

Mayor Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of March 2, 2015 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Dave Anderson, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Ron Smith and Tom Mayo, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, Police Chief Robert Boone, Economic Development Coordinator David Sims, Water/Sewer Superintendent Adrian Dice, and Billing Clerk Jean Diel. Also present were Jerry Higgs, Doug Ladely, Sr., Gaye Brown, and Derek Blumenschein. Council Member Connie Wells was gone on personal business.

Gaye Brown spoke to council regarding the article in the paper concerning a 30 foot sign being erected on the building next door. David Sims said he has spoken to Abra about her plan and it is to replace the windshield sign above city hall. Gaye read from the Herald article. She said she is concerned about the LED neon lights on a huge downtown sign blinking announcing all the businesses. David said he told Abra that she would need to go through the city's permitting process. Ms. Brown is still concerned about the neon LED lights. She asked what she should do next. Council said for Gaye to speak to City Administrator Stephen Boorman. Stephen explained that if the sign meets the ordinance then it will probably be signed off on. He said the sign must meet safety standards and does not exceed the maximum size in the sign ordinance. He said a building permit will be required. Stephen said he will research and see what the standards are for a lighted sign. Stephen said a building permit will also be required for this type of a sign. Gaye said we need to consider what flavor we want to have for our downtown.

David Sims said Nissa Henslee and Abra were going to be here tonight to speak about parking downtown But they were unable to attend. Mayor Anderson said we will speak to the issue tonight and then again when they can be present.

Derek Blumenschein from the Farmers Market said the Farmers Market is submitting the proposal for the 2015 season. He said not much has changed. Mayor Anderson said we will agendize this for the next meeting.

Police Chief Robert Boone said Officer Langan is back to work, and this helps ease the overtime budget and staffing needs. Willie Cowell took two females in custody for felony possession of methamphetamine and paraphernalia. There is a warrant out for the arrest of Daniel Lyle who was driving the females and jumped from the car escaping from authorities. Offices investigated one domestic battery, one trespassing, three petit thefts, one run away, one driving without privileges, two vehicle accidents, and wrote six speeding tickets.

Stephen Boorman said Station 2 is completed. He said the water department started a new schedule with Adrian working Sunday through Thursday and the other crews working Tuesday through Saturdays. He said new LED lights were installed on the Kootenai River Bridge. Stephen asked for feedback from council on the lighting. Rick Alonzo said he has heard several positive comments on them. Stephen said Kevin is looking into purchasing lighting with a wider distribution area for the bypass to get more lighting on the sidewalk. He said the Myrtle Creek intake concrete has spawning on it so that will need to be repaired. There is some leakage at the overflow on the round north tank so that will also be repaired this year. The sewer system camera has been working well. Adrian showed Council some of the results that are in play from

the sewer camera by sharing pictures of work that was done on El Paso. There was a sewer backup on El Paso Street that was caused by tree roots. The tree roots were removed and then the area was filmed again. This helps know where the problems are. Stephen said this camera gives measurements and it has been quite helpful for knowing where to dig. Tom asked about the new work schedule. Adrian said it is working well and the plant is covered seven days per week. He estimates saving \$16,000 in overtime costs.

David Sims reminded council that the SPOT Bus Open House is this Wednesday at the Senior Center.

David said the State/Local agreement should be coming soon for the Augusta Street project. The construction will be next summer. He spoke of the short time frame for completing the design work as the State would like it done by July of 2015. Construction will be done next summer.

Mayor Anderson spoke about the Alderson Lane signal light. He said it is antiquated and will need to be replaced or updated but there is no consensus between the School District, the City, or the public. Rick commented that the light is good for large trucks pulling on the highway. Mayor Anderson said it does allow gaps for traffic pulling on the highway in other areas.

David Sims said he has been working on a Federal Lands Access Grant for doing work on Riverside Street to the Wildlife Refuge. One of the property owners is not cooperative between the rock cut and the Deep Creek Bridge. The Drainage District will allow the dike to be lowered four feet but there is not room for dedicated bike and pedestrian lanes. There is a seven percent match requirement and if the project were to start from the railroad tracks on Riverside Street the City may need to have funding for it. Rick asked what the height of the dike would be if it were lowered. David said the dike is now 1776 feet and it would be lowered to 1772 feet.

Tom Mayo told David the wildlife signs are looking terrible near the visitor center. David has been in contact with Diane at the Wildlife Refuge and they are looking at replacing the signs.

Rick Alonzo moved to approve the consent agenda. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of payroll and accounts payable; approval of the treasurer’s report; and approval of February 17, 2015 council meeting minutes.

Tom Mayo moved to approve the travel policy. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Multi-dwelling unit water rates were discussed. Ron Smith excused himself from the discussion as he will be purchasing property in an area served by this multi-dwelling unit water rate. Tom Mayo inquired if this rate will be looked at annually. Rick Alonzo moved to accept the new water rate structure provided by staff. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. Rick Alonzo amended his motion to include adjusting the previous billings for these customers back to the first of January. Tom Mayo seconded the amendment. The motion passed – Ron Smith “abstained”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. (Clerk’s note: the rate will be \$60.52 for 1800 cubic feet of water, overage billed at \$.01796 per cubic foot, plus \$14.00 per unit).

Ron Smith moved to approve the catering permit for Ralph Lotspeich doing business as Mirror Lake Golf Course for catering the Bonners Ferry Rotary Club law enforcement dinner at the fairgrounds on April 10, 2015. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Tom Mayo moved to approve beverage license for Josh Shervin doing business as Soulshine. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Police Chief Robert Boone explained to council that Lieutenant Watson spent a week testifying in Minidoka County as a witness for court proceedings in a corruption trial. Chief Boone said this court case was known when Mr. Watson was hired. Mr. Boone said he has checked with other agencies about this issue and they pay. He thinks we should not dock Mr. Watson’s vacation leave. Rick Alonzo said he had this situation when he was first hired by the city and it was a county case. He said sometimes law enforcement personnel drag some baggage with them. Rick moved to allow Lieutenant Watson to be paid directly and not use his vacation leave for testifying in Minidoka County. Ron Smith seconded the motion. Tom Mayo said this strikes him as illogical but the other councilmen are more in tune to law enforcement. He said he does not see law enforcement personnel any different from any other employee of the city. Ron would like to see the personnel policy adjusted for a situation such as this. He gave the example of the water department having to testify at a previous job. Mayor Anderson would like to see this not in the personnel policy but have each situation come before council. Tom thinks if it were Adrian in this situation, it would not be coming before city council. Tom asked if we are going to handle the police department differently than the other employees. Andrakay said Lieutenant Watson was under subpoena by the court and if others were subpoenaed then they would be treated the same. Mayor Anderson said the person is not working for the taxpaying public of Bonners Ferry when they are testifying for another agency. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “no”.

Ron Smith moved to approve the Mayor’s recommendation to appoint Merle Ansley to the urban renewal agency board with the term expiring June 30, 2019. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Tom Mayo moved to approve the reappointment of Dave Walter and David Sims to the urban renewal agency board with terms expiring June 30, 2020. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Stephen gave information to Council regarding the Dos Ramos Subdivision. He said council approved this in 2011 but Dos Ramos’ did not get it recorded. Stephen thought since so much time has passed that council may want to approve it again. The plat has been drawn and the proper dedication of city right of way has been done. Rick Alonzo moved to reapprove the Dos Ramos Subdivision as previously approved by a former council. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The booster station pumps discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor Anderson said we have a parking ordinance that has a two hour limit but he understands that we cannot enforce this. Andrakay said she cannot find an ordinance with a two hour limit. She said parking is prohibited where there are signs that prohibit parking. David said John Youngwirth said our parking limitation signs are not MUTCD. Stephen said we had business owners that parked in front of their businesses and we were trying to limit this. He said our decorative signs don't meet MUTCD standards. Rick had someone ask him why we don't have parking meters. Ron Smith does not know how this will be monitored. Rick explained that employees from one business park in front of other businesses and this is a common complaint. Jerry Higgs commented that there are issues between Mugsy's and the Library. Stephen said that is a private parking area. He said we need more parking downtown.

Mayor Anderson said he and David Sims have met with the Chamber of Commerce and they will probably want to pull out of the visitor center completely. He said they want to put their money into events and they don't need the center for office space. Colet Allen was organizing the volunteers for the visitor center. David Sims said the city got a grant from Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). He said the city was obligated to have the visitor center manned and operated under the agreement with the State. Mike Sloan was working to get the Chamber up and running and he operated the volunteer management. Colet was a go between with the Chamber and the volunteers. Salinda Holdeman, a longtime volunteer at the visitor center, is frustrated as she does not know who to contact to help her with staffing needs. Ron asked if the City needs to have an employee at the visitor center. David said we need to have volunteers for several days per week for a few hours per day. Mayor Anderson said he is unsure of the requirements of the agreement with ITD. David said it is for operation and staffing. David said there is a question of whether the EDC Board would want the EDC to be involved. Mayor Anderson said it is a viable, important part of our community when looking at the numbers of people that go through the facility each day. David thinks it is important to get some outdoor literature racks for visitors when the center is closed. Stephen said part of the history is that the City tried to sell advertising there and that was an attempt to help fund expenses of the center. David said the Chamber used to charge Chamber dues and then an additional amount for operation of the visitor center. Stephen said the old visitor center had a board that operated the center. David said Margaret Mouat and Don Vickaryous worked hard to keep the old visitor center running.

Stephen spoke regarding the electrical usage chart in the packet. He said the electric load is increasing. The mill's load has gone up four percent between 2013 and 2014 and this is a good sign.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Kris Larson, City Clerk