

**MINUTES
BONNERS FERRY CITY COUNCIL
July 18, 2023
6:00 pm**

Mayor Staples opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance. Present for the meeting included Councilmembers, Ron Smith, Rick Alonzo, Val Thompson, and Brion Poston.

Members of staff present for the meeting included City Administrator Lisa Ailport, City Attorney Andrakay Fluid (via Zoom), Police Chief Brian Zimmerman, Deputy Clerk Lara Tyler.

Members of the public include Gerald Higgs, David Sims, David Clark, Fay Almond, Marciavee Cossett, Michael Shannon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gerry Higgs commented to the Council about the dual bark beetle infestation on his pine and fir tree on his land. He then brought for review a limb showing the mistletoe that has also developed on his property and has requested costs to remove the trees which are infested and he has received costs up to \$6,000 to remove one tree. He is concerned that he will lose all his trees on his property due to the beetle and the mistletoe and wants to know if the state will have option to assist landowners with this issue.

REPORTS

No reports were provided.

CONSENT AGENDA – {action item}

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

Val Thompson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Brion Poston seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

NEW BUSINESS

3. **PLANNING & ZONING- {action item}** [attachment] Recommendation by Planning and Zoning for AN06-23
Deliberation only.

The Mayor opened the recommendation to the city council and asked if there were any questions. Staff then summarized the file, noting the annexation was for lands that included the forest service and Poston property, including Wendle Road.

After the presentation, the Mayor asked if there were any questions, hearing none, Rick Alonzo move to approve file #AN06-23, to annex the subject lands, designate them as “General Commercial & Mixed Use” on the

comprehensive plan Future Land Use Map, and zone the lands as Commercial for the U.S. Forest Service land and adjacent rights-of-way and Residential B for the Poston/Wendel lands and adjoining rights-of-way, finding that it is in accord with the goals and policies of the adopted City of Bonners Ferry Comprehensive Plan, based upon the findings as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission and listed in the staff report. He further move to direct staff to prepare the final documents for consideration by City Council, to complete the annexation.

Ron Smith seconded the motion.

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

4. **CITY- {action item}** [attachment] Consider the draft Memorandum of Agreement from Western Federal Lands (agreement for FLAP grant).

The Mayor asked David Sims to give a short summary of the project for the council. David Sims summarized the project noting that the project costs have doubled and with that the match has also doubled. The city match would be \$442K, an additional \$217K over the original cost when applied in 2019.

Lisa summarized that the original application required that anything over 10% in cost overage were supposed to be paid for by the applicant.

Rick Alonzo commented that his quick math noted that the cost per linear foot would be around \$1,600 per foot and the city would have an additional \$121 per linear foot.

Dick asked if he heard correctly that if we backed out of the project that we might not be able to work with them again. David responded that if it is for budgetary reasons, he can't see that result being an outcome.

Val asked if we didn't do the project, would the city still have to move the electric lines. David responded that there would not need to be if they do not go forward.

Dick asked for any discussions from the council member. Rick responded that there were a lot of gray areas that are uncertain for him that could cause our budget constraints that he isn't comfortable with him.

Ron mentioned that he felt that the money could be better used elsewhere in the city.

Rick made a motion to not accept the memorandum of understanding from Western Federal Lands. Val Thompson seconded the motion.

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

5. **GOLF- {action item}** Consider operational strategy for golf course.

Brion commented that the committee that was established at the last council meeting is planning to meet to discuss the golf contract and the discuss the operational strategies that they will consider for recommendation to the city council.

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

6. **CITY-{action item}** Consider plan with Regence for retiree Medicare program.

Lisa commented that we had not received anything from Mr. Bateman as of the council meeting this evening. Council members also noted that there was an email that was received today by Mr. Bateman but since our staff and attorney had not had a chance to review it, the matter will be continued to a future meeting.

The Mayor continued the item to the next council meeting.

After concluding the business of the city, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.