

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
Bonners Ferry City Hall
7232 Main Street
267-3105
August 15, 2023
6:00 pm**

Mayor Dick Staples called the Council meeting of August 15, 2023, to order at 6:00pm. Present for the meeting were: Council Members Brion Poston, Valerie Thompson, Ron Smith, and Rick Alonzo. City Staff Present for the meeting included City Engineer Mike Klaus, Clerk/Treasurer Deborah Garcia. Members of the public in attendance included: Gerald Higgs, Ben Robertson, David Sims, David Clark

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ben Robertson- reported that the county is moving forward with the well they have been talking about doing. The coin-op water fill station is a problem with parking during the fair. Ben talked to a couple of city employees who said it would be good if there were lines down there to mark parking. This is county property, but in talking with Scooter they think they can put some lines down on the road to mark that there is no parking in front of that water fill spot.

REPORTS

Police- No Report

Fire- No Report

City Administrator-written report included in the packet.

City Engineer- Mike submitted a written report. Rick asked how the trip to Pullman went. Mike reported that there were 5 electrical engineers from SEL present. Mike directed council to the picture that was attached and said that those were panel doors, HMI (human machine interface) which is the control board for the new generators. This will be nice because currently they have to manually synchronize the generator to put it on the grid. There will be a panel in each powerhouse. They may have to make another visit as there are some things that need ironed out. They will need another controller that will come at an additional cost but should still be within the budget. The project is on schedule and will be operational mid-November with all bugs worked out by the end of the year.

Urban Renewal District- There will be a meeting Monday at 5:30 pm and will be held at City Hall. This will be their budget hearing.

SPOT-David and Ron went to a meeting a few weeks ago out at the City of Moyie Springs. They were going through their budget, and they decided they would not be a member, but will make a donation of \$1000.00.

Golf- No Report

EDC- Port Hill border hours they had a trial for extended hours. Port hill had the best traffic during the extended hours period so it will be 7:00 am to 7:00 pm permanently. The congressional delegation continues to work on getting the hours back to pre-Covid.

David talked about the broadband grants that are available through the state. There were two applications submitted by EL Northwest. Ziplly decided not to submit due to cost. One would extend service to the Highland Flats area and the other would upgrade wireless capabilities.

Moyie Springs City sewer project. They have been working on this for about seven years, they are under a compliance order from DEQ to change their treatment method. Bids came in at 3 million dollars higher than the

estimate. They are asking for more money from DEQ, and they will have an answer by Friday. Army Corp may have funding but won't know right now.

CONSENT AGENDA – {action item}

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Approval of Bills and Payroll

Brion Poston made the motion to approve the consent agenda as written, Val Thompson seconded.

Result:	Approve
Moved by:	Brion Poston
Seconded by	Val Thompson
Voted Yes	Ron Smith, Rick Alonzo, Brion Poston, Val Thompson
Voted No	
Absent	

NEW BUSINESS

3. **CITY {action Item}** [attachment]- Consider fee waiver by Commissioner Ben Robertson for a building permit for Boundary County.

Ron is in favor of helping the County since they have helped the city with the pool this year. There was some confusion about the memos that were submitted by the City Administrator. County Commissioner Ben Robertson said that he is just asking about waiving the inspection or inspection fees. There are just interior wall changes, nothing exterior. Commissioner Robertson said he had a conversation with Lisa Ailport at the fair about this.

Mayor Staples would like to table this conversation until they can get clarity from Lisa on the cost and the memos.
No action taken.

Result:	Tabled
Moved by:	
Seconded by	
Voted Yes	
Voted No	
Absent	

4. **STREET {action Item}** [attachment]- Authorize to have the mayor sign Local Transportation Strategic Initiative for Ash St.

The request is to sign a grant application that is due September 1, 2023. Lisa and Mike have been working with Century West to look at which streets in our master plan would fit into this grant. Lisa, Scooter and Mike all agreed Ash Street would be a good fit. The project limit is \$2,000,000.00. Across the state there was \$100,000,000.00 put into the Strategic Commissioners Grant Program. \$50,000,000.00 for smaller municipalities or projects with a population of 10,000 or less and the other \$50,000,000.00 is for larger jurisdictions. This grant is all inclusive in respect to design, engineering, and surveying. Mike went through the preliminary support information that Ryan has provided.

there are issues with the pavement falling apart. There is a lot of traffic on this street such as the rock for the highway project is all coming from Cow Creek. The sidewalk would not be extended. The road base is important. Drainage would be enhanced. No match is required for this grant. There would likely be a storm main with catch basins. The city will need 5 letters of support for this application.

Rick Alonzo made a motion to authorize the mayor to sign the local transportation strategic initiative for Ash Street. Ron Smith seconded the motion.

Result:	Approve
Moved by:	Rick Alonzo
Seconded by	Ron Smith
Voted Yes	Ron Smith, Rick Alonzo, Brion Poston, Val Thompson
Voted No	
Absent	

- 5. **SEWER {action Item}** [attachment]- Consider approval of sewer main extension plans for AN05-23 (Grace Bible/Two Brews)

Mike stated that the new sewer ordinance requires that water and sewer mains be approved by the council. It used to be the City Administrator or the City engineer that used to approve them before. Mike said it is a good idea so that the council knows where the is extending mains. This extension is part of an annexation agreement that the city has with Two Brews and Grace Bible Church. Part of this agreement is that the city would facilitate the installation of a sewer main there.

Val Thompson made the motion to approve the sewer main extension plans for AN05-23 for Grace Bible and Two Brews. Brion Poston seconded the motion.

Result:	Approve
Moved by:	Val Thompson
Seconded by	Brion Poston
Voted Yes	Ron Smith, Rick Alonzo, Brion Poston, Val Thompson
Voted No	
Absent	

- 6. **SEWER {action Item}** [attachment]- Consider authorization of material purchase for sewer main extension serving AN05-23 (Grace Bible/Two Brews).

Val Thompson made a motion to approve the authorization of material purchase for the sewer main extension serving AN05-23 for Grace Bible and Two Brews for the amount up to \$12,000.00. Brion Poston seconded the motion.

Result:	Approve
Moved by:	Val Thompson
Seconded by	Brion Poston

Voted Yes	Ron Smith, Rick Alonzo, Brion Poston, Val Thompson
Voted No	
Absent	

7. **ELECTRIC {action Item}** [attachment]- Consider request by City Administrator for merit bonus.

Brion thinks this should be tabled until there is more information. Val would like to have a meeting with Lisa with options and with it being one department. She would like to see it spread out over other departments. Val would like to look at them separately.

After looking the letter over Brion Poston said he feels that council should table this until there has been more discussion and more facts. Val Thompson would like to meet with Lisa and talk about the billing around the merit bonus and look at a variety of options in doing the bonus rather than doing a bonus or an increase in pay across one department. The city is looking at withholding raises for some of the other employees until we see what the Local Option will do. Rick Alonzo stated that this has nothing to do with the Local Option. Val Thompson said because this is a merit bonus it should come from across other departments, and this would come out of just one department. Rick said this is coming out of an account that BPA gives us to administer the program and has just been sitting and adding up over the years. Brion asked what the balance of this account was and Rick Alonzo said he believes about \$68,000.00.

Ron Smith made the motion to table this. Brion Poston seconded the motion.

Result:	Ron Smith
Moved by:	Brion Poston
Seconded by	
Voted Yes	Ron Smith, Rick Alonzo, Brion Poston, Val Thompson
Voted No	
Absent	

ADJOURNMENT

Mayaor Staples adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.