

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Bonners Ferry City Hall
7232 Main Street
267-3105
September 1, 2020
6:00 pm**

Mayor Dick Staples called the Council meeting of September 1, 2020 to order at 6:00 pm. Present for the meeting were: Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Adam Arthur, Valerie Thompson and Ron Smith. Also present were: City Clerk/Treasurer Christine McNair, City Administrator Lisa Ailport, City Engineer Mike Klaus, City Fire Chief Dave Winey, City Police Chief Brian Zimmerman and City Attorney Andrakay Pluid. Members of the public present were: Jerry Higgs, Marciavee Cossette, Steve Nelson, Denise Crichton, Morgan Draxlir, Len Pine, Carolyn Testa, John Birrell, Steve Tanner, Brian Woomert, Fred Zobel and Tara Zobel.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Nelson Friends of Mirror Lake golf tournament will be September 11, 2020 and September 12, 2020. Cart paths can be completed when stumps have been removed. Volunteers will remove birch trees on #3 and dig burn pit this year after the season is over. Next year landscaping will be done and trees will be replanted. Steve said Idaho Forest Group is going to donate mulch and Steve needs to know the requirements for having the mulch delivered.

Morgan Draxlir, Steve Tanner, Brian Woomert, Fred Zobel spoke in opposition to the vision statement.

Mayor Staples said comments that are emailed to the City will not be read. If people want to make a comment, they can attend the meeting in person or by Zoom.

REPORTS

City Administrator Lisa Ailport said the internal advertisement was sent out last Thursday for the Street Superintendent position. Lisa is working on an interview panel. The City did receive a contract with Avista regarding the proposal and are working on the details regarding that contract.

City Engineer Mike Klaus said the only active project is the well house. Rick asked when the well house will be complete. Mike said the well house should be completed within six weeks, dependent upon the agreement with Burlington Northern.

Economic Development Coordinator Dennis Weed said the State is releasing the final contracts for broadband. There are 12 new contracts in this county to increase upload & download speed to be completed by December 15, 2020. EL will install fiber to Moyie. Innovia gave \$3,200 locally and hoping for match from the chamber to help small businesses.

SPOT Ron Smith said rides are slowly picking up.

CONSENT AGENDA – {action item}

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Approval of Bills and Payroll
3. Approval of the August 18, 2020 Council meeting minutes, the August 25, 2020 Special Council meeting minutes
Adam Arthur moved to approve the consent agenda. Valerie Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

OLD BUSINESS

4. City – Consider CARES Act Funds Relating to Public Safety Officers (attachment) {action item}
Lisa gave a presentation on Governor Little's program to use property taxes to pay public safety officers. Several counties and cities filed a lawsuit regarding this. Opting out Burley, Victor, Lewiston, Hayden. Opting in Sandpoint, Rathdrum, McCall, Jerome. Ron asked what the affect will be to the citizens of Bonners Ferry. Valerie said it can place the property owners in financial peril next year. Adam is concerned with having to pay it back. Andrakay said the US Treasury will not provide a letter regarding this. Valerie Thompson moved to opt out of the CARES Act Funds for public safety payroll expense and take the three percent property tax increase. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

5. Golf – Consider Approval of the Friends of Mirror Lake Volunteers (attachment) {action item}

Rick Alonzo moved to approve the Friends of Mirror Lake volunteers as submitted by Ralph. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

NEW BUSINESS

6. Electric – Consider Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Utility Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration to Move the Power Infrastructure on Riverside Street (attachment) {action item}

Mike said this has to do with the County's project and we will be reimbursed for some of the City's costs. The City did not receive the contract yet. Mayor Staples tabled this item until the contract is received.

7. Electric – Consider Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Contract with Asplundh for Tree Trimming for Fiscal Year 2021 (attachment) {action item}

Andrakay said Kevin Cossairt asked her to prepare this contract for the power line tree trimming. Adam Arthur moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Asplundh for tree trimming for fiscal year 2021. Valerie Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

8. Electric – Consider Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Contract with HDR for Additional Services Related to the Latest Part 12 Inspection (attachment) {action item}

Mike said he thought this was covered under another contract. Valerie Thompson moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with HDR for additional services related to the latest Part 12 inspection. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

9. Water/Sewer – Consider Authorizing the Mayor to Sign Resolution #2020-09-01 for an Interfund Loan from the Sewer Fund to the Water Fund (attachment) {action item}

Mike said the Cassia tank was built with a loan from Electric department to the Water department. This transfer will help the Electric fund and the Sewer fund has enough money at this time. Mike said the Sewer fund could be a little tight next year if all the capital projects are completed, but he still recommends the transfer. Adam Arthur moved to authorize the Mayor to sign Resolution #2020-09-01 for an interfund loan from the Sewer fund to the Water Fund. Valerie Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

10. City – Consider Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Contract with Bear Auto for Mechanical Work (attachment) {action item}

Andrakay said Jimmy will be out of commission for a while and Keith has agreed to fill in on a as needed basis. Rick Alonzo moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Bear Auto for mechanical work. Ron Smith seconded the motion. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo -yes, Ron Smith – yes

11. Street – Consider Approval of the Job Description for the Street and Park Superintendent (attachment) {action item}

Lisa said the previous job description was written in 2011, she felt the description needed some adjustment to encompass all of the duties that this position actually does. Adam asked if the current superintendent had any input in this job description. Lisa said he was. Ron Smith moved to approve the job description for the Street and Park Superintendent. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

12. City – Consider the Request from Len Pine to Sponsor 9/11 Memorial as a City Event (attachment) {action item}

Len wants to use the City parking lot to accommodate all the people. Len said has requested the Idaho Transportation Department block off the South bond turn lane so fire apparatus and police vehicles can park in that lane. Len is requesting this should be a City sponsored event since it is a civic event. Mayor Staples asked about the previous liability concerns with gatherings and COVID. Andrakay said the Governor signed into law legislation limiting liability for cities, counties and school districts regarding Coronavirus transmission as long as it wasn't willful or negligent. Valerie said the City has a policy that does not allow for fees to be waived. Rick Alonzo moved to have the 9/11 Memorial as a City event and encourage social distancing and other precautions. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.