Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of September 17, 2013 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Connie Wells, Council Members Rick Alonzo and Tom Mayo, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, City Attorney Andrackay Pluid, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, Police Chief Steve Benkula, and Street Department Supervisor John Youngwirth. Also present were Adam Arthur, Jessica Tingley, Marcia Cossette, Dale Simpson, Ruth Sutton, Jerry Higgs, Rita Collins, Loretta Hunsaker, Laura Roady, Brion Poston, Ralph Lotspeich, and Dave Gray. Councilman Bob Blanford was gone on personal business.

Police Chief Steve Benkula said the city has turned in the grant paperwork for the new patrol car that will hopefully be purchased this fiscal year. Three cars have had the new camera systems installed and the bugs are being worked out. The police department will give council a demonstration soon. The June Crime Report for the period of January through June of this year was received, and there were 89 offences for our department during this time period, up 56 percent from last year. The clearance rate is 86.5 percent and last year at this time it was 84.2 percent. There have been 115 arrests this year up about 20 percent from last year. Crimes against persons were 25 this year and eight last year; crimes against property were 19 this year and 12 last year; and crimes against society were 45 this year and 37 last year at this time. He said given a higher call load the clearance rate has gone up so that is good.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin said we are to receive funding from TransCanada pipeline and he is hopeful that it will be at least $5,000. There have been two odor calls and one false alarm at the high school this morning. Pat spoke of the three ambulance proposals that were copied and put in the mail boxes for council today. Pat said the entities turning in proposals to the county commissioners were to meet with them today. Concern is that 50 percent of the ambulance calls for Boundary Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) are in the city limits. Pat is concerned about the elderly and said this could impact the city if the BVA contract is not renegotiated with the county.

City Administrator Stephen Boorman said proposals for the Moyie Substation were scored. The engineer that scored the highest met with the city and he will come back with a proposal to bring to the council. The replacement of the expansion joint on the south side of the bridge is coming up. There is angst when we do this because we have to take the Northside water tank off line when we replace the expansion joint. Stephen spoke about the Alderson Lane speed study that was in the packet. He credited Dean Satchwell for putting up the speed trailer and gathering data. He said 80 percent of the traffic traveling is between 20 and 25 miles per hour. When Dean put the speed trailer on Eisenhower the similar results were found. There are complaints coming in about the Cow Creek corner as it is quite narrow and with the river restoration project there is a lot of truck traffic. When the trucks meet they have to go up on the ballast portion of the railroad tracks and some of the rocks get on the road. We don’t know of any way to build that road up without spending about a million dollars. Tom Mayo asked if the water on the Northside would be off long during the expansion joint replacement. Stephen said there is 16 to 20 hours of water storage in the Northside tank during low usage time so the water will not be off. He said there is always concern about a fire during the period the tank is not connected to
the main system. The City will notify the hospital of the date of the proposed expansion joint replacement.

Connie Wells moved to approve the consent agenda. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll; and approval of September 3, 2013 council meeting minutes.

Rick Alonzo moved to reapprove the purchase of the voltage regulators for the cost of $30,535. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Tom Mayo moved to have the business license code amendment ordinance read by title only. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. Attorney Andrakay Pluid read the title of the proposed ordinance.

Connie Wells moved to approve the catering permit for the Kootenai Tribe doing business as the Kootenai River Inn for the NRA banquet on September 21, 2013 at the fairgrounds. Rick seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Tom Mayo moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Steve Howlett for the golf course clubhouse roof repair for $1,650. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

The group discussed golf mowers. Stephen said Ralph has written up a memo and it lists out differences in the equipment. We received two bids for the trim mower and three for the fairway mower. He said the concerns with the Jacobsen mower are valid since their repair distance is quite far and there is often difficulty getting parts. Stephen said on the current quote we did not include a trade in. Ralph said he would like to keep the old fairway mower around to use on the wet fairways on one, two, and three in the spring as the reels just get caked in mud so you don’t want to use a new mower on this area. He said the reels are getting so small that they cannot be ground anymore. He said we would use the newer mower on the rest of the course until the course dries out. The group discussed storage. Ralph said there is an old 2400 front deck mower that Toro would take as a trade in as they have offered $1,000. Stephen said we could include a trade in on an add alternate when we redo the quotes. Brion Poston said there was sales tax included in the Toro quote and also there was additional equipment on the Toro that was not on the John Deere. Stephen said if we include the brush kits then we need to redo the quote. Connie said we need to give Ralph an opportunity to use the mowers to see if he likes them. Ralph said he spoke to the Toro Representative and he will try to bring up a fairway mower so he can compare the John Deere and Toro mowers. Connie said the John Deere mower has an electric motor for lifts rather than hydraulic. She also said the demo model we are looking at is cheaper than a new mower. Ralph would like to call other golf course managers to speak about the electric motors. Tom agreed and said it would help eliminate the burn a mower does across the fairway when a hydraulic hose goes out. Mayor Anderson said he has had more problems with electric motors than hydraulic motors. Ralph said there are unknowns as far as electric motors go because he has not used them. Brion said electric motors have self-diagnostics on
them because they are more intricate than hydraulics. He wants to know the difference in cost of mineral oil versus hydraulic oil. Ralph thinks mineral oil is $40 per gallon. Stephen said it is actually soy based. He said hydraulic oil is very flammable.

Rick Alonzo moved to reject all bids for the fairway mower. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. Ralph said if we go with the Toro mower it has to be here before the end of October to get the price quoted.

Ralph and Brion left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Mayor Anderson spoke about the Clean Hydro Campaign. There is a campaign to extend awareness of the importance of hydro. Stephen said we are nearly halfway through the 30 year life of our FERC license. Connie Wells moved to participate in the Clean Hydro Campaign by sending in our contribution of $1,370. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. Motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Stephen spoke about a mini excavator complementing our existing backhoe and 10,000 pound excavator. He said it goes into back yards and has rubber tracks and helps with small jobs. Rick Alonzo moved to go out for bids for a mini excavator. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Stephen said the letter from the Corps of Engineers said we need to cut some more trees on the right bank of the river. Tom said our rating has gone up from unacceptable to minimally acceptable. Mayor Anderson said the report is not that bad concerning the PL84-99 Program. Stephen said there are areas across from the fairgrounds that need brush removed so we can see what problems there may be. He said last year we had Paul Merritt use his excavator with a brush head but this year may primarily be hand sawing.

Mayor Anderson gave his presentation that he will give to the Idaho Transportation Department Board on Thursday morning in an attempt to get them to spend some money here and help with many of our problems. The group gave feedback to the Mayor.

Connie Wells moved at 7:49 p.m. to go into executive session per Idaho Code 67-2345 (1) (f). Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. Executive session ended at 8:08 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.