

Mayor David Anderson called the special meeting of December 28, 2009 to order at 12:04 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, and City Attorney Tim Wilson.

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the joint pole use and agreement with Panhandle Area Council for the fiber optic broadband project.

Stephen said the grant application for the broadband project is now in the second level of approval. There is not sufficient time to complete a franchise agreement before the deadline to submit the data so the entities involved are producing a resolution supporting Panhandle Area Council in the endeavor. The pole use agreement is a generic one and Stephen would like to have the pole use agreement reviewed and be consistent with the one Northern Lights and Avista uses. He said when the project is up and running it will be for phone, internet, and video programming or television. David Sims said PAC will own the fiber but the revenue will go back to the entities involved. Stephen said third parties would come in and lease space on the lines from Panhandle Area Council to provide services to the community. Panhandle Area Council is coordinating the formation of the project because there are multiple governmental entities involved. Stephen said at some point we will have to decide if we will charge a franchise fee or if we would just take revenue from the businesses leasing the lines. The project is similar to the project in Powell, Wyoming.

The broadband fiber optic project is estimated to be at \$50,000,000 and will be funded by stimulus money if we are successful in obtaining the funding. David said the funding is 50 percent grant but there is an option of an 80 percent grant and that will be requested. David said we were hopeful that Ernie Bray would come to a council meeting but he could not make it to the last meeting.

Tim Wilson said the resolution is very open ended and does not commit the city to anything but support.

John Langs moved to approve Resolution 2010-02. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed – John Langs “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Dave Gray “yes”.

John Langs moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the pole use agreement between the City of Bonners Ferry and Panhandle Area Council. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed – John Langs “yes”, Chris Clark “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Dave Gray “yes”.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

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Kris Larson, City Clerk