

Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled meeting of February 1, 2011 to order at 6:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Chris Clark, Council Members Mike Klaus, Connie Wells, and Tom Mayo, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, Assistant City Administrator David Sims, Police Chief Rick Alonzo, Street Department Supervisor John Youngwirth, Steve Galbraith, Tim English and Scooter Drake from the Street Department, Electric Department Superintendent Dan Rice, Blaine Grossman, Dan Williams, and Brian Kerins, Electric Department Linemen, John Delaney and Alan Branson from the Water/Sewer Department, and Jim Fritzsche Water/Sewer Department Supervisor, City Mechanic Keith Fairchild, Pat Stevens and Adam Isaac from the Power Plant, and Jean Diel from the Clerk's Office. Also present was Jessica Fairchild.

Mayor Anderson explained that this is an informational session so Council can garner information and opinions regarding standby time from the employees. He said the city is not looking at getting rid of standby and we are not competing with each other but more information is needed. He said we want to get the new personnel policy passed and standby is an issue with the new policy.

Dan Rice spoke to council and said when he was hired standby time was mandatory for the electric department. He said Northern Lights and Avista join Bonners Ferry as being utility companies in our area of northern Idaho. At this time Northern Lights and Avista have higher wages and better benefits. He said our benefit package is offset by the standby time that is paid to the employees. Currently there are eight hours of standby per weekend at overtime rate. Dan said all city departments help when there is a major storm. The City of Bonners Ferry has a contract with Northern Lights for mutual aid but to his knowledge it has not been used in his tenure. Even when the electric employees are on their personal time they hear comments from community members about their electric lines and service. Dan said the department looks at the weather and even if they are not on standby they take the issue into account in case they are needed to help out. Dan said standby offsets the daily inconveniences and standby is once a month for each person on the electric department crew. Dan said cell service is not available at all places in our county. He said he cannot do assistant coaching because it is his duty as a city employee to be available. He said standby is an inconvenience but the pay outweighs the inconvenience. He said employees understand that the economy is not good but they also know that the rates have increased. He understands that the council has to look at all departments when making a decision. Dan said there are two linemen who fairly soon will be retiring and he is concerned about enticing new employees to come to the city as there are not many people who are home grown like himself. Dan asked council to look beyond the figures when making a change to the personnel policy and take into account what the employees do for the city. Mayor Anderson asked if the second person assisting the electric crew on an outage needs to be a certified lineman. Dan said if the issue is not primary then others can assist, but there are safety factors that the person must be trained on. He said on three phase there are three qualified people that must be present. Dan said weekends are free time for the crews because they are mobile and can leave town if they are not on standby. Chris Clark asked for clarification of the amount of standby that was told Dan would have when he was hired. Dan said he was assured there would be one weekend per month that he would be responsible for and if a person quits that the rotation is shortened to every third weekend. Mike Klaus commented that the City of Bonners Ferry has much better response than Northern Lights when there is an outage or electrical problem.

John Youngwirth said the street department on call is a service that the city promised the public about 15 years ago. He said prior to standby, he was called constantly because he carried a radio for the fire department and he got tired of it so the council set standby time for the street department. He said standby is a pain for the employees because it hugely impacts their lives and it is not just for the sake of not drinking. He said the street department does not leave town when there is a storm coming in and gave the example of Steve Galbraith not attending the boat show in Spokane last weekend do to the storm coming. He said all the crew is this diligent and they do it because they care about the city.

Jim Fritzsche spoke to council about the water/sewer department's practices. Jim reiterated what John and Dan said about the individuals being available when there is a situation. The water/sewer department has the least amount of time off of all the departments due to the weekend duties that they must perform as well as two of their department members help out the street department with snow plowing. He said during the summer months there are the swimming pool duties and algae control at the sewer lagoons added to the regular daily duties. Jim went over the amount of time that is spent on the weekends by the employees. He said he cannot remember there being a problem in the city due to not being able to contact an employee to take care of the issue. Mayor Anderson asked if there is a projection of more time needed than what is listed on Jim's report. Jim said there are circumstances that come up that take more time and as things age there may be more time that is needed to take care of the issues. Jim said there are four employees currently in the water/sewer department. Jim said the free time of his department is also restricted by the duties that need to be done. He said his crew is very good about notifying him of their schedules in case he needs to contact them if a problem or situation arises. Jim said Christine McNair is looking to get trained to help out on weekends for confined space instances because two people are required and she could help out and call emergency services if necessary.

Rick Alonzo spoke regarding overtime expense in the police department. He said in fiscal year 2011 the overtime budget was cut to \$16,000. The police department was cut one employee and this makes scheduling difficult when there is an officer sick or on vacation. He said part of small town living is being spoken to by the public when you go to the store or are out on personal business. The city police back up the county at times and there are calls to Joel and himself so they are ready if there is an issue that comes up in the city. Sometimes there are issues that arise where the entire department is called out to help. When a storm comes in, the police department is ready to assist and comes in when called. Rick spoke of the problems with injuries in his department making it difficult to cover shifts. He said Dave Kramer and Foster Mayo have been coming in to help out. Mayor Anderson asked if the dispatchers at the Sheriff's Office know who is coming on shift or who is going off shift. Rick said it just depends on what time it is and what time of day they are being called.

Stephen said the mechanic and power plant report to him so it would be worth speaking to them also this evening. Stephen explained power plant standby time as one hour at overtime rate for work days and four hours on holidays. Pat said there is very seldom a four hour standby. Pat Stevens explained the scheduling at the power plant. He said the plant operators work day shifts and swing shifts and the person on swing shift carries the pager for the night. Stephen said the goal is to have one shift every day except on a holiday and they alternate between ten hour days for one week and eight hour days the next week to cover the weekends between the two

operators. Pat said they get four days on and two days off. The power plant has scada alarms and when they go off an employee must respond. Pat said it is a high risk dam due to the campground. Stephen said the system is set up so an employee must be on site to start up the system. He said we generate about 1,000 megawatts a day. Mayor Anderson asked when the plant reduced employees. Pat said when Tom Bennett retired, he was not replaced, so there are two employees now at the plant.

Keith said he is a one man department and he assists other departments when the need arises. He said he is here tonight due to cost of living and the last cost of living raise was in January, 2009. Mayor Anderson asked when Keith is on vacation who takes care of the equipment. The departments do some maintenance or use an outside mechanic if needed.

Stephen said the other one man crew we have is Steve Neumeyer and he knows the most about the buildings in the city. Mayor Anderson asked if Steve qualifies to help the electric department. Dan said he is not certified to do this work but he is very knowledgeable about the theory.

Mike Klaus said Keith, as our mechanic, brings his tools to the city also and this should be considered when thinking about wage adjustments as Keith probably brings \$30,000 worth of tools to the city. Mayor Anderson agreed.

Dan Williams said the issue of wages and standby is a morale issue. He said the city does not exist without the employees and the council and mayor come and go but the employees make up the city. He said when the morale is good the city functions good but when the morale is bad the city does not function as well. He said it is natural for morale to go down when there are not raises and the other issue is the cutting of standby time. He said with the workers it is always a morale issue.

John Delaney said he does not know if the council is aware of the time that is put in by the employees and not spending the off time with their families. He said during storms that the employees stay available and are not paid for this time.

Rick Alonzo said the departments depend on Keith, especially the police department, and he does his best to make sure the vehicles are safe. He said Keith does get pulled out for other department needs and this puts delay on Keith's duties of taking care of the vehicles. Rick would like to see some help given to Keith so the departments are not seeking outside mechanics. Rick said all the departments work together and it is like working with a family at the city.

Mayor Anderson said structurally there may be problems with the city but tonight we are talking about the city personnel policy. He encouraged the employees to let council know if there are suggestions to make things better. Mayor Anderson and Tom Mayo agreed that the employees are appreciated especially how well the crews work together. Mike Klaus said the proposal that was before the wage committee was reviewed and no action was taken. Mike said whatever the change may be with standby that at the end of one year no employee should be making less than what they did prior to the standby change. He said there were adjustments that were before the wage committee for employees whose wages are below par and these wages should be adjusted. He also thinks that Keith should receive an hourly rate adjustment for the use of his tools at our

shop. He said at a meeting not long ago there were budget cuts. Mike said he is on board with a one percent cost of living wage increase but the consumer price index was close to a two percent increase in 2010. He said if the city can afford a cost of living increase then we should do it. Chris Clark thanked the employees for the explanations regarding overtime and standby. He said the amount paid for standby and call outs is about \$25,000 in the budget. He thinks the city has a great workforce and the employees get the jobs done and do it with a great attitude. Chris is not in favor of adding expenses to the budget that were not included in the budget so he thinks a cost of living should wait until the next budget. Connie Wells agreed with Chris that the employees do a great job but agrees with Chris that the raises are not in the budget. Tom agreed about the employees and wages but is hopeful that the employees know that they are very much appreciated. He said when issues such as this are addressed that it is not a reflection on the employees and he would much rather keep everyone working and not lay anyone off.

Adam Isaac said 15 days out the month the power plant employees are on call. He has one son and cannot spend as much time with his family and this is a sacrifice. He said he and Pat do not vary more than a half hour from the area in case there is a problem

Mayor Anderson thanked the crews for coming in to explain standby and invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting if they wanted to.

Christa and Don Webster, Dave Gray, Victor Rae, Laura Rhoady, Shirley Brooks, Dave Kelly, Katherine Heart, Terri Maine, Robert McKenney, Treva Rawlings, Steve Iverson, Colet Allen, Mary Boyer, David and Dawn Carpenter, Eileen Marcott, Rhonda Hamerslough, Jim Greenslitt, Tim and Jennifer English, Laura Snider, Jim Cadnum, Sandy Ashworth, Donna Plum, Carolyn Testa, Robert Hanover, Sharon Fitzgerald, Shawn McCoy, Sharon Allured, Petra Timmermans, Scott Ingram, Kirsten Madden, Jason Thomas, Ralph and Julie Lotspeich, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, and Attorney Tim Wilson joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Sandy Ashworth told council that she spoke to a citizens group in Priest River that is interested in economic development. She said she received many comments about the people coming to Bonners Ferry and how they were very impressed in the good changes that have taken place in our community. She said part of her presentation was to let the people know that the changes to downtown were not just for the tourists because she enjoys the improvements also. Sandy thanked council for their efforts.

Police Chief Rick Alonzo gave the police report. He said there was one battery, one driving without privileges, three accidents, one hit and run, one DUI, one malicious injury to property, one warrant arrest, one grand theft, one trespass, and one phone harassment charge.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin said January was much slower for fire calls than last year. He said there has only been one call so far this year. The training schedule is starting to pick up and CPR and first aid training is scheduled in the next couple months. This training is in the budget as well as wild land urban interface training at little or no cost. Quite a bit of the training will be in the county.

Stephen Boorman said the urban renewal district is moving forward. He said Sam Fodge is considering a plasma burner. The parts are here for the power plant unit one rebuild project and we will be pushing high water to complete the project.

Mike Klaus moved to approve the consent agenda. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of the Treasurer’s Report; approval of January 18, 2011 council meeting minutes; approval for Alan Branson to attend Cross Connection Training in Spokane on March 3, 2011; approval for city crews to attend Safety Fest in Post Falls from February 21-25, 2011; and approval for Stephen Boorman to attend speed limit and speed zones class in Sandpoint on May 11-12, 2011.

The contract with Panhandle Area Council was briefly discussed. Stephen said it is appropriate to take this to executive session to discuss negotiations to see who pays the fee. Mike Klaus asked about setting up the board for the urban renewal district. Stephen said Panhandle Area Council will have the answers so the contract seems like the first step but he will follow up on Mike’s question. Mike is concerned about the construction season coming up and hopes we can get ready. Stephen said we cannot get all the processes done before the construction season. David Sims said as long as the entire process is done by the end of the calendar year that we will be fine. The group briefly discussed the timeline. Mayor Anderson said this will be considered at a later date.

Connie Wells moved to add late agenda items of HDR Engineering contract approval and also add the coverage of insurance for former Mayor Darrell Kerby for the IFG lawsuit. Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Chris Clark removed himself from the planning and zoning issue concerning Carolyn Testa’s request for a rezone on Ash Street. Stephen said if this area is rezoned commercial there is a whole host of uses that can be opened up on that block. He said the parking ordinance will still apply. He said if any other uses are sought the new use would have to meet the parking ordinance requirements and that is a problem in that area. Mike Klaus read through the packet and comments and said his question of the parking ordinance requirements was answered. Connie Wells had the same question if the parking ordinance must be applied. Tom Mayo said he is a big fan of Carolyn Testa and thinks she is doing good things for the community but he thinks this venture is in a bad place. Mayor Anderson said he is of the opinion that he would vote in favor of this issue if it should come to that. He said there could be a hearing if needed. Mike Klaus would like to make a motion to rezone blocks 17 and 18 of the Eaton Addition to commercial. Connie Wells seconded the motion. Mayor Anderson asked for clarification. Mike said it is block 17 and 18 only. Stephen said this is from Dakota Street to the highway and Dakota Street is not developed, that is where the power lines are. Stephen said Planning and Zoning did not consider rezoning only the church property due to the practice of not making islands in the city zones. Mike was concerned about the people in the area being informed of the zone change. Stephen said there was one person at the planning and zoning hearing that testified against it but he was not sure of whether the person lived in the area. Attorney Tim Wilson cautioned the council about seeking additional information and said they can have a hearing if they want more information. Mike Klaus “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “no”, Chris Clark did not vote due to being removed from the issue.

Chris Clark rejoined the meeting.

Shirley Waterloo, Dave Kelly, Katherine Heart, Terri Maine, Robert McKenney, Treva Rawlings, Steve Iverson, Colet Allen, Mary Boyer, David and Dawn Carpenter, Eileen Marcott, Rhonda Hamerslough, Jim Greenslitt, Laura Snider, Jim Cadnum, Sandy Ashworth, Donna Plum, Carolyn Testa, Robert Hanover, Sharon Fitzgerald, Shawn McCoy, Sharon Allured, Petra Timmermans, Scott Ingram, Kirsten Madden, and Jason Thomas left the meeting.

Mayor Anderson said regarding the daycare request from Christa Webster that he is leaning toward asking to hold another hearing. Mike Klaus said for a special use permit request the opinions of the neighbors are very important and the testimony of the parties is important. Chris Clark agreed that the planning and zoning tie vote did not provide the needed information that council should see so he thinks we should hold another hearing. Connie Wells moved to set a date for the daycare public hearing on March 1, 2011. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Don and Christa Webster, Laura Rhoady, and Tim and Jennifer English left the meeting.

Stephen explained the need for the Deep Creek line replacement. He said the urgency is due to the amount of use on this line. Chris Clark moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract for engineering with Welch Comer for the Deep Creek line crossing replacement. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. Connie Wells questioned the worksheet included in the packet regarding funding. David Sims said there is an updated spreadsheet as some of the items included on the first spreadsheet are not going to be paid by USDA. Mike Klaus said all projects must be on the master plan for USDA to consider funding so it is important to amend the water master plan. Stephen said it is very important to look at a well for future needs. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The upgrades at the golf course clubhouse were discussed. Mayor Anderson said he thinks the city will benefit from the lack of courses in the Sandpoint area. The dishwasher at the clubhouse will not be replaced at this time. Stephen said there are new regulations regarding commercial kitchens and if we replace the dishwasher we will be looking at an expense. Mike Klaus thinks the upgrades are necessary but is concerned about the cost. Mayor Anderson said our course will benefit from the additional play this summer that should make up for these costs. Ralph said players like to see improvements to the clubhouse and the course. Stephen gave kudos to Steve Galbraith for his work done at the golf course as he has done a great job. Connie questioned using the bid from McCoy’s for the vinyl as it was higher. Stephen said he thinks McCoy’s has the ability to install the vinyl better and it is a better brand of flooring. Stephen said the vinyl has been approved previously. Chris Clark moved to authorize the expenditure for the installation of a commercial sink, cabinets and carpet in the clubhouse. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The infrared inspection of the electric lines is done every year according to Stephen. This inspection identifies hot switches and tests our electric system. Connie asked how long the inspection takes. Stephen said it is generally one day. Chris Clark moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract agreement with Lake City Infrared for electric line inspection. Connie seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Stephen spoke to council regarding the request to abandon the prescriptive right at Arapaho Alley. He said Steve Galbraith purchased the Douglas home on Arapaho Alley and has requested that we abandon the prescriptive right on Arapaho Alley. Attorney Tim Wilson showed council a map of the road prescriptive use on his computer. Connie asked about the lots included in Steve's parcel. Tim said we are not abandoning the right to use or keep what the city owns. He said it is a unique creature because normally we are keeping our rights. Tim thinks we should give notice to the neighbors in the area. Tom Mayo asked about Steve's sister owning property in the proximity. Steve said her property does not come close to the road. Tim said the costs associated with the abandonment should be borne by the property owner requesting the abandonment. Tim wants to give everyone notice especially since Steve Galbraith is a city employee. Tim said this is new so we should give notice to the neighbors. Tim thinks it will be a newspaper posting and he will give his suggestion to city administration. Chris Clark said he would like to give notice to all property owners in the area. Tim said council should give direction by motion. Steve said there is no one that borders the alley that we are abandoning and there are two houses on the city platted alley. Tim said if we are noticing the people then we should go within 300 feet as is standard. Mike Klaus moved to notify people within 300 feet of the proposed abandonment. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Ralph and Julie Lotspeich left the meeting.

David said we are requesting permission to advertise for a temporary position to dredge the sewer lagoon. He said Tom Bennett did the dredging last year. Tom Mayo moved to advertise for a temporary employee to do dredging at the sewer lagoon. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. Connie Wells asked if there is money in the budget for this. David and Stephen said there is and it may be cheaper this year than last year. Tom Mayo asked if we are bagging the dredged material. David said we will. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Connie Wells moved to send out requests for mapping proposals. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The flower baskets were discussed. Jean Diel has requested quotes from the vendors in our county. Mike Klaus made the motion to move forward to purchase the flower baskets at \$3,187.50. Connie Wells seconded the motion. David Sims said Mike Sloan is looking at the “adopt a basket program” with the Chamber of Commerce. Victor Rae asked if there is a budget concern. Council said there is. Victor Rae said General Feed and Grain would donate the funding to purchase all the flower baskets for the city in 2011. Rick Alonzo commented on how the city shines since we did the downtown revitalization. Dave Gray commented on how it also brings in people driving by. Connie Wells said people enjoy how nice our town is and she was told by owners of the Log Inn that when people see how nice our town is that they extend their stay. Council thanked Victor for the generous donation.

Victor Rae and Steve Galbraith left the meeting.

Council agreed on February 28, 2011 for the joint meeting with Boundary County.

The contract with HDR Engineering for the sediment level report was discussed and the changes that were requested previously having been made by the attorneys. Chris Clark moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with HDR Engineering for a sediment report at the dam. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Stephen said legal representation and insurance coverage should be allowed to former city officials when they are acting in a lawsuit on behalf of the city. Tim Wilson said the Idaho Tort Claim Act will allow this but we just wanted to get Council to reiterate and support this. Connie Wells moved to provide insurance and legal representation for the former mayor in the Idaho Forest Group lawsuit. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

David Sims said it is important to recognize Victor Rae for the donation for the flower baskets. The group discussed ideas.

Stephen informed council of the regulations concerning confined space and also the electric department follows the American Public Power Administration Power Manual. He said every situation is unique and safety is number one at the city. Stephen said the city depends on the fire department to help out when there is a problem. He also spoke briefly of the Northern Lights agreement to assist if we should need it and we have a good relationship with them and our crews go to safety training at Northern Lights.

Connie Wells moved to go into executive session at 8:09 p.m. per Idaho Code 67-2345 (1) (f) for legal and negotiations. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. At 8:40 p.m. executive session ended. No action was taken.

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