

Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled meeting of August 18, 2009 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Dave Gray, Council Members John Langs, Chris Clark, and Connie Wells, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, Assistant City Administrator David Sims, Police Chief Rick Alonzo, Economic Development Coordinator Mike Sloan, and City Attorney Tim Wilson. Also present were Michelle Barker and Carolyn Testa.

Mike Sloan reported that the visitor number is up this year from last year at the visitor center.

Michelle Barker spoke to the group regarding the job that she does at the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor Center as a Vista Volunteer. She is updating a resource directory for our community as well as working on an annual event such as Kootenai River Days. She is working with the Horizons Group on these issues. The Chamber of Commerce is hosting non-profit workshops sponsored by Panhandle State Bank. There will also be a speaker sponsored by the bank. David Beurle will also be a speaker coming to the area for a workshop. The workshops will be held at the Memorial Hall and the Exhibit Hall. She gave council flyers for the workshops. Mike Sloan added there was a workshop previously put on by David Beurle for the Horizons Group. John Langs asked if the Vista Volunteer is ongoing or if it is year to year. Michelle said her role is for two years and then the grant must be applied for again. He also asked what her role is at the visitor center. Michelle said she is not directly responsible for speaking and working with the visitors.

Connie Wells moved to agendaize the levee work needed to be done on Riverside Street. Dave Gray seconded the motion and it passed, all in favor.

Rick Alonzo gave the police report. The police responded to three traffic accidents, one warrant arrest, two trespassing complaints, four driving without privileges, one domestic, one sexual battery, three ambulance assists, and three burglaries reported. One of the burglaries was at Conoco this morning and Heiko had it solved by 8:30 a.m. Rick said Jeanette Woodard is leaving to go to Shoshone County where her fiancé resides. Jeanette has been with the city for 20 months and she had signed an agreement that she would stay with the city for two years or would have to reimburse for training. Rick said he would like to advertise for a certified officer position.

Stephen Boorman said he met with the Garbage Company and the issue of recycling was discussed as well as insurance limits. Stephen said recycling would increase the cost of the city charges by about \$8.00 per month per customer. The recycle truck being looked at is a three bin vehicle. Stephen spoke regarding the number of cans the customers may be allowed to use if we choose to recycle. The city would have to probably purchase recycle bins for the customers and they cost about \$10 per piece and each customer would need three of them. Tim Wilson said the meeting with the Garbage Company went well.

Stephen said we should have a fee increase hearing on September 15th. The fees that need to be raised are electric and sewer. He said the water line on VanBuren Street is about half-way done but there will be some change orders for conflicting water and sewer lines.

David Sims worked on the policy and procedures for the sewer plant.

John Langs moved to approve the consent agenda. Chris Clark seconded the motion and it passed, all in favor. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll; approval of July 21, 2009, July 27, 2009 and August 4, 2009 council meeting minutes.

John Langs moved to approve the parade permit for the Boundary County Fair. Chris Clark seconded the motion. Rick said the application states that the permits are to be submitted 30 days in advance and they are not coming in on a timely basis. It makes it difficult for the police department to schedule for the streets to be closed. Council discussed charging the groups that bring in the applications late for the additional charges for the law enforcement personnel. The motion passed, all in favor.

Stephen said there is about a sixty foot portion of the dike that has sloughed off almost directly across from the Mike Naumann building. The cost to fill the slough is estimated to be \$6,000 if we have to purchase the rock and pay for excavation. The Corps of Engineers is scheduled to be in Bonners Ferry by August 21, 2009 to look at the issue. David Sims has applied for the permit with the Department of Water Resources and another permit is required from the Corps of Engineers but David is hopeful that they will help with the application when they arrive. The Corps has been very helpful to the city in the past. Tim Wilson gave a brief history of the ownership of the dikes. Stephen said many of the dike repairs were needed due to the excessive raise and lowering of the water in the 1970's. David said the repair work needs to be done while the water is low. John Langs moved to approve up to \$6,000 for dike repair. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

The hiring policy was discussed. Tim Wilson said he wants to add a paragraph concerning "at will employment" to the policy. This is the first time we have had a written hiring policy but this mimics what has been done in the past. Stephen said you hire for attitude, aptitude and skills and a variety of people on the hiring committee is desired. John Langs moved to approve the hiring policy with the addition of the "at will" section. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – John Langs "yes", Chris Clark "yes", Connie Wells "yes", Dave Gray "yes".

The wage increases for Alan Branson and John Delaney were discussed. Stephen said the pay scale for the water/sewer department was set up based on the way we currently pay the lifeguards for instance. Mayor Anderson asked about the number of certifications needed by the water department employees to make the gap between the current employees and the certifications required by a Class 3 water plant. We have a rapid sand filtration system and the class of the system is determined by the type of filtration and the size of the system. Stephen said the scale is

based on fifty cents per hour per certification with an adjustment for extra duties such as being a foreman or superintendent. Mayor Anderson explained the past history of the water department certifications needed. Time and certifications are needed to meet the system class as designated by the State. Stephen said we have a memorandum of understanding with the City of Sandpoint and Cabinet Mountains Water to provide the class requirements. Sandpoint has Class 3 certified operators and they provide our backup and the City of Bonners Ferry has certified operators to help out Cabinet Mountains Water District. Stephen said Doug Ladely is in charge of running the plant and Alan works on outside maintenance jobs primarily and Jim Fritzsche is the supervisor of both of them and John Delaney. Chris asked if the other departments have the differential for certifications. The police department has incremental increases of five percent between the different ranks of the department according to Rick. Chris Clark expressed concern about increases in other departments. Stephen said it opens up a door but people in the general fund understand that there is not the funding available this year. Stephen said the electric department will not have a pay scale for certifications because their wages are based on the industry standards. The group discussed the pay scale. Mayor Anderson said he is in favor of the certification pay scale since we had a problem in the past. John Langs specified that the funding would be paid from an enterprise fund and there was an understanding that the employees would be compensated for certifications. He said if this scale is denied then the police department for instance would have to be denied their increases for rank also. The group agreed that the issue is similar. John Langs said we had an understanding that the employees would be rewarded for their certifications. David Sims said you could limit the number of certifications to prevent the over achiever scenario. The group reviewed the pay scale schedule. John Langs moved to approve the pay scale adjustment as recommended by the City Administrator. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion – John Langs “yes”, Chris Clark “no”, Connie Wells “no”, Dave Gray “yes”. Mayor Anderson voted yes to break the tie. (Clerk’s Note: Pay increase for Alan Branson and John Delaney are retroactive to the date they received their certifications in the spring of 2009.)

The EWEB Smith Falls Hydro agreement for the operations of the Katka-North Bench transmission line intertie was discussed. It is a line used for emergency and temporary construction purposes. Stephen explained relaying power configurations. He said this agreement captures knowledge that is held institutionally. Connie Wells moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the EWEB Smith Falls Hydro agreement. Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed – John Langs “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Dave Gray “yes”.

John Langs moved to approve Resolution 2009-7 authorizing Assistant City Administrator to sign and certify discharge monitoring reports for water and sewer. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed – John Langs “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Dave Gray “yes”.

John Langs would like to see the council meet again after the election and the new council people are sworn in to review the budget again. Dave Gray does not like the fact that the fire

department pulled out the supply line item to make the budget balance with the cuts that were requested. Clerk replied that the department head did go line by line to cut the items from the budget but the amount could not be met so that was why the supply item was removed. John Langs moved to publish the budget. Dave Gray seconded the motion. Clerk told council that all departments worked very hard to meet the budget cuts and they did not all have to cut the same percentage to meet the goal if you compare the fiscal year 2009 budget to the projected budget. David Sims thinks this is a very workable budget. John Langs withdrew his motion and Dave Gray withdrew his second due to their being no need for the motion since the budget had already been published.

Chris Clark said he feels uncomfortable making decisions on individual department requests for funding items because he thinks the department heads know their departments better than anyone. Chris will support them until they go over the budget. John Langs agreed. Tim Wilson gave a brief history of the council approval for expenditure items. The group discussed budget reports. John Langs said he would be willing to lift the approval amount and let the department heads manage their budgets. Stephen said there are many items that are controversial that should come before council. He gave the example of the flower baskets as well as hiring additional personnel. The group continued to discuss budget and expenditures. Stephen said there needs to be a communication method because most employees want to do the will of the city council such as keeping the downtown area looking good. He said the feedback is good. David Sims said it is also a way of keeping council informed of what is happening. Stephen said it is good for council to be informed of the costs of certain items. Rick said the department heads need to know the dollar threshold that an item needs to be brought to council for approval. The Mayor will work on the issue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Kris Larson, City Clerk