Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of August 5, 2014 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 Tom Mayo, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, and Police Chief Robert Boone. Also present were Jerry Higgs, Dave Gray, Doug Ladely, Sr., Sandy Ashworth, Aaron Clark, and Ken Baker.

Dave Gray thanked the city crews and employees for getting the power on so quickly and also for cleaning up. He said he and his wife appreciate what the city does.

Ken Baker thanked the police department for the work with the Boundary County Volunteer Ambulance.

Bryan Woods joined the meeting.

Jerry Higgs also thanked the city crews for the good work they have done cleaning up. He thought the Mayor’s statement regarding proper decorum at the special meeting about the water tank was intended for him. Jerry also said decorum should be a two way street. He said there are things that have happened in the city involving city employees and when brought to city management’s attention nothing was done. He said on or about St. Patrick’s Day, 2012, a member of the electric department painted his penis green and exposed it in the workplace to several employees including management. Jerry said several people witnessed this. He said a few months later that same employee along with another employee from the electric department went on a joy ride in a police car. Sergeant Foster Mayo saw them near Caring People for Animals and pulled them over. He said recently one of the individuals that was involved in this was just promoted and both of the employees since were given substantial raises. He asked what one must do in this city to get called on the carpet, seriously disciplined, fired, admonished in some way, or charged with an offense. He said the police vehicle being driven on the streets must be marked and that one was not. Jerry also said the city should want to have and promote professionalism in the workplace. He said the President of the United States was also portrayed in a racially offensive caricature. Jerry felt he was being singled out with the Mayor’s comment regarding decorum when the citizens have not been shown this by some of the city employees and staff. He thinks in any other city in the country, had those events happened, those individuals would no longer be employed by the city. He thinks it is a pattern and there has been made mention of lack of morale within the work force related to other things. He thinks when discipline degrades to the point that people feel comfortable enough to do those things it is indicative of poor leadership because they think they can get away with it and they did.

Tom Mayo asked if Jerry was involved in the St. Patrick’s Day event. Jerry said he was not. Tom said that Jerry did not have first-hand knowledge of it. Jerry said he could produce a witness if they wanted him to. Tom said he wondered if Jerry had first-hand knowledge of it as this was the first time he had heard of it.

Sandy Ashworth said the Library is concerned about economic and educational challenges that we have and since the Library bond failed the Library Board of Trustees has plans to go forward but may try for a bond at a later date. What was important to Sandy was the business
development and technology center in conjunction with the Fab Lab. Those digital skills, processes, and procedures are important to young people and adults. The Library plans to convert two store rooms and a portion of the downstairs meeting room into a co-joined space for a classroom, the Fab Lab with equipment, and business development and technology center. She spoke of an interactive video conferencing service that they will be using. The estimated cost of the project is $100,000 ($70,000 for the Fab Lab alone) and USDA Rural Development would possibly go for $35,000 toward the project. If this funding does not come in this fall they will get $100,000 after the application period. There is Gem Grant funding in the amount of $35,000 available. The Library cannot submit applications for gem grants so Sandy is requesting the city apply for a grant for them. She handed out a packet of information to council for their review. The invitation to the Library to have a Fab Lab was unprecedented so the Library does not want to lose the opportunity. Sandy said there will be increased hours for some of the technical people at the Library. Ed Katz will be helping as an advisor to set up the Fab Lab and teach also. The Library is planning to set up a permanent technology committee to help meet the needs of the community. Mayor Anderson asked what the timeline is. Sandy is hopeful to get up and running before the first of the year. The deadline for the gem grant application is September 15, 2014. Ron asked if $100,000 would be enough to complete the Library’s project. Sandy said it would. Maintenance and replacement is built in their ongoing budget. There will be considerable amount of free access. Sandy said there will not be welding equipment in the Fab Lab due to the lack of space but she is hopeful that they can work with the School District. Council will agendize the grant issue next meeting.

Sandy left the meeting.

Ken Baker thanked council for the letter of support or endorsement for the funding.

Ken wanted to address the housing of Boundary Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) personnel. He would like to have council consider the agreement for use of the fire hall. Ron Smith said council toured the fire station and asked if the agreement was amended. Andrakay said there were cost issues and questions regarding the use of the fire hall that were never resolved. Tom Mayo thought the city was waiting to get some information. Connie Wells said the utility and internet costs are great and we were not being allowed much revenue in the contract. Stephen said there are computer issues that need to be defined and secured. Pat Warkentin said the upstairs office, kitchen, and restrooms are heated but the rest of the area is not heated normally, it is kept at 50 degrees. Brian Woods said he is seeking permission to have the city attorney or administrator work on the issues and submit them to council for their consideration. Brian said there was a question as to how many people would be using the fire hall. He said it will only be for people to sleep and if there is a lease the BVA can submit it as part of the ALS application to meet that licensure requirement. He said there is a computer cabinet that is lockable in the upstairs office space or just lock the office and allow BVA to put up cubicle walls that are portable for a sleeping area. He also said BVA could obtain a lockable cabinet for BVA personnel to lock up their personal items. BVA could be told no to family and friends as it could be restricted to only the BVA volunteers. He also suggested a 60 day trial with an out. Kris said there is a large commercial water meter at the fire hall to fill the trucks and if we have people
showering and using the facility quite a bit there will be water overage charges and originally the $150 per month would not even cover the additional utilities. Tom thought there was a clause that the city provide internet access. Brian thought this would be removed as it should be a cost borne by BVA. Stephen said we have variability in utility costs and suggested that the city charge residential monthly rates for water and sewer to BVA. Pat said the office on the second floor has two desks, two computers with printers, built in book shelf with books, three file cabinets, and roll away carts with tables and chairs. It was set up for people to study for certifications and trainings using a computer other than the main office. He said there are quite a few items in that room that he is not sure where they would be stored if they were to come out of that storage room. Pat suggested building a small room in the big room where the antiques used to be or to cordon off an area there. This would alleviate the concern about the computer equipment and storage area. Brian suggested partition walls that are seven feet high. Pat said EMS would like to see the city take over EMS for the county and start establishing countywide fire and EMS. Tom said there weren’t big items causing the issue to stall but we were waiting for more detail or information. Mayor Anderson asked how many people will be housed. Brain said three people from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. for eating, sleeping, and personal hygiene. There would not be visitors allowed. This will be agendized for the next meeting.

Brian Woods and Ken Baker left the meeting.

Police Chief Robert Boone said during the last two weeks officers have responded and made three warrant arrests two marijuana paraphernalia arrests, cited one driver for no license in possession, made one felony DUI arrest, investigated one traffic accident, one trespassing, issued one citation for driving without privileges, and investigated one malicious injury to property. Additionally, officers issued 35 speeding citations and 13 citations in the construction zone. Officer Buddy Winters attended DARE training in Nevada and was named class valedictorian.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin said there were nine fire calls in July including the structure fire at the Alpine Cleaners, natural gas line break, two EMS calls, one rubbish fire, and during the storm there were electrical line fires that they responded to, there was an unintentional false alarm that was a smoke investigation, vehicle crash, and an odor investigation. There have been two calls so far in August.

Stephen said the steel tank is full of water and they pulled samples today and the leak test will be done tomorrow. He is hopeful that the tank will be online by the end of the week. He said there is a coupon of the Northside rectangular tank that was pulled out in 2010 when the waterline was redone and it looks like the tank does not have rebar so it may not have structural strength to support a concrete roof. Stephen said Necia from Welch Comer is looking at a pitch roof similar to what we have now only it will be made of steel with venting on the top and would have a tight seal. He said it is likely that we will take the tank offline this fall when the flows go down. The sewer line behind the Museum was one of the most difficult jobs we have ever done as it was deep with a lot of utility lines to work around but it is done. KGT and our crews did the work and the pipe has been replaced up to the manhole. Avista will still come in and replace their gas line and we still have roof drain work to complete. There were two wind storms within a week of each other and the employees did awesome. He said they worked very well together.
and worked safe and smart. There were two interviews for our lineman position and the person selected decided not to move to Bonners Ferry and the other did not fit with the crew. He spoke of leasing tower space for the fire radio and is trying to get the plans for a building.

Ron Smith said he was amazed at the Northside rectangular tank when he looked at it and is surprised at the $100,000 figure. He thinks the roof that is there could be used and something done to seal it up. Stephen said Doug and Jim think a steel truss structure roof without eaves may work but have candy cane type venting that is screened. This will require the roof to be replaced and the cost may be as much as a concrete roof. Aaron asked about the certainty of the lack of steel in the tank walls. Stephen said we are 75 percent certain that there is no rebar. We had a 16 inch section of the wall and there was no rebar. Necia is looking at the steel roof structure. Stephen said the concrete roof is flatter so snow load has to be added into the weight and the steel roof structure would not have the snow load. Rick said it sound like we are putting lipstick on a pig. He said the older people he has talked with think the tank is junk and we should build a new tank. Stephen said he did not think the water budget could handle the cost of a new tank. Pat suggested using a thermal imager. Stephen did not think this would work because of the temperature of the tank.

Tom Mayo moved to approve the consent agenda. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of July 16, 2014 and July 22, 2014 council meeting minutes.

Pat Warkentin said he applied for a grant with Union Pacific and was told that we would receive the funding. The grant application process takes a 90 day period and that should be up soon. We are waiting to see what comes up there. Pat said the garage door on station 2 is in poor condition and has an electric door opener. Last week there was a fire call and the door did not raise all the way and got clipped by the fire truck. Pat, Louis, John, and Gary worked on the door and got it back on the track. Pat had Bonners Ferry Glass look at the door and the estimate for repair is over $800 and replacement is $6,679. Pat is concerned about doing anything until we hear about the grant funds. He said the door can be operated manually for now. Ron Smith asked what the grant funding will be used for. Pat explained that a remodel is planned that includes an equipment storage area.

Police Chief Robert Boone said there is old police equipment stored downstairs that will not be used and still has value. He wanted to sell the old equipment that is useless on EBay. Rick Alonzo moved to declare the old equipment surplus. Ron Smith seconded the motion. He asked who would want an expired Kevlar vest. Bob said there are many who would like this such as motor cycle riders. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Pat Warkentin said Len Pine just returned from Bolivia where he had been doing Missionary work and also teaching critical incident stress management to the Bolivian Fire Department. Pat said there is expired equipment in the back of station 2 that could be sent to Bolivia for them to use on their fire department. Ron said he is hopeful that there will be a liability release so the
city does not experience a problem. Doug Ladely, Sr. suggested getting ahold of Bill Byler to find out the shipping costs to South America as Trusstek ships often.

The shared parking lot agreement was tabled until a later date.

The logging project at the Moyie River Reservoir was discussed. Stephen only received one proposal so far but he would like to wait a week. He said the access to the beach is blocked right now. Stephen said someone went out to our picnic area near the dam and sawed a nice big tree down.

Rick Alonzo moved to allow the publication of the fiscal year 2015 budget with the addition of the grant funds discussed this evening. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom May “yes”.

Connie Wells moved to reappoint planning and zoning members Glenda Poston, Brad Hanson, Dave Gray, and Andy Howe. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Tom Mayo moved to approve the parade permit for the Boundary County Fair on August 16, 2014. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Rick Alonzo moved to approve the special event permit for the Demolition Derby on September 6, 2014. Connie Wells seconded the motion. Tom Mayo asked if there are any problems with the event. Police Chief Bob Boone did not see any and said Kyle Watts even offered to pay for an additional officer if needed. Fire Chief Pat Warkentin did not see any problems either. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The job description of the water/sewer superintendent was discussed. Ron Smith asked about this position working with other departments as assigned. Stephen said employees work with others on storms and snow plowing. Ron asked if they may have to work with the police department. Stephen said the person is not asked to do duties they are not trained for. Stephen said employees cross over all the time as the city is not big enough to specialize. He gave the example of the street department replacing a backflow prevention device in the park and the water department overseeing it as they have the expertise. Tom Mayo moved to approve the job description for the water/sewer superintendent. Connie Wells seconded the motion. Ron Smith asked how the public will have access the job description. Stephen said they can call the city or else we can supply the job description to the Job Service. Rick asked if the description goes with the advertisement. Stephen said sometimes but not always but we can make sure it is there. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Connie Wells moved to approve the contract for the city attorney. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

At 8:30 p.m. Tom Mayo moved to go into executive session per Idaho Code 67-2345 (1) (e). Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”,
Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. At 9:15 p.m. executive session ended. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

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Kris Larson, City Clerk