

Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of December 1, 2015 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, Water/Sewer Superintendent Adrian Dice, City Mechanic Jimmy Dorhofer, Line Foreman Brian Kerins, Line Superintendent Kevin Cossairt, Lineman Derrick Barras, Lineman Cody Reichart, and Billing Clerk Jean Diel. Also present were Charlynn Harless and Amy Manning from III-A, Gus Diel, Marcia Cossette, Susan Kiebert, Marion Johnson, Jerry Higgs, Jessica Tingley, Bob Graham, and John Tremble.

Amy Manning, Program Manager for III-A, spoke to council regarding the health insurance pool in Idaho created by cities. It is a self-funded health insurance pool that can help cities provide better benefits to employees and add stability with safety in larger numbers. Amy was previously on the city council in American Falls and the mayor in American Falls so she understands city budgeting. Amy used to attend regional meetings in her area and health insurance rates were discussed often as they kept getting higher and higher. The group was familiar with the Gem Plan that the counties belong to but wanted more flexibility. The Montana League of Cities had an insurance plan with flexibility similar to what they were looking for so they contacted their consultant, Charlynn Harless, that helped form that plan. Amy introduced Charlynn Harless from Stockton, California that helped III-A launch their program - Idaho Independent Intergovernmental Authority (III-A). They currently have 30 public entities including LHTAC. Blue Cross of Idaho has the GEM plan and they wanted to work with III-A. Blue Cross is the third party administrator for III-A. Amy briefly went over the different options including an eight visit EAP per incident (employee assistance program). Amy said they have medical, dental, and vision standalone plans, meaning we can participate in all or choose which plans we want. Amy said the reserves in the bank are very secure and III-A is interested in growing. A joint powers agreement would need to be signed if we choose to join. There is a three year commitment for the first three years and then it is a year to year commitment. Charlynn said the reserves are funded and there is a three million dollar surplus helping to stabilize the plan. We would fall under the Department of Insurance regulations. Once in the pool the claims of the pool dictate the rates. Ron Smith said he was the chairman of the GEM Plan Board and spoke of the maximum increase in rates being five percent. Charlynn said there is also a \$15,000 life insurance policy included in the plan for full-time employees. Amy said the premiums for the life insurance are purchased by the pool. Charlynn said the EAP is also purchased by the pool as well as the wellness plan.

Marion Johnson, Operations Director for the SPOT Bus Program, spoke to council. SPOT started in Sandpoint five years ago. They do about 80,000 rides per year in Sandpoint and they have six buses. In April, 2015 the bus service started in Bonners Ferry. They run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. three days per week for all ages. People call and make an appointment for the next day, and over 900 rides have been given so far. The City of Dover is the grant holder for SPOT and the Bonners Ferry bus is under this also. They are funded through September, 2018 so the program can keep building. The City of Bonners Ferry donated \$10,000 in local match as well as Boundary County. The Area on Aging is on contract for up to \$27,000 for the next three

years. Area on Aging pays a certain amount for each ride given to a senior citizen. Marion said our bus is an eight passenger bus and she has put in for a grant for a larger bus purchase. The SPOT Bus board is made up of Larry Dirks, Chairman of the Board, Kris Larson, Duane Sanders, Annie Shawha from Dover, David Sims, Connie Wells, Walt Kirby, Ponderay Mayor Carol Kunsman, George Eksridge, and Susan Kiebert. There is a need for a route to travel to Moyie to bring those folks to town two days per week. The new bus is an eighteen passenger with two wheel chair capacity. Marion said they are looking for local match money so she will be working with the Tribe and possibly work with the Casino to get some funding. Mayor David Anderson suggested that the City put a flyer in our utility billings to notify folks of the program.

Amy Manning and Charlynn Harless left the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

John Tremble, Business Representative from International Bureau of Electrical Workers Local 77, spoke to council. He said they represent over 7,000 working men and women in the State of Washington, Northern Idaho from Lewiston north, and Western Montana. He asked that the City Council consider recognizing Local 77 as a bargaining representative for the light and power employees in collective bargaining with the City. He said they have authorization cards for representation signed by 60 percent of the light and power employees, four out of seven cards, authorizing Local 77 to represent them through collective bargaining. Mr. Tremble feels through a collective bargaining agreement there would be added value for the City and its customers/rate payers. He said the union would help recruit competent, qualified linemen and electrical workers. The journey level electrical workers is through the Northwest Region and there is a good relationship that helps retain highly skilled workers. There is good training available for the members. A collective bargaining three year agreement would bring budget and rate stability. Through Local 77 the City would be dealing with a constant, consistent identity. They have a unified vote in the electrical utility industry, are experienced in personnel matters, and want to partner with the City. Mr. Tremble said they have a great partnership with the other REAs and PUDs. They look forward to partnering with the City and this would allow the City to deal with other challenges. Mayor Anderson asked if there are other cities in Idaho that are represented by his organization. Idaho Falls has a labor contract with IBW according to Mr. Tremble.

Police Chief Vic Watson said over the past two weeks the police department has had one marijuana Possession in school, one no contact order, one petit theft, one grand theft/burglary, one felony DUI, one report of threats, one accident, and one unattended death. Vic said law enforcement work is slowing down for the winter and the staff is fully operational.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin said during the wind storm there was a tree on a house located on Washington Street. There was an unintentional false alarm for a gas odor, an assist for the Boundary County Sheriff's Department as they had a need for a carbon dioxide extinguisher, and a fire alarm situation above the Rusty Moose in the apartments. There was no fire.

City Administrator Mike Klaus showed slides of the new Cassia water tank site and the 25 foot deep auger piles (there will be 60 of these). The contractors are battling frozen ground at this time by putting blankets on the ground and over the concrete. Mike showed the electric lines on

the Moyie line move project and said the project should be done by January. Mike said there will be an emergency action drill for the dam on December 22, 2015. Mike said he is looking at how to charge capitalization fees for water and wants to develop how we charge this. It can be based on the meter size or equivalent dwelling unit.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Adrian Dice gave his report. He said all employees have attended lagoon treatment classes. Dredging is completed and the dredge has been winterized. He said they are at about one foot of sludge in the lagoons and this is ideal for the aeration process. Adrian is very pleased with his employees and the work they do at the lagoons. There was a leak at the car wash at Highway 95 and Denver Street and another on Birch Street, and they have been repaired. The roots of a bull pine snapped the water line on Tannenbaum and this was also repaired. There have been only two turbidity events on the Myrtle Creek line in November. There was a sewer leak on the sewer bridge that was temporarily fixed and the proper repair parts will be coming soon so it can be repaired properly. Adrian showed council pictures of the lean-to on the back of the mechanic shop.

Connie Wells moved to add the following late agenda items: consideration of emergency declaration for wind event; permission to advertise for bid for excavator; approve pay request #2 for Probst Electric for the Moyie line move project; and approve amendment #2 to the owner-engineer agreement for the rebar inspection at the Cassia water tank. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Rick Alonzo moved to approve the consent agenda. Ron Smith 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 November 17, 2015 council meeting minutes.

Bob Graham spoke to the council regarding the wind event. He said the General of Idaho Homeland Security called and initiated a conference call for the four northern Idaho counties for federal funding for costs incurred due to the windstorm. The General also requested emergency declarations from the County and City so he can submit them with the application for federal funding. Bob said Boundary County declared an emergency and he is asking the City of Bonners Ferry to do the same. Mayor Anderson spoke of emergency declarations in the past and said it is a good idea the way the system works. Bob said there is not a disadvantage to declaring an emergency. Ron Smith moved to declare an emergency declaration on the recommendation of Bob Graham. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mayor Anderson said he does not have feelings one way or another regarding a union. He said there will be many questions to be answered and the ICUA would be a good resource. He thinks we should also speak to Association of Idaho Cities about how this affects cities and speak to Idaho Falls. Ron Smith agrees. Rick Alonzo thinks this is a good idea and wants to support the electric department. Connie said she is against unions but will look into it. Adam doesn't know

about unions but said we can look into it. Mayor Anderson said we will proceed and look into the union issue.

Connie Wells moved to approve Resolution 2015-12-01 Authorizing Financing of Cassia Water Storage Tank Project through Interfund Loan from Electric Fund and Consolidation of Existing Loans. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mike Klaus said at the time the transportation plan was done it was more a boiler plate plan and it focused on the highway. A plan that focusses on the local city streets is what is being sought. There is grant funding up to \$50,000 through LHTAC. We will need to select someone based on qualifications and Mike would like to get the request for proposals ready for the future. He thinks it will be good to move forward with the grant. He asked Rick Alonzo to sign the application because the submission of the grant fell between council meetings. Mayor Anderson spoke of the increase in traffic counts on the city streets and is in favor of the grant. Susan Kiebert with LHTAC said BATT has been reorganized and Boundary County has an excellent record of participation. She thinks we will be successful in getting the grant. She said no match is involved and a plan like this must be in place in order to qualify for funding in the future. Ron Smith moved to authorize the transportation plan grant application. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Susan Kiebert and Marion Johnson left the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Mike Klaus explained the change order from Knight Construction. He said it is for an additional concrete slab that we need and the cost is \$2,449. Connie Wells moved to approve the change order for Knight Construction for the Moyie Substation project. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mike Klaus spoke of the need at the City for IT/GIS mapping. He spoke to Tech Partners about considering this type of position. He said we spend about \$35,000 per year for IT work and this could go toward the payment of wages for a position. We have the need for a mapper to adjust the electronic maps and make them more usable. SCADA work would also be a part of this position’s duties. Mike sees this person filling a void that is needed. He spoke of the billing issues and the difficulty of the features of the meters being correct when implemented in the billing program. He thinks this position could also be the person to better connect these issues. Mike said we have quite a few program logic controllers and this is also a need for the City. Ron Smith asked how many positions would be eliminated. Mike said we are short about a half person and with the added duties this could be a full time job. He said we would eventually eliminate a contracted position. Mayor Anderson is in favor of this position. Mike said we had more administrative staff eight years ago than we do now. Rick thinks we need someone in house and he is in favor. Connie and Adam are in favor also. Rick Alonzo moved to authorize retroactively posting this job advertisement at the Job Service. Ron Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Advertisement for bid for an excavator was discussed. The City needs a larger machine than the current excavator that we have. Mike said we have the staff in the water/sewer department to install more of our lines, and he said we need a larger machine to do this. He is hopeful that we will be doing a line project each year, and the equipment is needed. The cost of an excavator is between \$90,000 and \$115,000. Kevin Cossairt said the electric department runs into a lot of large rocks in the Moyie area. and we need bigger equipment than what we have to move these large rocks. Ron Smith moved to go out for bid for an excavator. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mike said the Probst Electric pay request brings the contractor up to 77 percent complete for the Moyie line move. Adam Arthur moved to approve pay application #2 for the Moyie line move project. Connie Wells seconded the motion. Motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mike said special testing by a certified inspector is needed on the rebar for the Cassia Water Tank project. He said this was somehow left out of the original contract but it is needed. The contractor is located in Hayden but anticipates needing to make eight trips to Bonners Ferry. Rick Alonzo moved to approve amendment #2 to the owner-engineer agreement with Welch Comer for rebar inspection of the Cassia Water Tank. Ron Smith 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 8:40 p.m.

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David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

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Kris Larson, City Clerk