

Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled meeting of August 4, 2009 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Dave Gray, Council Members Chris Clark, Connie Wells, and John Langs, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, Assistant City Administrator David Sims, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, Street Supervisor John Youngwirth, Police Chief Rick Alonzo, and Economic Development Coordinator Mike Sloan. Also present were Wendy McClintock, Marcia Cossette, and Fred Bauer.

Wendy McClintock asked council why the windshield sign is on the building near the clock tower. She said it takes away from the beauty of town. She also spoke of the colored cement work in the center of town with black tar in the cracks. She asked that it be cleaned out. The third item that she spoke of was junk cars at the top of the north hill. She said this should be addressed. John Langs told her this was a county issue. Stephen Boorman said the city did not fill in the cracks at the center crosswalk and it needs to be cleaned up. He said it is silicone that has gotten dirty. Stephen said the windshield sign is on the Moir building and he owns the business. Wendy commented that the sign is too bad because it takes away from our beautiful town.

Rick Alonzo said the Police Department has been busy. There were two crashes, one warrant arrest, two driving without privileges, one aggravated assault, and four DUIs – not attributable to the all class reunion. He said the All Class Reunion was great. There is a Ricky Skaggs concert at the fairgrounds on Friday night and then over the weekend there is the Swish basketball tournament.

Fire Chief Pat said the fire department responded to the accident south of the Forest Service with our equipment and people had to be extricated out of two vehicles. We responded due to the mutual aid agreement with Paradise Valley Fire. Saturday night there was a gas odor call and then on Monday there was a fire at the Riverside Auto building. The fire was a big one but it went exceptionally well. Pat has a cd from Rural Northwest with pictures of the Riverside fire. At first there were seven fire fighters on the scene and John Youngwirth was in charge. Complicating the issue was the fact that John's wife's business was in the fire. Pat said there were five streams fighting the fire and there were several cars that got cooked. Pat said the State Fire Marshall was surprised to see how the fire was contained by the fire department. There was aid from South Boundary, Paradise Valley Fire, and North bench Fire but our crew fought it alone for nearly an hour. Pat said the ambulance crew monitored our fire fighters. He said it was so hot that the cascade system was nearly drained due the amount of bottles that were filled. There was a fire fighter on scene all night with an engine in case the fire would ignite again. Pat said the job was more than adequate as well as the assistance that they received. Rick Alonzo said there is also a recording from the police department. John said the firemen get very dehydrated. He said Safeway brought over water and Gatorade for the firemen.

Stephen said he was impressed with the reserve officers that showed up and directed traffic as well as the firemen during the Riverside Auto fire. He commended John Youngwirth for the great job that he and his firemen did.

There was a FERC inspection done last week. It was the first one since we automated the power plant. Stephen said the inspection went well and he commended Pat Stevens and his crew at the plant.

Earthworks Northwest will start the phase 2 water project next week. They will begin on Van Buren and then go to the northside.

Stephen said we are meeting our testing requirements at the sewer lagoon but the cost is huge that we have been facing to get there. David Sims showed council samples from the lagoon of the algae and how clear it is today. In sixteen of the eighteen months over the past three years we had violations but we met the requirements today. Dave said we will need to raise the sewer rates to meet the expenses we are facing. He said we may be able to discharge from pond two and that may help us meet the requirements. Stephen said many cities are watching the results of our sewer treatment process to see if it works so they can use it. David said the permit requirements must be met every ten years so he is hopeful that we will meet the standards and then we won't have to worry for a few years.

Chris Clark said he is in awe of the city employees for all that they do and the technical knowledge that they have. He said the employees are top notch and he thanked them.

Mayor Anderson said the Bonzai Bounce Rentals is interested in setting up a bounce house for the Swish Tournament. Connie Wells moved to add the special event permit for Bonzi Bounce Rentals to new business. John Langs seconded the motion and it passed, all in favor.

John Langs moved to approve the consent agenda. Chris Clark seconded the motion and it passed, all in favor.

The use of the visitor center by the Militia Group was discussed. The City Attorney had no problem with the issue. Stephen said the majority of groups using the visitor center lack insurance. John Langs moved to move the visitor center usage issue on the agenda until the building use policy is reviewed this evening. Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Dave Anderson asked that item #9, Building Use Policy, be moved to item #4 for discussion at this time. John Langs moved and Chris Clark seconded the postponement of insurance for the Grow Group until the building and facility use policy is reviewed. The motion passed, all in favor.

Stephen said he tried to capture the wishes of council as well as the guidance provided by Darrell Kerby in the building and facility use policy. He reviewed our practices and the policies and tried to come up with a workable policy. Dave Anderson said meetings fall at the bottom of the risk ladder and the city has fallen under that. The visitor center is a nice meeting room and the public likes to use it. Stephen said people do sign up for the use of the meeting room. Stephen said risk does go up for events in town. He said we need adequate time and definition of location for traffic control. Stephen said he wrote the policy so that insurance will be required for special event permits unless a signed waiver of liability is signed by the group putting on the event, indemnifying the city and holding them harmless. He also tried to capture a policy for the community events such as the fireworks and the All Class Reunion. He briefly discussed fees and the waiver of them. Stephen spoke of events that request police or fire assistance or cleanup by the city and charges that could be assessed. John Langs asked if Stephen knew of what other cities do regarding insurance. Rick said sometimes the cones for blocking off the streets can be a problem because we do not have enough. Rick suggested charging fees so we can purchase cones or barricades for closing the streets for events. Connie asked about cleanup. John said usually there is no problem except dumping garbage. Chris Clark said the visitor center, city hall and the fire hall use policy are pretty simple and he is not too concerned about the insurance with those facilities. Chris asked what Darrell said regarding insurance on the special events. Mayor Anderson said the city has free reign but part of the deliberation by council should be the risk to the city such as food being served or high risk activities.

Stephen said it is a judgment call and council has the right to make the decision based on the benefit of activities to the community but there could be risk to the city taxpayers and this should be kept in mind. John Langs suggested reviewing ahead of time the activities that the city will sponsor in a given year and not sponsor the other activities. Rick said he has a problem with the timing of the special events coming in on short notice and there may be police coverage problems. He said advanced notice would be much better. Mayor Anderson said advanced notice is great. Mike Sloan suggested that the first year events must pay the insurance requirement and then after the first year it could be waived by council. Chris is concerned about enforcing the insurance requirement on some groups but not on all of them. Connie said she thinks this is what Darrell was speaking about when he said we must weigh the risk and the type of events that are brought forth with the benefit to the taxpayers. Connie said the city is always insured but the group or head of the group would not be covered if a person sues. John expressed concern that we may be open to discrimination. Chris asked about the cost of insurance. The policy for the Grow Group is \$400. Rick said when he checked last for the Car Show the cost was over \$800. Stephen said the insurance cost goes up with risk. David Sims said the city insurance will always cover city negligence.

Connie moved to adopt the building and facility use policy and to add the indemnification clause to the special event permit application. Dave Gray seconded the motion. John Langs said he wants the paperwork to clearly state that the group or the individual is not covered by city insurance. The motion passed – John Langs “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Dave Gray “yes”.

Dave Gray moved to allow the Militia Group to use the visitor center. Connie Wells seconded the motion. Chris Clark would like to state that in no way is he involved in the Militia activity or meetings. John Langs also wanted this to apply to him. The motion passed – Connie Wells “yes”, John Langs “no”, Dave Gray “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”.

The street dance was discussed. John Langs is concerned that if we require insurance for groups such as the Grow Group that it will eliminate many functions and he wants the town to have many activities. John Langs moved to approve the special event permit for the Grow Group without insurance. Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

John Langs said it would be nice if the city could purchase a special policy for covering such events. Stephen said the city cannot do this but an organization such as the Chamber of Commerce may be able to do this. David Sims said many organizations are members of national organizations that carry insurance and the groups piggyback on them. Connie said Grow Group needs to sign the waiver paperwork prior to the event.

The group briefly discussed scheduling the visitor center and reviewing the schedule. Stephen said there could be a nominal fee assessed. Stephen said the scheduling could be addressed quarterly or semi-annually. David said it is reasonable to look at charging a nominal fee for the visitor center meeting room.

Chris Clark moved to approve the special event permit for the Lions Club for the Demolition Derby on September 12, 2009 and waive the fees. Connie Wells seconded the motion and it passed, all in favor.

Chris Clark moved to approve the special event permit for the Mountain Springs Church concert on August 7, 2009 and waive the fees. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Connie Wells moved to approve the special event permit for the Selkirk Saddle Club Bull Bash on August 8, 2009 and waive the fees. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

The dispatch agreement with Boundary County was discussed. Mayor Anderson said the contract has not changed with the exception of a three percent increase. He also said the taxing districts will also be in on the agreement next year. John Langs moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the city/county dispatch agreement for fiscal year 2010. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed – John Langs “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Dave Gray “yes”.

Stephen spoke regarding recycling and garbage collection. He said there is a cost to the recycling program depending on the sorting that is done. Stephen said the sorts considered are cardboard, paper, plastics, and tin and aluminum. Mayor Anderson said the limit is 20 ton of garbage per day in the landfill under the small community exemption. He said the county has put the onus on the city citizens because we have the highest concentration of garbage in the county. We need to meet with Frederickson’s to work on a plan for recycling. Stephen said the city must decide if recycling is optional or mandatory. Rick spoke of the recycling bin at Far North once a month. He said maybe the county should look at a weekly recycling program. David and Stephen said Ron Frederickson is concerned about his investment being long term if he purchases recycling equipment.

The group discussed budget for 2010. The fire budget is the most concerning because the supply budget had to be cut to meet the target. David Sims said after seeing the emergency response and dedication of the firemen yesterday for the Riverside fire that it shows how the city needs to hold up their end of the bargain. Connie agreed. Dave Anderson spoke of the balanced budget and revenue increase possibilities. He suggested taking \$10,000 out of capital and lowering the contingency by \$37,000 to make the budget balance. Connie said all departments have done a good job of cutting their budgets. She said maybe there is a possibility of changing the health insurance to a higher deductible and paying some of the employee’s difference if it is needed. Chris does not want to change the benefit package unless the employee is made whole. David Sims said we could self insure a portion of the insurance. John Langs asked about the in lieu of tax being in the budget. It is budgeted at five percent now. The group discussed the budget publication. Stephen gave an update on the enterprise funds. One of the generator units needs to be rebuilt at the power plant and concrete work needs to be done on the face of the dam. We may be able to use some of the street crew for the labor. Next year will be the last of the water projects – the Eaton and Chippewa lines. Modifications are needed at the sewer lagoons and cameraing of the lines is also a chore that needs to be accomplished. John Langs would like to continue to work on a usable budget that each department has and have a report each quarter so council knows a department sticking to their budget. He would like to also see if there are savings made that the department heads be awarded. John said we should trust our department heads to spend their budgets appropriately because they are the experts in their departments. John moved to publish the budget and for council to work out a budget that will be used in the next year. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Connie moved to approve the special event permit for the Bonzai Bounce Rentals for August 8 and 9, 2009. Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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David K. Anderson, Mayor

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Kris Larson, City Clerk