

Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of February 5, 2013 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Mike Klaus, Council Members Rick Alonzo and Tom Mayo, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, Assistant City Administrator Andrakay Pluid, Police Chief Steve Benkula, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, and Economic Development Coordinator David Sims. Also present were Jackson Hasdovac, Phil Lowman, Marcia Cossette, Adam Arthur, Jessica Tingley, Loretta Hunsaker, Jerry Higgs, Dale Simpson, Ruth Sutton, Doug Ladely, Sr., Laura Roady, Rich Beck, and Aaron Dunham, Barbara Hansen, and Gail Cathcart. Councilwoman Connie Wells was gone on personal business.

Jerry Higgs said Frederickson's Garbage Company put out a card a couple weeks ago that said crushed pop cans and milk jugs were prohibited in the recycling pick up. He spoke to Claine Skeen at the landfill and the county encourages this. Evidently, the wording on the card from Frederickson's was a typo.

Police Chief Steve Benkula said the police were called to the hospital for a suicidal subject and the police were required to transport the person to a Lewiston mental health facility as Kootenai County Behavioral Health was full. This cost the city close to 40 hours of overtime pay as two trips were taken – one to take the subject to Lewiston and another to bring him back. On January 31 the police were called to the high school in reference to a student with a gun. The school was locked down but no weapon was located. The incident is still being investigated. Over 100 fifth grade students graduated from the DARE program. Police Chief Benkula thanked the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Super 1 Foods, Boundary County School District, City of Bonners Ferry, and the community for supporting this great program. Since the last council meeting there have been 25 reports taken by the police that included four accidents, one DUI, two domestics, one altered prescription, one battery, and two probable causes.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin said there were nine calls in January - two chimney fires, a car crash, a bomb threat at Jr. High, EMS assist, illegal burning situation, fire alarm at the high school, and a truck crash on the bypass during a snow storm. Pat said there were 14 firemen on the scene for three hours for traffic control for the truck crash and a billing has been sent to the trucking insurance company. The fire department also responded to the gun at the high school call with the police.

Stephen Boorman said there are pictures of the outside crews for the county dispatch. The street lights have been removed on LaBrosse Hill other than the one at the highway and LaBrosse Hill as Stan Mastre will pay for it personally at his request. Stephen spoke of the flyer put out by Frederickson's that has a typographical error regarding crushed cans and milk jugs. Jackson Hasdovac is job shadowing.

David Sims gave the BEDC report. Melanie Staples and David are members of the Bonner/Boundary Priority Planning Group, and they have contracted with University of Idaho

for a study on the nexus between education and economic vitality. The study is being paid for by the Inland Northwest Community Foundation. A meeting with the focus group will be held in Bonners Ferry in March to discuss the study. The highway 95 corridor study is continuing a bit slower than expected. A draft of the existing conditions will be out soon and then work on the ground with the city staff and county staff will take place. There will be public meetings for this transportation plan in Boundary County and the importance for Boundary County is the traffic congestion on the south hill. There is a bark company interested in relocating to Boundary County. They are looking at property and visiting with suppliers and Idaho Department of Commerce, and if things go well they will be here by summer. They would use residual products from our local mills. Rick Alonzo inquired how many employees. David said there will be a number of jobs in the range of 15 to 50 and many of the jobs will be for truck drivers.

Mayor Anderson said Mike Sloan has resigned from the Urban Renewal Agency (URA) due to him moving, and he will be appointing David Sims to the URA Board.

Tom Mayo moved to add the late agenda item to authorize the Mayor to sign the log purchase agreement with Idaho Forest Group. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Mike Klaus moved to approve the consent agenda. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll; approval of the Treasurer’s report; and approval of the minutes of January 15, 2013 council meeting.

The highway 95 waterline bid agenda item was held for executive session.

City fees were discussed. Mike Klaus is concerned about applying a percentage across the board rate for water and sewer as he thinks we should speak to our consultant. Stephen said the cost of service study will still be done but this will get us a bit of money due to inflation. Mayor Anderson said it has been two years since we raised the rates and cost of living has been over two percent per year and we are not building much of a reserve. Rick likes a three percent increase and he likes a small increase each year so people are not hit hard. Tom Mayo said he looked at other cities and cannot find anyone that does not charge an annual business permit fee and would like to see the business permits be an annual fee. Tom would also like to see the water minimum usage increased for the base rate. He likes the pool suggestions but wants to see annual business licenses. Rick likes the annual business licenses and the idea of raising the amount of water usage for the base rate. Mayor Anderson is not sure that a onetime business license might help small businesses come in for a permit and is not sure if a \$25 annual fee will intimidate some of the smaller businesses. Mayor also likes increasing the amount of water for the base rate and does not think 200 cubic feet will hurt. He likes the swimming pool increases and thinks the water rate increase is good. He inquired about the hookup fees for water and sewer. We will wait for the cost of service study before raising the hookup fees. Stephen said

the amount published in the paper should be the maximum amounts because we can come down but we cannot increase over the published amounts. He said if we increase the amount of water for the base rate that we may want to increase the percentage raise. Mayor suggested adding a three percent increase for sewer and five percent for water with an additional cubic footage. Mike Klaus said he is concerned about the increase in cubic footage and questioned what this would do to the water plant in peak usage times. Stephen said people have gotten more cognizant of conservation, but he is not certain of people's usage. Rick suggested doing a scenario for customers of the increased water usage now versus the percentage increase with an increased cubic footage. Stephen said we are pushing 1.7 to 1.8 million gallons per day. Winter usage is about a third of the summer usage. Mike spoke of the cost of additional treatment and said if we have to add capacity it would be expensive. Stephen said ground water sources are not popular and we may have to look that direction if we need more capacity. Mayor Anderson would like to give a break to those on fixed incomes by providing more cubic footage, about 200 cubic feet, for the base rate. Mike suggested 200 cubic feet until we know we will not exceed the plant maximum. Mike said Cabinet Mountains pumps all their water so their electrical costs are \$3,000 per month and the city is gravity fed from Myrtle Creek so their electrical costs are less.

Tom Mayo moved to change the business permits to \$25 initial fee and a \$10 annual fee. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. Mike Klaus does not like an annual fee but it is a starting point for the hearing. The motion passed – all in favor.

Rick Alonzo moved to change swim lessons fees from \$20 to \$25 for city residents and from \$20 to \$30 for non city residents. Mike Klaus seconded the motion and it passed.

Mike Klaus moved to change security deposits from \$100 to \$200. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. Stephen clarified that we charge \$200 deposit for electric heat and have charged \$100 for customers with gas heat and this would just change all deposits to be \$200. The motion passed – all in favor.

Tom Mayo moved to charge \$1 per day for swimming pool use and grant a season pass for free for those taking swim lessons, charge \$5 for a city resident for a pool season pass, and charge \$10 per out of city person for a season pass. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed.

Rick moved to raise water rates by five percent and sewer rates by three percent across the board and increase base usage for water by 200 cubic feet. Tom Mayo seconded the motion and it passed.

Tom Mayo moved to set the hearing date for rate increases on March 5, 2013. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

The Farmers Market proposal for the 2013 season was discussed. Gail Cathcart, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Farmers Market, said they are not planning to make any changes. She

said the customers of the Farmers Market are sent to other downtown businesses and the Farmers Market is proud of what they do for the community as this is a family affair. Gail said twice there was maxed out for space for the vendors. Rick Alonzo said he liked the rapid assessment survey done for the Farmers Market. They have a smooth operating plan. Mayor Anderson said the contract will be prepared for the next meeting.

Stephen spoke regarding the electric testing equipment. The power quality monitor we currently have is failing and we need one badly. The Megger is a device that tests to see if there is energy leakage. The 5kv Megger for \$4,700 is the one being proposed. The Fluke 435 for \$7,600 is the power quality monitor proposed. Rick Alonzo moved to allow the electric department to purchase the power quality monitor for \$7,600 and the Megger for \$4,700. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Rick Alonzo moved to approve the Mayor’s recommendation to appoint Kirk Dixon to the Traffic Safety Committee. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

The group discussed the joint city/county meeting. The proposed dates will be March 11 or 12 so we will contact the County and Moyie.

Mike Klaus moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the log purchase agreement with Idaho Forest Group. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Rick Alonzo moved to go into executive session at 7:48 p.m. per Idaho Code 67-2345 (1) (c). Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. Attorney Will Herrington joined the meeting by phone conference. Executive session ended at 8:00 p.m. No action was taken.

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

David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Kris Larson, Clerk/Treasurer