

Mayor David Anderson called the special council meeting of June 14, 2011 to order at 7:08 p.m. at the visitor center. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Chris Clark, Council Members Mike Klaus and Tom Mayo, Office Clerk Christine McNair, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, and Economic Development Coordinator Mike Sloan. Also present were John Austin from Panhandle Area Council, Marciavee Cossette, Tremain Albright, Clay Larkin, Pat Lewis, Jay Huggins, Tony and Susan Vilelli, Li Fenso, Kirsten Madden, Nathan Philbrook, Rick Philbrook, Phil Johnson, Jane Johnson, Jeff Ward, Dustin Ward, Cal Russell, Alan Flory, Tim Fulton, Dennis Fitch, Jerry Lewis, Jim Tompkins, Amanda Tompkins and Carolyn Testa.

The public hearing was opened for the Urban Renewal Plan. The mayor explained how the public hearing is conducted.

Tom Mayo moved to add the agenda item #1A to allow the Mayor to sign a contract with Cushman Welding and Crane. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. Stephen said a crane was finally found that is tall enough to get to the top of the tall flagpole so the City can fix the wire. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Chris Clark moved to allow the Mayor to sign the contract with Cushman Welding and Crane for the installation of the flag. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. Motion passed – Mike – yes, Chris – yes, Tom – yes.

The Mayor opened the floor for anyone wishing to speak on behalf of establishment of an Urban Renewal District as put forth by our appointed Urban Renewal Agency. Mayor Larkin from Post Falls, Idaho, spoke in favor of the Urban Renewal District and gave an overview of the Post Falls Urban Renewal Districts. Post Falls’ first Urban Renewal District started 28 years ago, 500 jobs have been created with the districts and their second Urban Renewal District will be closing this year. Mayor Larkin said Bonners Ferry has an unemployment rate of 14.2% and Post Falls has an unemployment rate of 11.4%.

Rick Philbrook asked Mayor Larkin if any of the department heads feel short changed. Mayor Larkin said there are some department heads that feel short changed since the money from the Urban Renewal District isn’t coming into the City’s budget.

Tremain Albright asked what Post Falls has done if there is a resident that doesn’t want to be in the Urban Renewal District. Mayor Larkin said Post Falls has mostly developed bare ground.

Mayor Larkin thanked the council and citizens for allowing him to speak about Post Falls’ Urban Renewal Plan.

Mayor Anderson asked Mike Klaus to give a quick overview of the Urban Renewal District. Mike explained how the Urban Renewal District receives money. Mike described the District layout and the reason certain areas were included in the District.

Kirsten Madden asked where the initial funds will come from. Mike said that it's hard to know which area of the District will be developed first.

Kirsten Madden asked where the initial funds for the infrastructure will come from. John Austin said the City and its residents are not responsible for any of those costs. He said the property owner must agree to provide the infrastructure and make sure it's up to City Standards and City Code. The City agrees to help repay the property owner if the tax increment comes in.

Kirsten Madden asked if it is the exact width of the right of way. John Austin said yes, the Agency tries very hard to not include private residences.

Stephen explained that the needs of our community were considered in the creation of the URD.

Alan Flory asked if the fairgrounds can be moved. Mike Klaus said that wasn't considered. Stephen explained that the money must be spent in the URD, so the Agency wanted to make sure certain properties were included.

Mike Klaus asked if it is acceptable to install a water service in the north park using the money from the URD. John Austin said yes that is acceptable.

Tony Villelli thanked everyone that worked on the Urban Renewal Agency.

Tremain Albright asked if there are any guidelines that are being considered as to the type of industry that would be welcomed in Bonners Ferry. The Mayor said there are no guidelines. Every industry will go through the regular processes. This is an opportunity to improve the community and create jobs, but it doesn't change any of the requirements or ordinances.

There were no opponents to the creation of the URD.

There were no uncommitted comments.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 8:08pm.

The Mayor opened the meeting at 8:08pm.

Chris Clark moved to suspend with the rules and have a single reading of the Ordinance. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. Mike – yes, Chris – yes, Tom – yes. Motion passed with all in favor.

Stephen read Ordinance 523 in its entirety.

Chris moved to accept the ordinance creating an Urban Renewal District as well as providing a map of the Urban Renewal District. Tom seconded the motion. Mike – yes, Chris – yes, Tom – yes. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

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Christine McNair, Office Clerk