Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled meeting of February 16, 2010 to order at 7:00 p.m. at the visitor center. 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, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, and City Attorney Tim Wilson. Also present were Larry Hare, Mike Stevens, Rhonda Hamerlsough, Julie Golder, Ron Frederickson, Kevin Frederickson, Marilyn Reason, Kris Anderberg, Roger Fraser, and Tim Dougherty. Joining the meeting late were Ralph Lotspeich, Randy Tremble, Gil Hagen, Marie Sumpter, Jennifer Jensen, and Breanna Booth.

Rick Alonzo said there have been five DUI arrests, two driving without privileges, three invalid driver’s licenses, two crashes, three agency assists, two trespass violations, two controlled substances in public violations, one burglary, one arson attempt, one possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, two school bus complaints, one battery, two warrant arrests, and one disturbing the peace arrest.

Pat Warkentin gave the fire report. There have been several false alarms at the high school and an alarm at Valley View. There was a fire on Comanche that was intentionally set in the kitchen in the oven. There have been quite a few fire calls lately.

Stephen Boorman gave his report. He said there is information in the packet on the Columbia River Treaty. There is a report on NIMS (National Incident Management System) and NICS (National Incident Command System) which is a way to track people and equipment in an emergency and keep on task. After 9-11 the NIMS program got elevated and is a program that is dictated by the federal government. It is a good system for managing disasters and we are required to have certain people trained in these systems to qualify for federal funding. Stephen met with the Kootenai Tribe about projects on the river to be constructed in 2011-2012. He said one project is stabilizing the river banks and keeping the river channel open. There were several hot spots on the city’s electrical system that were found by Infrared when they did their inspection. City hall is being remodeled in the council room and kitchen area. The National Weather Service has requested assistance in gathering data so the City Water Department will gather information daily since they check the plant every day of the year.

Chris Clark moved to add Myrtle Creek water shed discussion to the agenda. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Mayor Anderson said the item for fire training has been removed from the agenda at the Fire Chief’s request. Connie Wells moved to approve the consent agenda. Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll; and approval for Jim Fritzeshe, Alan Branson, and Dave Sims to attend backflow prevention training in Spokane on March 3, 2010.
Mayor Anderson said the County is working on the small community exemption and wants to see more recycling so Boundary County garbage does not have to be hauled to a transfer station. He said the biggest problem with the city garbage contractor hauling garbage to a transfer station is that it is not only the city resident’s garbage being hauled but there is also commercial garbage collected on the garbage route by Mr. Frederickson. Connie said she would like to see action taken on the garbage issue suggested by City Administrator Stephen Boorman in his memo to the council, particularly advertising in the city bills for recycling. Mayor Anderson said we need to do something that is cost effective. He would like to see the county recycling trailer brought in more often to the city for pick up. Tom Mayo thinks the county would be willing to do this. Tom is concerned about yard waste because of the weight. Mayor Anderson said the city could have more yard waste pickups, like they do for spring clean up, and it could be delivered to the yard waste site at the landfill so it would not create tonnage for the county landfill. Mayor said the city may not be able to afford to pick up yard waste weekly. Stephen said we could not do it weekly. Connie Wells asked Ron Frederickson what he thought would be the best way to cut down on tonnage. Ron said the drop box system for recycling would not get the results quick enough. He said curbside pickup may help but it would not be quick enough either. Ron said trucking a load out would be the best scenario because it would be five tons per load.

Mike Klaus asked Ron about yard waste. Ron said there are sometimes several bags of yard waste at a residence and he is concerned about the city crew having to drive his entire route to get the yard waste picked up. Mike also asked about having the garbage hauled out of the county and if we wouldn’t need a scale to monitor this. Ron said the scales being used are at General Feed and Grain and it takes time and effort on Frederickson’s part to do this. He said there will be expense involved in this and the county has paid the weigh tickets but they may have to help pay for his time also. Chris Clark commented that he is opposed to taking steps at this time to cause increased fees to the city residents. He is in favor of small steps to alleviate the problem and help the tonnage. He would like to see recycling information in the city bills as well as more recycling pick up days by the county in the city limits. Chris thinks education to the public and more pickups will help. He said the yard waste issue needs to be addressed also. Mayor Anderson asked about a public meeting and if council thinks people will show up. Mike sees the value in what Chris is thinking. One way is to eliminate yard waste from the garbage pick up and the second is to haul out a portion of the garbage to a transfer site. A third thought is to offer unmanned recyclable collection sites in the city limits with payment to the city for hiring a contractor to service the sites as well as lease costs. Stephen said if he has guidance from council he will work with the county. The limit for garbage pickup is three cans including yard waste according to Ron Frederickson. Chris Clark thinks we should ask the county to bring the recycle truck to the city three additional times per month at Far North. He also spoke about the community garden group needing composting. David Sims said composting and mulching could be a part of the education process. Chris thinks people will do what is best. Stephen said the county has an existing recycling flyer. Mayor Anderson said there is a minimal cost to putting a flyer in our billings and he is willing to fund this but he would like to see the recycling trailer
brought to the city limits more often. Mayor Anderson thinks a public meeting of city residents may also help. Chris Clark moved to contact the county to see if they will increase the recycle truck to Far North four times per month and to begin an advertising campaign in our billings and to schedule a public meeting date to inform our residents. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor. Ron and Kevin Frederickson left the meeting.

Randy Tremble, Boundary County School District Food Service Director, spoke to council regarding the Community Kitchen and the School, Farm, Community Initiative and to request council support. He said the program started due to the high school not having a kitchen or cafeteria facility and he wanted to find a way to build a kitchen facility at no cost. There are also a record number of students participating in the National School Lunch Program. The idea of a community kitchen with a farm plan that supports the kitchen and farming efforts in the community is what is being worked on. There are 22 acres in the district available for breaking ground on in the district and there is also the possibility of an orchard at Valley View School. Jennifer Jensen is the local USDA contact and is helping on the program. A community kitchen idea came from the Grow Group but there are restrictions by USDA that are put on food donations to the schools and we were not ready to deal with those restrictions. There are a couple areas that will be canning kitchens and a community incubator is being looked at. There is a community kitchen in Caldwell run by the University of Idaho. The kitchen would serve the school district and the community incubator concept. The kitchen would be available for people to commercially process their products such as salsa. County Commissioners were briefed by Randy and Gil Hagen and they passed a motion of support for the project. Randy will be going before Panhandle Area Council soon to garner assistance as there are funding sources available through the Farm Based Education Association out of Massachusetts, USDA Rural Development, and Sustained Agricultural Western Region Division. The project needs to be funded through sources other than the School District’s general fund. The course is built to be a sustained agricultural project in our community. Randy said essentially the project will be a 25 acre classroom. There is one acre that has been benoactored to the project. Mayor Anderson said the kitchen in Caldwell was a program from University of Idaho and he thinks it could be picked up at a bargain. Randy said Boundary County does not have a direct link to the Farm to School Program but he said we now purchase our food locally for the school district even though the product may not be grown locally, the food is purchased locally. Most of the baked goods are made from scratch and the menu is more nutritional than it was in the past. The initiative program is a five year plan and an impact of the program is putting an orchard at Valley View School after the ground is worked up so it will sustain production because apples are an item purchased by the school district now. A farm management plan and commitment from the School District to staff the project is needed. The district has 22 acres of ground for growing produce. Tim Dougherty said the program could use yard waste for composting.

Mayor Anderson commended the Second Chance Animal Agency on the good presentation they gave at the last meeting. He would like to see management work with Second Chance on a
workable contract. Mike Klaus asked if we need to come up with numbers. Mayor Anderson said we need to come to an agreement and make a proposal to Second Chance. Stephen said numbers or contract amounts should be worked on in executive session but the details or nuts and bolts of the contract can be worked on in an open forum. Mike said it is his intention to move forward with a contract with Second Chance. Chris Clark said it makes sense but he will be looking at budget numbers. Connie agrees that it should be looked at but the budget needs to be considered. Tom agreed with the comments of council. Tom Mayo moved to start with contract negotiations with Second Chance Animal Adoption Agency. Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

The update on Rural Community Grant was postponed until the next council meeting when Mike Sloan is available.

Mike Klaus moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Community Kitchen. Connie Wells seconded the motion as she thinks it looks like a great program. The motion passed, all in favor. Mayor Anderson said he is on a panel that oversees the changing of the guard on the School of Ag and Life Sciences and the Caldwell kitchen was discussed a year ago and he has an upcoming meeting where he will recommend the moving of the kitchen to Bonners Ferry.

Mike Klaus moved to approve the KG&T contract and authorize the Mayor to sign it. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Council discussed the audit engagement letter from Magnuson, McHugh, and Company. Mike Klaus moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the engagement letter with Magnuson, McHugh, and Company for the fiscal year 2009 audit. Tom Mayo seconded the motion and it passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The fees of the city were reviewed. Mayor Anderson spoke of annual business license fees and said he is hesitant to raise this fee or make it an annual fee due to the economic times. He also spoke of swim lesson fees and does not see a problem raising the fee five dollars. Mayor Anderson spoke of parade fees and asked about senior rates for golf. Ralph Lotspeich said some courses offer senior rates and some do not. He said the Elks do not. Tom Mayo disagreed with the Mayor and wants to see business licenses be an annual fee. He asked about the discount cards fees and said they appear to be higher than the rest of the fee increases. Stephen said historically the discount cards have been ten rounds for the price of eight and the proposal is ten rounds for the price of nine. Connie asked about the hook on fees for water and sewer. Stephen said our rate specialist is looking at this. Connie also asked about the special event fees. Mike also inquired about the water and sewer hook on fees. Mike thinks this is a good starting point for the public to be heard at the public hearing. Chris Clark asked about the parade permit fee and how often we collect the fees. Rick said it would be nice if we charge a minimal fee and
penalize the ones that do not give adequate notice for parades and events. Chris Clark moved to publish the fees proposed with the change in entertainment fees to be in line with the parade permit fees and increase the parade permit fees to be $35 rather than $25 that was suggested. Connie wants to keep the business license fee at $10 but have it be an annual fee. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Chris Clark volunteered to be the Panhandle Area Council (PAC) representative. Connie Wells volunteered to be the alternate. Mike Klaus moved to appoint Chris Clark as the PAC representative and Connie Wells as the alternate. The motion passed, all in favor.

Tom Mayo moved to appoint Dave Gray and John Marquette and reappoint Matt Morgan to the Traffic Safety Committee with terms expiring December 31, 2011. Mike Klaus seconded the motion and it passed, all in favor.

Chris Clark moved to approve the special event permit for the Senior Companion Program for a line dance and 4th of July activities and waive the fees on July 3-4, 2010. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

The group discussed insurance for the 4th of July activities. Mr. Hare said the vendors and musicians have liability insurance. He will get the certificates for the city. Mr. Hare said the Senior Companion Program is a program through Panhandle Health District. Mr. Hare said there are good things that come about from the activities. Mayor Anderson said the city needs to make sure the bases are covered for insurance. He thinks Mr. Hare is doing well by starting early. Mr. Hare said the dance is a fund raiser and he will follow the rules.

The special event permit for the car show was discussed. Chris Clark moved to approve the special event permit for the Rod Benders car show on June 5, 2010 and waive the fees. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Stephen spoke to council regarding the repair for the Army duck that the city owns. The proposal is to advertise to hire a temporary part time employee to repair and rework the duck to make it run properly. He said the cost of parts will be minimal but labor will be a major part of the expenditure that he estimates to be around $10,000 paid by the electric fund. It would be advertised through the Job Service. Chris Clark moved to authorize the City Manager to advertise for a part time hire to repair the duck. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Chris Clark said there is a sportsman group that has been making calls regarding no hunting and no fishing at the Myrtle Creek watershed. Stephen said he does not think Fish and Game have supported this law that the State of Idaho passed many years ago. Mayor Anderson said Fish and Game used to put discernable maps in the hunting rules but they do not put this in a visible place in the regulations anymore. With this not being apparent to the out of town hunters there were violators of this law since it was not designated by signage according to Mayor Anderson. He
said Fish and Game took the game that was killed but did not cite the individuals. Mayor Anderson inquired about signage. David said the city applied for a grant from the State of Idaho for signs but we were not successful. Tim Wilson said if there is a law then Fish and Game needs to enforce the law as it is written. David said Fish and Game and the Forest Service have allowed the city to use their logos and it will cost about $1,000 for several large signs. Mayor Anderson questioned the benefit of the prohibition of hunting in the Myrtle Creek watershed. Tim Wilson said this has been a problem for years for the city since the Fish and Game Department did not request the legislation but instead the legislation was promoted by former Mayor Harold Sims and Attorney Pete Wilson working with Representative Marion Davidson. Stephen asked if the sportsman group wants to hunt the area or if they are concerned because others are hunting there that should not be. Chris said the primary concern was for hunting the area. Tom Mayo said he was also approached during his campaign. Chris said he has a problem defending this legislation since the water is treated and there is no risk. David said there are certain types of organisms that are not treatable by chlorine. Connie said we should keep our preserve and not open it to hunting. Stephen said there are other cities that protect their watersheds and others that do not. Mike spoke about the organisms that can contaminate a water system. Attorney Wilson said the city asked for this previously and it was pushed by Representative Marion Davidson and it went through the Legislature becoming law. Mayor Anderson said he would be willing to meet with the sportsman group but he will be out of town this weekend. Tom said he will meet with the sportsman group. Stephen said the way he understands the legislation is that the preserve could be opened with the concurrence of the City, DEQ, and Fish and Game. Stephen said Burton Ridge is the area of most concern from the hunters because that is where the elk are. David suggested getting the advice of the drinking water folks at DEQ. Mike Klaus said it is confusing when you are hunting on Burton Peak and the ridge tops. Mayor Anderson said we will take the matter under advisement. He said last year the hunters in our community were upset because they were not allowed to hunt the area but others that did not know better did it and were not cited by Fish and Game.

Connie Wells moved at 9:01 p.m. to go into executive session per Idaho Code 67-2345, subsection 1(f). Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. At 10:01 executive session ended. No action was taken.

Chris Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

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David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

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Kris Larson, City Clerk

02/16/10 Council Meeting