runs when the manhole does not work. The street department will try to build up the approach near the street to keep the water from running onto private property. Mike showed council a slow sand filtration system that was used by the City of Walla Walla. He said we are going to use this as a pilot system for removing algae at our lagoons. Walla Walla will donate the system to the City of Bonners Ferry. Mike said this is a good start to trying to tackle the algae problem at the lagoons. He said we would measure the influent and the effluent. He will have to get this approved by Department of Environmental Quality.

David Sims said there will be an urban renewal agency (URA) meeting in January. There are proposed changes to the urban renewal laws. David said when our urban renewal agency was formed we included the courthouse and city hall. The new legislation prohibits using urban renewal funds for buildings. He said the County prefers to close the urban renewal district as soon as possible and not use the funding for the courthouse. David said right now we can modify the plan but that may be going away also. Mayor Anderson said our URA may want to look to any changes before the new legislation goes into effect. Mike Klaus asked if we could eliminate the courthouse and city hall from the URA plan. David said it is possible.

Connie Wells moved to add late agenda items: approve special event permit for the BFHS Cheerleaders Jingle Bell Run and to approve the independent contractor agreements Mike Kelley Excavating; KG&T Septic; Wink, Inc.; Poulton Development; and Mastre Backhoe Service. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Connie Wells moved to approve the consent agenda. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll; and approval of December 1, 2015 council meeting minutes.

The second pay request for the Cassia Water Tank project was discussed. Mike said some of the core samples for the pilings were strength tested and have not come up to full strength which is 4,000 psi, they were only 2700. Mike said this should not affect our cost because it appears to be lack of keeping heat under the blankets. We will withhold from the contractor’s payment until this is rectified. The pay request changed to \$319,494.50. Connie Wells moved to approve pay request #2 for the Cassia Water Tank project and pay the contractor \$319,494.50. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

The Augusta Street project was discussed. Ron Smith said the school wants to see gating of the streets for the safety of the kindergarteners. The gates would be on the side of the roadways and would be closed about 8:00 a.m. but will not be locked. He said if there were to be an emergency there would be someone who would open up the gates. Ron said when snow is being plowed there would be someone opening the gates also. He said the gates would be closed for

approximately eight hours per day. Ron would like to see the gates go in and that there would never be a need for them in the next 50 years. Ron said the school did not request that the street be narrowed. He thinks it is very important for the school. He said Susan Kiebert made him think there may be funding available to help out with the costs. Ron offered to bring the superintendent to a council meeting if council would like. Connie said she does not like to see gates go up and close our street. She thinks it gives the children a false sense of security and it is a learning experience for children to learn to cross a street. She said a street closure would cause problems for the other streets if Augusta were closed. Adam Arthur is against closing any city streets as well. He said there have been complaints about speeding on the other side streets such as Buchanan. He thinks options one, two, and four are good for our project (raised crosswalk, narrowing of the street, and fencing). The slide showing the gate in Sandpoint looks like a less busy street. Adam said the street did not split the school, but the school decided to purchase property on the other side of the street. Ron Smith would make a motion to re-agendize the issue. Connie Wells moved to go with the raised concrete, fencing, and narrowing of the street near the school. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. Ron Smith asked if gates will be eliminated. Connie and Adam said they would be. The motion passed – Ron Smith “no”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mayor Anderson spoke of the fee increases proposed. Adam Arthur moved to approve the rate increases and make the utility rates effective with the January billing. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”. (Clerk’s note: fees established for golf 30 day passes – individual \$200 or couple \$300; water rates increased five percent for residential and six percent for commercial; and sewer rates increased 15 percent).

Loretta Hunsaker, Susan Stagliano, and Kari Dameron left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor Anderson spoke about his conversation with Matt Maggi regarding logging at the golf course. The logging job will be a three day job. The ground must be frozen during the logging project and Mayor Anderson is not sure if the project will meet Matt’s schedule. If Matt gets pricing figured out we may have a special council meeting to approve the contract.

Connie Wells moved to approve the city beverage licenses for 2016. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”. (Clerk’s note: beverage licenses were approved for Akins Harvest Foods; Alberto’s; Bonners Ferry Conoco; CHS Inc. Cenex Zip Trip; Eagles; Goat Mountain Pizzeria; Heartrock Wines LLC.; Kootenai Brewing Co.; Kootenai River Inn; Lane 9; Mi Pueblo; Mugsy’s; Pizza Factory; Safeway, Inc.; South Hill Mini Mart; Super 1 Foods; The Pearl Theater; Rusty Moose; Under the Sun).

Mike Klaus spoke of the meter reading contract with Retriever Services and said there have been no adjustments to his contract since he started in 2008. Connie Wells moved to increase the contract with Retriever Services by two percent for meter reading. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Adam Arthur moved to approve the special event permit for BFHS Cheerleaders for the Jingle Bell Run on December 19, 2015. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

The independent contractor agreements for 2016 were discussed. Connie Wells moved to authorize the Mayor to sign independent contractor agreements with Mike Kelly Excavating; KG&T Septic Service; Wink, Inc.; Poulton Development; and Mastre Backhoe Service. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

David Sims left the meeting.

Connie Wells moved at 8:29 p.m. to go into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (a) consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent; 74-206 (1) (b) consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student; 74-206 (1) (e) consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states or nations. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”. Executive session ended at 9:26 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

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David K. Anderson, Mayor

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Kris Larson, City Clerk