

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Bonners Ferry City Hall
7232 Main Street
267-3105
February 2, 2021
6:00 pm**

Mayor Dick Staples called the Council meeting of February 2, 2021 to order at 6:00 pm. Present for the meeting were: Council Members Adam Arthur, Valerie Thompson, Rick Alonzo and Ron Smith. Also present were: City Engineer Mike Klaus, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, City Clerk/Treasurer Christine McNair, City Administrator Lisa Ailport, Economic Development Coordinator Dennis Weed and Police Chief Brian Zimmerman. Members of the public present were: Jerry Higgs, Paul Riess, Callie Riese, David Clark, Rose Shababy and Fay Almond.

Join video Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/17672764>
Meeting ID: 176727634
Join by phone: 253-215-8782

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Callie Riese spoke regarding snow removal from the sidewalks and the safety of people using the sidewalks.
Paul Riess is concerned about the water quality.
Tim West spoke regarding the water quality.

REPORTS

Police Chief Brian Zimmerman said there have been two new victims added to Bill Blumenauer's case. Daniel Gondek has been arrested for the vandalism to the phone pedestals that have been damaged.

City Administrator Lisa Ailport said the City has received multiple phone calls regarding the water quality. Numerous samples have been sent for testing. Once the results are received then adjustments can be made. Lisa said DEQ said this is more of a nuisance than a health concern. Ron said the public should be informed of what is happening. An offer for the water position was made and accepted and the person will start on February 16, 2021.

City Engineer Mike Klaus said we have two filters for Myrtle Creek and the backup river source. On a peak day we must be able to provide maximum use with the main source out of service. The new well is approximately 200' from the river and had to have significant testing performed prior to receiving a permit. The initial testing showed the water maybe somewhat hard and didn't think it would be a nuisance. Mike is hoping to have the tests results before the next meeting.

Economic Development Coordinator Dennis Weed said there are several businesses for sale and lots of interested buyers. The unemployment rate is almost back to pre-covid rates. Monica Goes did some marketing pushes and we received a lot of hits, which will help the tourism industry. Chad Case will also add to the marketing push. Dennis said this will help the businesses. Valerie asked if we can see the marketing information. Dennis said it will be available in a couple of months.

CONSENT AGENDA – {action item}

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Approval of Bills and Payroll
3. Approval of the January 19, 2021 meeting minutes

Rick Alonzo moved to approve the consent agenda. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

OLD BUSINESS

4. Discuss Visitors Center cleaning position (attachment) {action item}

Christine presented a few suggestions regarding hours and pay. Valerie Thompson moved to advertise for the Visitors Center cleaning position at the rate of pay of \$1,000 per month, hours of operation 8:00 am – 6:00 pm September 1 – April 14, 8:00 am – 9:00 pm April 15 – August 31. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

NEW BUSINESS

5. **Electric** – Consider the Hydroelectric Control System review and recommendations from Ripplinger Engineering Laboratory (attachment) {action item}

Mike said Ripplinger Engineering Laboratory did a comprehensive study regarding the issues at the Moyie Hydro. Lisa has put together a checklist of items that need to be completed. Rick asked what percentage of the items listed will staff be able to do in-house. Lisa said the most important areas start on page 16. Valerie is glad that we have a comprehensive list to set priorities

and take care of the issues. Rick Alonzo moved to adopt the Hydroelectric Control System review and recommendations from Ripplinger Engineering Laboratory. Valerie Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adam Arthur – yes, Valerie Thompson – yes, Rick Alonzo – yes, Ron Smith – yes

6. **City** – Consider Office 365 migration and scope of service with Exbabylon (attachment) {action item}

Lisa said the City is at a point where we need to upgrade our email server. We can't add additional storage to our current email server due to its limits. Valerie said it will be easier to budget with this conversion. Adam said it looks like the upfront costs are more, but saves money in the long run. Adam asked if it is possible to wait until we are able to budget. Lisa said we can continue if we purge old emails. Ron asked if there is budget to go forward with this. Christine said she will have to look. Mayor Staples tabled this to the next meeting.

7. **City** – Discuss possible wage audit (attachment) {action item}

Mayor Staples tabled this item to a future meeting.

8. **City** – Discuss purchases of less than \$5,000 (attachment) {action item}

Mayor Staples said a couple things came up during the past two weeks. He approved the purchases, but wants to know if Council wants to know if the purchases should come before Council. Mike said it wasn't planned since he didn't know the new version of the software would require more RAM. Ron said if it has been budgeted, then the purchase should be allowed. When an item has to be bid, Ron feels it should come before Council. Adam said he agrees that if the item has been approved, but if the item costs more, then it should come before Council. Valerie said if it is essential and not budgeted, then it should come before Council. Adam said all of the general fund purchases, if not budgeted, need to come before Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.