Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of January 6, 2015 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Connie Wells and Tom Mayo (participating by telephone), Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, Deputy Police Chief Vic Watson, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, Bookkeeper/Payroll Clerk Christine McNair, and Economic Development Coordinator David Sims. Also present were Adam Arthur, Jessica Tingley, Susan Kiebert, Kenna Watson, Laura Snider, Marcia Cossette, Elsie and Richard Hollenbeck, Cal Russell, Marcia Morman, Doug Ladely, Sr., Ruth Sutton, Dale Simpson, Paul Anthony, Dave Gray, and Larry Dirks. Councilman Ron Smith was gone on personal business.

Marcia Morman from Boundary Community Hospital spoke to council and said Craig Johnson is very happy about the SPOT bus system in Bonners Ferry. This offer of transportation to appointments with primary physicians after hospitalization would help fulfill a requirement of one of the components of the Affordable Health Care Act. Marcia said Mr. Johnson is very enthusiastic about what he has seen in Sandpoint with the SPOT bus.

Marcia left the meeting.

Paul Anthony supports what Marcia said and there are quite a few elderly people in our community and this bus system will provide much needed assistance to people. Paul also spoke of the website concerning the Highway 95 Transportation Committee.

Elsie Hollenbeck invited council to the Human Rights Task Force Art Show on January 18, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the basement of the Lutheran Church. Elsie said since the funding went away for the Senior Hospitality bus that no public transportation has been offered. She said the opportunity for transportation for the citizens is a good starting point. Elsie said many people living outside the city limits also need transportation and she is hopeful that the bus system route will expand.

Dave Gray also thinks the bus service is needed for our community and hopes council will support the funding request of $10,000.

Larry Dirks said the bus has been at the Restorium for the past year and there is a volunteer driver for this. He is supportive of SPOT and the public transportation.

Vic Watson, Deputy Police Chief, gave the police report. Since December 24th there have been two felony warrant arrests, two domestic batteries, one disturbing the peace, once civil standby, one lost and found child, one car crash, one unattended death, and eight speeding violations.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin gave the fire report. There were 69 fire calls in 2014. He said the fire department only responds to ems calls if requested. Since the last council meeting the fire department responded to two carbon monoxide calls, one ems assist, and one smoke odor investigation.

Stephen Boorman gave the city administrator’s report. He said we had our first major snow storm and all went well. He said the sidewalk snow removal tractor is getting old and may be on
borrowed time. The Northside rectangular tank has been renamed to the Cassia Tank and the new tank will be a rectangular tank. The current tank will have to be taken off line.

David Sims said Wally Jacobsen has been selected as the new PAC Director. He will be up to meet council soon.

Connie Wells moved to add late agenda items - discussion of special event permit for the Boundary County Historical Society for the Boundary County 100th Anniversary celebration and the other item was to award the quote for remodel of Fire Station 2. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Mayor Anderson moved agenda item 13 concerning the SPOT bus discussion to item #4b.

Connie Wells moved to approve the consent agenda. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payrolls; and approval of the December 16, 2014 council meeting.

Susan Kiebert spoke to the group concerning the SPOT bus. She is pleased that we can work with the County Restorium as well as the citizens in need of the bus service. Susan gave the history of the SPOT bus funding. There is $60,000 in federal funding for the bus program. She said the bus was turned over to Boundary County when the Senior Center lost the bus. Susan said many seniors, disabled folks, and veterans are underserved and they need the bus transportation. She said the bus service will be a demand service as calls are made for bus appointments. Susan said the funding will be sustainable for the bus service. It is $60,000 in federal funds, $10,000 from Area on Aging, and in-kind match from Boundary County. She is hopeful the city will fund the needed $10,000 for the bus service match. ITD supports the project and the funding is sustainable according to Susan. David Sims said he understands the match is a tough budget item for the city, but the bus system is a needed service to our community.

Mayor Anderson is in support of the SPOT bus and he said occasionally we have to prime the pump to make projects go. The expenditure will be from general fund and he knows those dollars are stretched to support our police and fire departments. He would like to see the bus service extend to the Moyie area and will agendize this for the joint city/county meeting. The bus service will not start until April, 2015 and we may be able to extend the funding over two budget year periods. This service comes with benefits as the Restorium keeps and can use the bus when the city is not. Tom Mayo concurs with the Mayor, is concerned about the money but thinks it is a good project. He is in favor. Connie Wells said she is in favor of the bus service and knows it is needed in our community. Connie asked if it is $10,000 per year or just once. David said it may be requested each year. Connie said it is needed by the community. Rick Alonzo said he is in favor of the proposal also. Rick Alonzo moved to provide $10,000 to SPOT to get the bus service up and running. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.
Stephen said we went with a new computer contractor and the attached list is what the new contractor is recommending. Mayor Anderson said the expenditures will be split between all the departments. He said the biggest issue is the backup system. Vic said there is a lot of in-house data that is stored on the servers. Stephen said the $11,900 is the total plus some recurring costs. Connie said we should get the backup and look at the other proposed costs. Stephen said $5,000 of the total cost is the routing switches. Tom asked if the new service has been installed as he understood that it would have virtual storage for our files. Stephen said Mike Listman is telling us differently now. Connie Wells moved to take the recommendations and do the improvement on the second storage device at the fire hall for $3,900. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. Mayor Anderson said we will have Mr. Listman come to the next council meeting.

Connie Wells moved to hire Darrell Moore as city hall janitor. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Stephen said it is the recommendation to hire Jimmy Dorhoffer at $20 per hour for city mechanic. Rick Alonzo moved to hire Jimmy Dorhoffer at $20 per hour as city mechanic. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Rick Alonzo moved to read by title only the ordinance repealing sections in City Code Title 5, Chapter 2, dispensing with the second and third readings. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. Attorney Andrakay Pluid read the title of the ordinance repealing sections in City Code Title 5, Chapter 2.

Connie Wells moved to adopt Ordinance #546 repealing sections in City Code Title 5, Chapter 2. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin spoke regarding the Fire Station 2 remodel. He said the fire department received a $30,000 grant for this remodel from the railroad. He said during the process the door of the fire hall destructed and a new door was required to be purchased and installed. This door installation cost a little more than what was anticipated as it was $6,800. Pat went over the costs for the project to date. The concrete work was done prior to the bad weather and the site was prepped by Mastre’s. The slab is 30x35 feet and it tapers from nine inches in the back to six inches in the front. The funding left is $15,700 and the quote came in at $17,800. Pat is documenting the project with photographs to show the Railroad that the funding was spent on what was promised. Pat said we are about $2,000 short of needed funding for the project but this would not have occurred if we had not had to replace the broken fire shed door. Connie asked if there will be extra money in the fire department budget. Pat said there is never enough budget. He said there is a broken piece of equipment on the ladder truck. He wants to get the fire station remodel completed so he can report back to the railroad. Pat said he spoke to Trusstek about the help that City Fire offered to them when they had their fire and gave credit to Adam Arthur and Mick Mellett who helped fight the fire. Mayor Anderson said he is in favor of helping to move the fire department out of the blast zone and referenced the Bakken crude
sample Pat had bought in for council to review. Rick Alonzo moved to fund Pat’s grant plus $2,000. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The travel request for City Attorney Andrakay Pluid to attend the Prosecuting Attorney’s Association Winter Conference in Boise was discussed. Connie Wells moved to approve the travel request. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Rick Alonzo moved to authorize the Mayor to sign Amendment No. 1 to the Use of Facilities Agreement, Contract No. 09TX-13817 between Bonners Ferry and Bonneville Power Administration. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Connie Wells moved to approve reappointment of Louise Carter and Steve Nelson to the golf committee with terms expiring December 31, 2016. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Mayor Anderson would like to add agenda items of reverse 911 and the Spot bus to the upcoming joint city/county meeting.

The special event permit application for the Boundary County Historical Society for the 100th anniversary of Boundary County was discussed. Cal Russell said the Historical Society is planning to have a reenactment of the establishment of Boundary County with activities very similar to the activities of the original event on January 24, 100 years ago. He said the streets of Main and Kootenai will need to be closed during the reenactment and the police have approved this. The activities will last about an hour and then the public will be invited back to the Museum for cake and refreshments. Rick Alonzo moved to approve the special use permit for the Historical Society for the 100th anniversary celebration. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Connie Wells moved to award the quote to B.F. Builders for the Fire Station 2 remodel. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.