

Mayor David Sims called the regularly scheduled council meeting of October 18, 2016 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Sims, Council Members Ron Smith, Connie Wells (participating by phone), and Adam Arthur, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Mike Klaus, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, Police Chief Vic Watson, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, and Economic Development Coordinator Dennis Weed. Council President Rick Alonzo was gone on personal business. Also present were Mark Truesdell, Jessica Tingley, Star Silva, Bob Saboe, Marcia Cossette, Jerry Higgs, Bill Leach, Doug Ladely, Sr., Mike Listman, Owen Plato, and Chad Iacolucci.

Mark Truesdell had the experience of being disconnected due to nonpayment. He pays his bills online and could not pay the City bill online. He called the morning after the shut off and was informed that the electric could not be restored until an external disconnect was installed. Mark is looking for common sense, justice, and decency and none of those were offered according to Mark. He thinks this is a gotcha rule being enforced. Mark emailed Mayor Sims and was told the external disconnect is for disconnecting the power in case of a fire which Mark said can also be done from the pole. The electrician that worked on Mark's house told him that this is to protect the City. Mark got the shut off one hour after the shut off was done. He had to pay a \$200 deposit and it cost him \$800 for the electrician. Mark pays everything online and does not even open his mail except during tax time. Mark thinks this affects the people in our community that are struggling to pay their bills and the less fortunate. Mark is responsible for paying his bills and is not less fortunate. He found there was no leniency when this happened, and the City did not work with him. He said this tactic shows no sense of honor or decency to the community. He does not understand why the City forced him to pay \$1,000 that he did not have. The ice maker melted and the Pergo floor lifted so this was injury upon injury. The external disconnect does not make sense to him, the action, the way he was treated, the amount of money he had to spend, but the whole situation was not nice and he is voicing his opinion.

Mayor Sims said item five is the adoption of the billing policy.

Bill Leach said he had a similar issue with the City at his rental property about a year ago. A tree had come down during a windstorm and there was an electrician that came out and did the repairs. He said six months later the tenant was shut off for non-pay and an external disconnect was required. He questioned why this was not recommended to be done the first time as it cost him extra money to have an electrician come back and install the external disconnect. He wants the City to get their act together. He understands that people that do not pay their bills need to get stepped on some but the people who own the homes need more leniency. He thinks if Connie Wells is going to absent from the council meetings due to the cameras then the City should look for another council person.

Chad Iacolucci works for Boundary Electric and he gets these calls regularly from the people who have shut offs. He opposes what is happening and thinks it is awful. Chad left the meeting.

Bob Saboe said for the past several summers he leaves for the Midwest. He came in April this year and told someone in the City office that he was leaving and would be gone for three months. He got shut off for nonpayment and it cost him a good \$1,000 also that he could not afford. Bob

said he has been paying his bill for nearly 50 years and these are all former students and questioned why he is not trusted. He echoes the same thing and would like reimbursement back for some of the expense.

Robert Hanover had a tenant that was late on their bill and he asked distinctly what it would cost to get the power back on. He was told it would be \$30. He came in and met with City officials and he was not told there would be an upgrade needed when he asked what the cost would be. Robert said the upgrade is penalizing the people and it is unbelievable that the City can be operated like this.

Gerald Higgs stopped by the City and asked that the City crews be thanked for the hard work the City crews are doing and thinks the residents are getting a big bang for their buck. He was here before the meeting began and said Councilwoman Wells left the meeting when the cameras showed up. He said if she cannot face the public in public venues then she should consider resigning her position if she cannot face the cameras. Jerry said the City of Moyie proposed a sewer system and wondered if the City, County, and EDC have been informed as this proposal may be the way things will be going. He said Volking was asked to participate in the cost of a water loop for people outside the subdivision. Jerry would like to hear Bonners Ferry's view on introducing sewer outside the City limits.

Robert Hanover spoke regarding the Augusta Street project and thinks the City does a good job but there are problems, and he thinks the project is a disaster and it is due to the engineering firm directing the work. Mayor Sims said it is a wonderful project but there are issues being worked on with the engineering firm.

Police Chief Vic Watson said in the past two weeks there have been two warrant arrests, two felony DUIs, one possession of methamphetamines and paraphernalia, one malicious injury to property, one battery, minor in possession charge, one rape, one attempted carjacking, one attempted burglary, one counterfeit money, and one unattended death.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin said there is a flash over training hosted by the City Fire Department the end of the month with participation from many fire departments. Pro X gave a donation of particle board, KGT is donating a porta potty and hand wash station. There is an irons class in Spokane next month and the new firemen will attend. There was a dryer fire in an apartment complex behind Super 1. The fire started inside the dryer and extended to the wall behind the dryer. Pat suggested people clean their dryer vents as this can be a fire hazard.

Mike Klaus spoke to Chis at Idaho Forest Group about a tour of the mill, the Moyie Dam, and the substation on November 16, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Sims said if council wants to attend we will post it as a meeting. Mike said Bingham Street sewer project was finished last week and that was a good collaborative effort by the water/sewer department and the street department. The issues on Augusta are being worked through and overall it is a good project when the pros and cons are looked at. He thinks it will be a week or two before the project is finalized. The paving is complete and it was a good job.

Dennis Weed said there is no update for the Urban Renewal. Shopko has opened and sales are greater than they expected. The School was given \$2,500 from Shopko. The first meeting from Boise State who will be reviewing the visitor center was held. This will be a spring project. There were people who looked at the jersey rails near the bottom of the North Hill with Idaho Transportation Department. He is working with businesses to get buildings filled downtown.

Adam Arthur moved to add the late agenda item to consider nomination for Region 1 ICRMP Board of Trustees. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mayor Sims asked the Clerk to look at the minutes of the October 4, 2016 minutes and include more detail so these minutes will be held for approval until that is done. Connie Wells moved to approve the consent agenda with the deletion of approving the October 4, 2016 minutes. 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; approval of September 20, 2016 council meeting minutes and approval of September 23, 2016 special council meeting minutes.

Mayor Sims said there was a lengthy discussion of the billing policy at the last meeting. He said he thinks there are changes that are needed to the policy because he does not think it is good but council approved it at the last meeting. Adam Arthur would definitely like to look at the billing policy again and thinks the disconnect policy is ineffective. Ron Smith said at the last meeting there was a lot of input and comments from the electric department. Ron said the City needs a policy and wanted to get a policy on board but needs to serve the customers better. He said the policy has already been adopted. Connie Wells said we may want to make the needed changes and then adopt it at the next meeting. The billing policy resolution was tabled until the next meeting.

The Special Use Permit (SUP 06-16) for Boundary Volunteer Ambulance Service was discussed. Connie Wells asked about the motion listing the conditions of approval and said she did not see the sirens not being used until the ambulance reaches the highway. Police Chief Vic Watson said it is the Ambulance’s policy not to use the siren and lights until they meet the highway. Adam Arthur asked if the ambulance changed their policy if it would change the special use permit. Attorney Andrakay Pluid said it would not if it is not a condition. Ron Smith moved to approve the file SUP06-16 for a special use permit to operate an ambulance service within an existing home located at 6658 Comanche Street, finding that it is accordance with the general and specific goals and standards of the city of Bonners Ferry Comprehensive Plan and zoning codes, as enumerated in the findings and standards table. He further moved to adopt the following reasoned statements and conditions of approval as written. The action to be taken to obtain the special use permit is to complete the conditions of approval as adopted. The reasoned statements are as follows:

1. The special use **IS** a special use, as allowed for in the zone district in which it is located.
2. The use **WILL** be harmonious with and in accordance with the general objective or specific objective of the comprehensive plan, based upon the evidence of record enumerated in the findings above.
- 3.

3. The use **WILL** be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to be harmonious and appropriate in appearance with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity. Therefore, the use **WILL NOT** change the essential character of the area.
4. The use **WILL NOT** be hazardous or disturbing to existing neighboring uses.
5. The use **IS** served by adequate public facilities and services, or that the person responsible for providing such services **WILL** be able to provide any such service.
6. The use **WILL NOT** create excessive additional requirements at public cost for public facilities and services and **WILL NOT** be detrimental to the economic welfare of the community.
7. The use **WILL NOT** involve activities, processes, materials, equipment and conditions of operation that will be detrimental to any persons, property or the general welfare by reason of excessive production of traffic, noise, smoke, fumes, glare, odor, or other factors determined to be nuisances.
8. The use **WILL NOT** have vehicular approaches to the property that create interferences with traffic on surrounding public thoroughfares.
9. The use **WILL NOT** result in the destruction, loss or damage of a natural, scenic or historic feature of major importance.

Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Adam Arthur moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with Second Chance Animal Adoption Agency. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

LRHIP Grant for Transportation plan is open and Mayor Sims would like to see the City apply for this grant again this year. The maximum amount is \$50,000 and there is no match required. Mike Klaus thinks it is wise to go forward with the grant application, and it would be good to have a new transportation plan that fits with what we are doing. Mike said we need a plan to focus on our real issues. Mayor Sims said we have had a number of changes since the last plan was done and now we know what ITD’s plans are for the Highway 95 corridor. Mike said we need a transportation plan to focus on the traffic circulation within the City not necessarily traffic coming through. Ron Smith moved to authorize the Mayor to apply for the transportation plan grant for fiscal year 2018. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

The STP Rural Federal Aid Grant for Riverside is available for repair of minor/major collector routes. Mayor Sims said staff and he have discussed the grant application to meet the grant project that is being done by the County. There is a 7.34 percent match required and a request could be made to the Urban Renewal Agency for funding the match. The federal aid projects are a three to five year period and the applications are due in January and the final awards are made nearly a year out. Design takes another year and then construction another couple years out. Adam Arthur moved to request the Urban Renewal Agency to pay the match on the federal aid grant. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mike Klaus said a grant application is due in the middle of November for the sewer bridge replacement project. Panhandle Area Council is working on the application for us. Mike said the pipe will be replaced and new rollers will be installed. The integrity of the sewer bridge was

inspected by LSB Engineering. Mayor Sims would like to see the final budget and the grant amount before approval is made. The project amount estimate is \$640,000 and the maximum grant amount is \$500,000. Mike will bring this forward to council at the next meeting for discussion and he will also bring pictures for council's review. LSB felt the bridge is adequate to hold the load. Mayor Sims said staff should continue working on the project and bring information to the next meeting.

Quotes for fencing at the sewer lagoons was discussed. Mike is recommending the quote from Idaho Fencing be approved in the amount of \$22,573. The security fencing has been needed for years and this portion of the fence will be installed in the most vulnerable area of unauthorized access. This portion is only for about half of the job. Adam Arthur moved to authorize to complete the sewer lagoon fencing project and accept the amount of \$22,573 from Idaho Fencing. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mayor Sims said the Highway 95 project will require different lighting. He asked if the City wants to consider installing decorative lighting similar to the downtown lighting. Mayor Sims said the prices need to be looked at and we do not have those figures available this evening. This issue will be discussed at a later date.

Mike said the City has nine voltage regulators at three substations that we operate. He said we have one spare regulator while each substation requires three for operation. He is proposing the purchase of two more new regulators not to exceed \$35,000. These would replace three regulators at one substation, then the ones removed would be rebuilt. If the quotes come in below \$35,000 for two regulators he won't have to come back for further approval. Adam Arthur moved to purchase two regulators not to exceed \$35,000. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mayor Sims said the City was successful in receiving the High Five Grant. It is in the amount of \$250,000 to be used for improving children's health in the community. We will be partnering with the School District, Kootenai Tribe, Grow Garden, and Boundary County Parks and Rec. He said the folks from Blue Cross will come in and work with us over a six month period to figure out what the best use is for the money. We will have two years to implement the improvements.

Adam Arthur moved to allow city employees to have the day off after Thanksgiving and half a day off on December 23, 2016. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Ron Smith moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the nomination of Garrett Nancolas as Region 1 ICRMP Representative. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

David Sims, Mayor

Attest:

Kris Larson, City Clerk