Mayor Darrell Kerby called the regularly scheduled council meeting of November 6, 2007 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Kerby, Council President Russ Docherty, Council Members John Langs, Mick Mellett, and Dave Gray, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, Police Chief Dave Kramer, Fire Chief Larry Owsley, City Engineer Mike Klaus, Economic Development Coordinator Mike Sloan, Street Department Supervisor John Youngwirth, and City Attorney Tim Wilson. Also present were Nancy Mabile from Panhandle Area Council, Jay Cohn, Connie Wells, David Sims, Tina Wilson, Charles Cahill, Gwen Albers, Sara Thomas, Paul Greenhaulgh, Boy Scouts Robert Swanson and Zachary Wilson.

The first order of business was a hearing on the Idaho Community Development Block Grant. Nancy Mabile from Panhandle Area Council presented the application for the block grant. It is on the water distribution system and relates to deficiencies including insufficient capacity of the system, inadequate fire flows, water main size, and leaky piping that surfaced after increased pressure. Critical distribution repairs will be made to distribution systems on Chippewa, Eaton, VanBuren, Kaniksu to Comanche, and Montana/Alder. Planned as alternate bids are areas on Mohawk the South Hill. The amount of the grant is $286,000 for engineering and administration fees. The city’s share will be $54,520 cash and the USDA loan amount is $1,224,960. The advertisement for bids is scheduled for June, 2008 and completion of the project by September, 2008.

There were no comments from the public or questions from Council. There being no further comment the hearing closed. Mick Mellett moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the grant paperwork. John Langs seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mick Mellett “yes”, Dave Gray “yes”, Russ Docherty “yes”, John Langs “yes”.

Mayor Kerby welcomed the scouts to the meeting. Robert Swanson and Zachary Wilson introduced themselves.

Dave said Officer Don Moore recently completed his Dare training. Burglary arrests and drug seizures have been made. A ring was recovered with initials and this burglary was also solved and the arrest was made. There have been a couple interventions that the police have been involved with since the last meeting. Dave has been selected to be on the Governor’s Task Force for Beverage Control laws. Mick moved to allow Dave to be on the Governor’s Task Force. Russ Docherty seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Larry said there was an incident that the fire department responded to at the high school that was tripped by the janitorial staff. He said there was a hazmat spill on Lincoln Street. There was an odor report again on the south hill due to an inversion near Dyck’s Oil and Auto and the Valley View area. Larry said annual inspections are taking place and John Kastelic is working three days per week doing the inspections. His efforts are appreciated.
Stephen reminded Council that the Elected Officials Conference is on November 20, 2007 in Coeur d’Alene. He also reminded the group that the first annexation meeting is on November 13th and the zoning hearing is on November 15th. He said the FERC inspection went well. There was a golf committee meeting last week.

John Langs asked to pull out item #5 from the consent agenda (surplus auction). Mick Mellett moved to approve the remaining consent agenda. Russ Docherty seconded the motion and it passed, all in favor. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of November 6, 2007 accounts payable and payroll for October 26, 2007; approval of October 16, 2007 council meeting minutes.

The final hearing on the planning and zoning ordinance rewrite is on November 27, 2007.

The resort tax issue is still on the agenda. Tim said the annexation issue is on the front burner and then the resort tax issue will surface.

John Langs inquired about the surplus equipment auction. He would like them to go look at the equipment but would rather have them not spend any funds at this time. John Youngwirth said most of his items cost about $10,000 and he said they only have the auction once a year. John Youngwirth said you put your name in on a piece of equipment and if your name is drawn then you can purchase the equipment. Mick Mellett read from the list of equipment. He asked what John would be interested in. John said the sander, pickups, and cycle mower for right of way work. John Langs moved to not purchase items at this auction. Dave Gray seconded the motion. Mick said if the equipment is needed then he would be in favor of John Youngwirth purchasing. Dave Gray asked what the purchase amount would be if all items were drawn. John Youngwirth said it would be about $10,000. Dave Gray asked if there would be costly repairs to the equipment. John Youngwirth said most of the equipment runs but some of it needs repair. Dave asked if John would be able to start it up and drive it. John said he would. Stephen said sometimes there are additional items at the auction that are not on the list. John gave an example of a newer wrecked truck with a sander that only had body damage but he did not have authority to purchase when he attended a previous auction. John Langs “yes”, Russ Docherty “no”, Mick Mellett “no”, Dave Gray “no”. Mick Moved that John be authorized to go to the surplus auction and make purchases. Russ Docherty seconded the motion. The motion passed – Dave “yes”, Mick “yes”, Doc “yes”, John “no”.

Jay Cohn gave a clock tower update. He said $19,000 has been raised. The platforms and clocks have been ordered. We are waiting for B.F. Builders to install the platforms and they will do it as soon as their schedule allows. Jay said the city may be able to install the clock faces.
Scout Robert Swanson asked what the clock project was. Mayor Kerby said the fire hose drying tower will be turned into a four faced clock tower.

Jay Cohn approached the council regarding council meeting time change. Jay has heard conversation regarding more people attending the meetings. Jay read a list of meeting times of other cities that he polled. Jay said many people work until 5:00 and they don’t want to come to a late meeting. He thinks having an earlier meeting time may result in more participation. Mayor Kerby gave a history of the reason for the meeting time being that many people worked in the woods and it took them a longer time to get home and get cleaned up. Dave Gray would rather wait to make a decision with the new council members and new mayor. Council agreed.

Mayor Kerby said when the local cable company franchised with the city they were required to provide access for broadcast of the council meetings. He said he thought city council meetings could be broadcast.

Russ Docherty moved to approve the fireworks permit for the Eugene Ballet at the High School for the Nutcracker performance on November 27, 2007. Dave Gray seconded the motion. Mick asked if the fire chief had reviewed it. Larry said he had. The motion passed, all in favor.

The fee increase hearing will be on December 4, 2007 to consider golf fees. Mick Mellett moved to hold the fee increase hearing on December 4, 2007. Russ Docherty seconded the motion and it passed, all in favor.

Marcia Cossette joined the meeting.

Mayor Kerby commented that Golf Course Manager Ralph Lotspeich has requested renewal of his contract. Stephen said Ralph would like the contract for a five year period and the golf committee has been satisfied with his performance. Tim said there is a 30 day notice in the contract for either party to leave the contract. Dave Gray moved to have the golf contract five year period researched. John Langs seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor. Stephen said the contract seems to be working fine.

Mick Mellett moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Welch Comer for plans and specs for dredging the sewer lagoon. Russ Docherty seconded the motion. John Langs asked for clarification. Mike Klaus said the first contract is for dredging and is a maintenance item that should be done. He said the second contract is for piping modification to make the plant more efficient. Stephen said these projects are driven by the discharge permit issue. Mike said there are four lagoon cells and there is problem with algae in the lagoons and this algae needs to be kept from flowing into the river. Our suspended solids meet compliance after lagoon number two but when they go through the

John Langs moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Welch Comer for piping modification plans and specs for the sewer lagoon project. Mick Mellett seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mick Mellett “yes”, Russ Docherty “yes”, Dave Gray “yes”, John Langs “yes”.

John Langs moved to accept the resignation of Derrick Ferarro and authorize the advertisement to hire a new officer. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Dave Kramer said the Highway Safety Grant application is for equipment for the Police Department. He said there are emphasis patrols that would be credited toward equipment purchases. John Langs moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the grant application with Idaho Transportation Department. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed – John Langs “yes”, Dave Gray “yes”, Mick Mellett “yes”, Russ Docherty “yes”.

Stephen spoke regarding the NRU power supply feasibility study. He said small utilities in the post 2011 timeframe will be faced with selecting how they will purchase power from Bonneville. We will have a new contract with Bonneville in 2011. He said the federal based system generation will meet the loads of the utilities that purchase this power. He said there will be tier one and tier two power sales. He said the city’s cost would be about $2,500 for contracting with NRU to look at the power tiers and advise us as to which would be better for the City of Bonners Ferry. John Langs asked what the term due diligence means. Stephen said it means you have looked at all the options. Dave Gray inquired about careful legal review as noted in Stephen’s memo to council. Stephen said legal council needs to review this carefully because there is a lending of credit clause involved. Mayor Kerby said the city may want to contract with a consultant who works for the City of Bonners Ferry that we trust to make the proper decision for the City of Bonners Ferry. Stephen said Bob Mooney would be a consultant to help us make the decision.

Stephen spoke regarding the Bonneville substation. A substation is a facility where high voltage power is brought in and is converted to distribution power. There is metering in the substation. Bonneville has been selling substations for several years. We pay a delivery charge for the Bonneville substations on our Bonneville billing. All substations we receive delivery from Northern Lights also receives delivery from. There is a transmission substation in Paradise Valley (Bonners Ferry Substation), North Bench, Moyie, and one at our hydro. We own everything at the hydro substation. Regular maintenance would be required on the substations if we were to purchase them. Mick asked about the time frame for getting a new transformer if one of ours went out.
Stephen said it is about a year. A year ago we paid Bonneville about $100,000 for delivery charges. Mayor Kerby asked about transformer technology. Stephen said they are good for about 75 years. Stephen said our metering is done on the load side. Stephen has spoken with John Shelton of Northern Lights and he will also run the numbers so we can compare our figures.

John Langs moved to authorize the day after Thanksgiving as a holiday for city employees. Dave Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Council authorized the annual city Christmas party.

Mick Mellett moved to approve the catering permit for Mirror Lake Golf Course for the Christmas party and waive the fee. Russ Docherty seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Mayor Kerby commented that the estimated tax revenue to be generated from the anticipated annexation would be approximately $49,000. Mayor Kerby said farm ground is grandfathered in as a right to farm.

Dave Kramer reminded Council that the Veterans will hold their ceremony on November 9, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. in the Library Park.

The National Weather Service has decided to keep the flood stage at 1764 feet.

Dave Kramer said the Law Enforcement Post is being looked at for training for students who are looking at law enforcement career fields. He said the City is teaming up with the County and Border Patrol for this program.

The zoning hearings on November 8, 2007 are for zone changes and a special use permit.

Council reviewed the proposed annexation map. Stephen said the parcels do need to be contiguous. Mick asked about the area near the golf course. Stephen said the proposed area is for properties served by the city.

Mick Mellett moved to recess the meeting at 8:25 p.m. until the ballot count comes in. Russ Docherty seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

The meeting reconvened at 10:55 p.m. Council canvassed the votes of the November 6, 2007 election. David Anderson received 270 votes for Mayor, Mick Mellett received 214 votes for Mayor, Michael Lee Huggins received 23 votes for Mayor, David Sims received 395 votes for Councilman, Connie Wells received 312 for Councilwoman, and Tina Wilson received 128 votes for Councilwoman. Mick Mellett moved to accept the vote tallies for the November 6, 2007 election. John Langs seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

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Darrell Kerby, Mayor

Attest:

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Kris Larson, City Clerk