

Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of January 5, 2016 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Ron Smith, Connie Wells, and Adam Arthur, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Mike Klaus, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, Police Chief Vic Watson, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, and Water/Sewer Superintendent Adrian Dice. Also present were Mayor Elect David Sims, Stephanie Sims, Hannah Sims, Belle Sims, Chuck Newhouse, Elsie Hollenbeck, Mike Listman, Rita Pensmith, Dave Gray, Mark Aubrey, Camile Aubrey, Barbara Aubrey, Jerry Higgs, Bob Graham, Jessica Tingley, Tom Mayo, Bill Leach, Jr., John O'Connor, Debby Flory, Marcia Cossette, Sally Balcean, Verlyn Bailly from TransCanada, and Doug Ladely, Sr.

Elsie Hollenbeck spoke to council as a member of the concerned citizens group. She said Debbie Flory is also here for that reason. Elsie said the group met because they did not agree with the resolution adopted by the County Commissioners regarding refugees. There will be a community gathering on January 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Georgia Mae Plaza to speak and listen to music. This is a peaceful gathering to share stories and music and to let others know that not everyone agrees with the resolution. Through social media the group has been told there will be disruption from others that are not in favor of the peaceful gathering. Elsie does not want any confrontation and wants the City to know that. She said they want all people to listen and respect what is said.

Elsie said the Human Rights Task Force will hold an art show on January 16, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the basement of the Trinity Lutheran Church. She invited all to attend.

Dave Gray expressed his appreciation for Mayor Anderson for his efforts as mayor and all he has done. Bob Graham also reiterated that. He said on behalf of himself and others in the community Dave Anderson's leadership has been appreciated. He wished him the best of luck.

Connie Wells moved to approve the consent agenda. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll; and approval of the December 15, 2015 council meeting minutes.

Mayor Anderson recessed the meeting so the elected officials could be sworn into office.

Clerk Kris Larson gave the oath of office to David Sims for mayor, Rick Alonzo for councilor, Connie Wells for councilor, and Adam Arthur for councilor.

Mayor David Sims took his seat at the council table.

Dave Anderson and Mark Awbrey left the meeting.

Mayor David Sims called for the police report.

Police Chief Vic Watson gave the police report. He said since the last meeting there have been two trespassing arrests, two domestic disturbance responses, one DUI arrest, and one burglary arrest. Vic said regarding the event planned by the Human Rights group for Saturday he is up to date on the security issues, and has been following the dialog and rhetoric. He said the police will do their best to insure that it is a safe and secure event for all those involved.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin gave the fire report. He said there was a logging truck accident at the Kootenai River Inn parking lot. There was a false fire alarm at Valley View School. He said the fire department just completed a four week emergency vehicle training class that will be followed with a practical driving test. Pat introduced Verlyn Bailly from TransCanada who granted \$21,000 for the completion of fire station 2. Mr. Bailly presented a \$21,000 check to the City of Bonners Ferry. Mr. Bailly said Bonners Ferry and Boundary County collaborate better than others and it is appreciated. He said Pat is helpful in working with TransCanada for trainings. He said the participation of the emergency responders is better here than it is in larger cities. Mr. Bailly will also be presenting to Hall Mountain Fire. He understands the struggles of small communities. TransCanada is proud to help. The Mayor and Council thanked Verlyn for the funding.

Mike Klaus gave the administrator report. Mike said the Moyie Substation and Moyie line move projects are complete. He said there is a switch on the substation project that will not be installed until March so that will be tense for a month or two. The contractor for the water tank is taking a break for winter. Concerning the Augusta Street project, the waterline is not in that bad of a condition that it cannot be put off until a later date. The sewer force main will be replaced as it is under the pavement. Mike said we will save some of the engineering fees for the waterline installation. The pilot study for algae removal methods at the sewer lagoons will be completed soon. The covered storage was completed last month. Mike said there will be a special use permit hearing coming up later in the month. He said council should avoid conversation regarding this, and if they have questions to contact Mike, Andrakay, or Lisa Ailport. He said there is a sign ordinance hearing in January at the P&Z level and this issue should come before council in February. He said the sign ordinance may be spoken about as there are not restrictions.

Mayor David Sims said there will be an urban renewal meeting later this month.

Adrian Dice, Water/Sewer Superintendent, gave his report for the month of December. The new dump truck has been gone through, set up with side boards and tail pieces for hauling snow, and it is in service. They have been helping the street department with snow removal. Mike Klaus, John Delaney, Jay Solomon, and Joe Higgins went to a treatment optimization class in Orofino for water plant operation. A contractor with DEQ put on the training. Adrian said Doug has attended these classes before. The water department wants to enter the best tasting water contest again this year. There was a sewer overflow on Camas Street. There was a slow speed vehicle accident by Adrian on Oak Street. A leak was fixed on Comanche and Mohawk Streets. Another leak was repaired on Sundance. The sewer main was flushed on Denver Street. Priest River wants to enter into a mutual aid agreement for a class III treatment operator. There were two hair line cracks in the plant air lines. The sewer main on Blain Street was found to have three sections that are cracked or separated. KG&T repaired one while working on a customer's service. The others will be repaired when the ground thaws. The consumer confidence report was completed. Installed two cisterns at the west end of the flat area near the lagoons. This will make it possible to dredge lagoons three and four. Work in the lift stations was done four times

last month. Worked with S&L to tie in ends of the new 16 inch pipeline between the tanks on the Northside. Adrian's son, Abel, was born on December 5th.

Tom Mayo and Verlyn Bailly left the meeting. Ken Baker joined the meeting.

Connie Wells moved to adopt Resolution 2016-01-01. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”. (Clerk's note: this was the resolution for increased fees discussed and adopted at the 12-15-15 council meeting).

The contract with Matt Maggi Logging was discussed. Mayor Sims asked if Matt will be able to get the job done this year. Mike Klaus responded that we are supposed to get colder weather in the next couple weeks. He said there is a stipulation that the logging must be done on frozen ground. Ron Smith asked for clarification of where the trees are that will be removed. Mike said the logging will let the view of the course show and let more sunlight into the course. He said there is not much money to be made from the trees being removed but there is some cedar to be removed that will have value. Ron Smith moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Matt Maggi for logging the golf course. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Ron Smith moved to elect Rick Alonzo Council President. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Pay request #3 for S&L Underground for the Cassia Water tank was discussed. Mike Klaus has reviewed it and recommended approval. Rick Alonzo moved to approve the pay request for Cassia Water Tank and approve the payment to S&L Underground and Welch Comer. Ron Smith seconded the motion. Ron Smith asked about what percent the project is complete. Mike Klaus said they are about a third of the way done. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Bob Graham left the meeting.

Mike Klaus spoke of the pay request for Probst Electric for the Moyie Line move project. It is for the final payment and release of the retainage. Connie Wells moved to approve pay request #3 for Probst Electric and release the retainage. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Ken Baker from Boundary Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) spoke regarding the lease agreement with the City for the fire hall. He said they have completed the first year of a three year lease. At some point he would like to look at increasing space use in the upstairs of the building and also use of covered space in the lower part of the building. He wants to offset the increase in utility costs by doing janitorial upstairs and shoveling the walkways near the fire hall. Pat Warkentin said BVA has not been a problem at all, and he does not have real issues with the lease continuation. He said a consolidated fire EMS in Boundary County is coming due to lack of volunteerism. Ron Smith said we should table the issue until the next meeting when we get some numbers for an increase. Connie Wells said the contract stays in place until we get a revised version.

The phone system for the City was discussed. Mike Klaus said he has been working with Mike Listman on a new phone system. Mike Listman said it is hybrid phone system similar to the one installed at the hospital. He said it can do anything we need it to do. Mike Listman said we are paying for lines through Frontier at a high rate. He said we could save \$400 to \$500 per month if we went to the new phone proposal. Mayor Sims said the lines at the City yard could be connected but asked about the Moyie Dam. Mike Listman said we would still have to rely on Frontier for the connection to the Dam until we get some fiber out there. He said the backbone switches need to be upgraded to support the voice traffic on the system. Mike Klaus said this is work that needs to be done to our server in the back for this to all work. Mike Listman said the cost for the switch upgrade is about \$4,000. Mike Klaus asked Mike Listman to speak about the server software/backup enhancements. Mike Listman said there was not software to support the backup systems when they took over the IT. This proposal for server software/backup enhancements would automate the backups. The cost of the phone system and switch upgrades would be \$23,797 and the server software/backup enhancement would be \$1,459. Mike Klaus said there are media converters needed also that are not included in the quote at no fault of Mike Listman. Mike Klaus said we need to install this piece, probably five switches. Mike Klaus said it will probably cost \$29,000 including the switches on the hill. Mayor Sims said the phone system on the hill is very bad. Mike Listman said the phone system maintenance would be included in our current IT contract. Since the cost of the phone system and the switches or media converters is in excess of \$25,000 we will have to bid it. This will be looked at further. Ron Smith moved to go out for bid for the phone system. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Chris Langan joined the meeting.

Mike Listman said the Translator Board created its own television (TV) station. One of the items of interest is city government meetings and they would be interested in filming city council meetings. The meetings would be archived and on demand on the web. They may also be on the cable tv system as well. Mayor Sims thinks it is a good idea. Connie Wells does not want to be on TV. Mike Klaus asked if they would bring equipment in for each meeting. Mike Listman said he would. Mike Klaus expressed concern about the equipment being left at the City. Mike Listman said there would be no charge for this service. Adam Arthur said it may be a good thing to do but does not want to be on TV. Rick Alonzo thinks it would give the public more information. Ron Smith agrees. Mayor Sims asked Mike Klaus to work with Mike Listman to work out details.

The volunteer policy was discussed. Attorney Andrakay Fluid said criminal background checks should be done on all volunteers. She said this has been recommended by ICRMP, and a liability release is also included in this paperwork. Andrakay said the council would have the power to override the Administrator’s recommendation. Ron Smith asked about the cost of the background checks. Andrakay said there would not be a fee as the police chief will do this through the Sheriff’s Office. Mayor Sims expressed concern about the criteria used by the City Administrator for the volunteers. Andrakay said the criteria is different for different volunteers.

Mayor Sims commented since the council is approving the volunteers they should review the data. The physical document goes no further than the police chief but the information is relayed to the city administrator as it is done in other governmental entities. Mayor Sims also questioned the liability release wording. Andrakay said the wording is standard. The Mayor said he is concerned that we may not have volunteers. Andrakay said if we background check one volunteer we should background check them all. Rick Alonzo thinks it is a good idea. Ron Smith asked about how often we would background check the volunteers. Andrakay said each time someone volunteers for something they should be checked. Vic Watson said he shreds the background check immediately after he judges whether the person has passed or failed. The process of the information received was discussed. Andrakay said everything reported to FBI through NCIC is what will be on the background check. Mike Klaus said he is happy not to administer the volunteer policy. Rick Alonzo said he sees Mike as a buffer between the police chief and the council. Mayor Sims questioned where the policy came from. Andrakay said she wrote the application from information needed for the background check. Some of the information she used came from the City of Eagle. Connie Wells and Adam Arthur think it is a good idea to follow ICRMP's direction. Rick Alonzo moved to approve the volunteer policy as presented. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

David Sims, Mayor

Attest:

Kris Larson, City Clerk