

Mayor Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of February 4, 2009 to order at 6:30 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President John Langs, Council Members Chris Clark, Connie Wells, and Dave Gray. Clerk Kris Larson, Assistant City Administrator David Sims, Police Chief Rick Alonzo, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, Economic Development Coordinator Mike Sloan, and City Attorney Tim Wilson. Also present was Riley Boorman, Student Council Representative.

Mayor Anderson introduced Riley Boorman as City Council's Official Representative for the remainder of the year.

Rick Alonzo said there was a detox hold, two malicious property incidents, one domestic violence incident, two arrests, a fight between a couple girls at the school, and an accident. Rick said his office is ready so the Mayor's office is ready for him and the evidence room is complete.

Pat Warkentin said there was an incident yesterday at Under the Sun. It was a bad ballast on a fluorescent light that was smoking. Pat said he is still searching for a rescue vehicle as the one we had selected has been damaged and the engine is now bad. There are three vehicles that are now being looked at. The Paradise Valley Mutual Aid Agreement is in place so this relieves the pressure for the homes on the south end of town near the golf course. He spoke of the fire department roster and the aging force. He said there are some younger people who want to get involved but the fire department is at full force. He would like to establish a probationary program for the younger people to take part and learn some of the fire duties and help out but not be allowed in a hot zone. They would not be eligible for health benefits or any type of compensation. Pat feels these individuals would be good candidates for future firemen.

Barbara and Chris Rawlings joined the meeting.

Dave Sims said the clarifier project is moving along as planned with an estimated completion date of April. There was extra fill material brought in that was needed at the clarifier site. Sandpoint brought up the sewer camera truck to camera some lines for us. He said we have budgeted for the used camera truck they are selling and we have the funding for it. David encouraged Council to consider the purchase of the used camera truck. He explained how the camera works and said it would be of great value for the city. David said there was a sewer backup on Comanche Street and all the sewer department employees were out of town for training. John Youngwirth and his crew worked on the backup and took care of the issue. David said the city website is coming along. The consultant hired for the work at the sewer lagoons has requested testing data for the past six years. Christine has compiled this data in a spreadsheet and this has been sent to them. They are requesting to test twice per week. There is suspicion that the slide valve may be open and this may be causing problems at the lagoon.

John Langs moved to approve the consent agenda. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor. The consent agenda contained the following; roll call; approval of payroll and accounts payable.

The David Evans and Associates request for additional funding for the traffic study was briefly discussed. Attorney Tim Wilson said there is no action needed at this time if we do not wish to pay the bill.

Mayor Anderson asked for a motion to proceed with the sale of property. Tim Wilson said first disclosure must be made that it is in the best interest of the city to sell the property. Then the Clerk publishes a notice in the paper and an auction is held. The value must be set such as by an appraisal and this is the minimum bid that should be accepted. He said notice on both pieces of property should be separate and a public hearing should be held but keep them separate issues. Tim said Idaho Code directs property sales. Tim said a couple brokers in the area could do the quote for us. Dave Sims said Stephen Boorman has contacted a commercial appraiser. After the appraisal is complete the process can begin. Dave Gray does not feel an official appraisal needs to be done on the lot in the Eaton Addition. John Langs moved to authorize the Mayor to proceed with obtaining realistic prices for the properties to be auctioned near Riverside Auto and property near Rawlings. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

The mirror at Bonner Street and the alley near Larson's was discussed. John Youngwirth submitted a memo with information to Council for their review. He mentioned in his memo about the maintenance and costs associated with the mirror as well as problems that may be associated. Rick Alonzo said he does not know of a problem in the past with that area. Dave Gray moved to have the issue go before the Traffic Safety Committee. Chris Clark seconded the motion. Dave Sims said the building owner should be talked to about the issue first. Rick Alonzo will speak to the building owner. The motion passed, all in favor.

Rick Alonzo spoke to Council regarding the Traffic Safety Grant and the equipment that can be purchased under the grant. He said the radar system was out by two months when ordered and it came in two weeks. He would like authorization for the city to cover the purchase of the radar unit until the grant funding comes in. Dave Gray moved to authorize the purchase of the radar unit until the funding comes in. Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Mayor Anderson said Rural Development has a requirement that the city will have a minimum water bill of \$34.00 per residential unit or equivalent dwelling unit (EDU). If the city does not comply we would jeopardize the \$1,000,000 in grant funding allowed by Rural Development. Dave Sims explained the handouts given to council this evening. The original amount required by USDA was \$32.50 per 1000 cubic feet and then when more funding was authorized the EDU was increased to \$34.00 including overage usage. David said the base rate will probably be between \$24.70 and \$28.00 depending on what Bob Brooks and Associates comes out with on the final rate study. The volume rate would remain the same under this scenario. Dave spoke about the fixed costs for operating the plant and then the repayment of debt needing to be covered. It is risky to plan on the variable overage charges taking care of the mandated EDU charge. Council

discussed the need for a water rate hearing. John Langs moved to set the water rate hearing for March 10, 2009 with a base rate up to \$29.00 for 1000 cubic feet with the same volume charge. Dave Gray seconded the motion. Connie said she would like to keep the rates as low as possible because of hard times but she understands the problem that we are facing. The motion passed, all in favor. Connie also suggested reducing the cubic feet offered for the base rate.

Dave Sims said we have the lowest sewer rates in the world. The suggestion is to partially raise the sewer rates now to work on upcoming sewer projects. Dave recommended purchasing the camera truck, replacing the lift station near the golf course, and doing more maintenance on the sewer lines. He said there are real deficiencies that need to be identified and gave an estimated cost of replacing a lift station of over \$100,000. The suggested rate for sewer would be \$15.00 per equivalent dwelling unit. Dave said the work at the lagoon for the algae problem will be \$20,000 for chemical costs beginning this summer. Mayor Anderson said he has no problem raising it. Council discussed the rates and upcoming costs for the sewer system. Dave Gray said infrastructure upkeep is needed in the sewer system. Dave Sims said our discharge permit expires this April and we won't know until our new permit is issued what the requirements are for the new permit. The discharge requirements may be more restrictive under the new permit. Dave Gray said proper stewardship for the city's infrastructure is needed. Dave Sims commented on the sewer backup that the city experienced today on Comanche Street. Rick Alonzo said his observance is that the city waits on rate increases until the increase is quite large and he suggested raising rates more often in smaller increments. John Langs asked that the neighboring rates be secured for the rate increase hearing. John Langs moved to have a rate increase hearing for a \$15.00 sewer rate for residential and \$19.05 for small and large commercial. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

The electric rate discussion was tabled by a motion made by John Langs and seconded by Connie. Motion passed, all in favor.

Dave Gray spoke of the council meeting time being too early at 6:30 p.m. and he would like to raise it back to 7:00 p.m. The issue will be agendaized for action. Dave Gray moved to start the process to move the meeting time to 7:00 p.m. John Langs seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Dave Sims said the Chamber has a new president. He is Brett Brown and Dave suggested that we have a meeting with the Chamber.

Council thanked Riley for attending the meeting. Dave Gray told her to speak up if she would like to at any time and not feel intimidated.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Kris Larson, City Clerk