
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00PM BY JAMES R. SMITH, MAYOR.

ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:  
JAMES R. SMITH, MAYOR  
MITCHELL J. HART, PRES.  
JON D. GOODE via telephone  
ROBERT M. LAU  
SCOTT K. GAMBLES

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT:  
Mark Steele  
Jon Bunderson  
Alan Skinner, Director  
Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk  
Clyde Nelson, Attorney

The invocation was given by Jon Bunderson, Mayor Smith then led everyone in the 'Pledge of Allegiance'.

Councilmember Goode joined the meeting by telephone but explained that he would have to exit the meeting at 5:30pm.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Councilmember Goode moved to dispense with the reading of the May 4th, 2016 minutes and approve them as written. Councilmember Gambles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The pre-paid accounts payable for May, 2016 were reviewed. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the pre-paid accounts payable for May, 2016, seconded by Councilmember Goode. Councilmember Lau asked about the payment to Sensus Meters. Clerk Vorwaller explained it was the final payment toward the new meter reading system. A vote on the motion was called. All in favor, motion carried

(SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER FOR DETAIL)

Chief Bunderson briefly reviewed his budget needs for the 2017 fiscal year. He reported that the Department was doing well with the change to the eForce software and the new cars purchased last year. He doesn’t see any major needs for up to four years. He has a couple of employees that will be eligible for a step wage increase within the next year and he may need up to $2000 for training if the seizure funds are not enough to cover. Mayor Smith commended Chief Bunderson on his efforts and pointed out the significant reduction in the Police Department’s budget which has allowed the City to utilize those funds toward other projects and City improvements. Chief Bunderson shared the Department’s 2015 crime statistics which he feels is telling of the quality of officers and their hard work. The Department’s clearance rate increased from 82% to 88%, offenses rose 2.3% and arrests increased 12.7%. Crimes against people increased including aggravated assaults and simple assaults mostly tied to drug and alcohol issues. Property thefts decreased along with drug crimes. The Council thanked Chief Bunderson for his report.
Krista Wells representing the Dragon Fyre Faire Renaissance event requested approval to hold the event at Hooper Park, July 15th thru the 17th. She requested permission for camping during the event along with a beer & wine catering permit. Director Skinner reported that there were no complaints from last year and the cleanup was good. Mrs. Wells presented the group’s waivers for review by Attorney Nelson. The Council and staff discussed the required insurance and State beer license. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the Dragon Fyre Faire event at Hooper Park July 15th through 17th allowing camping on the 15th and 16th subject to legal counselors review of the waiver and contingent on receiving the required liability insurance listing the City as additionally insured. He also approved a two day beer and wine catering permit contingent on receiving the State license. Councilmember Goode seconded the motion. Councilmember Lau abstained from voting due to his participation in organizing the event. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Vorwaller presented Spencer Winzenried transcripts showing his completed credits from Idaho State University for the spring semester. Mr. Winzenried is requesting tuition reimbursement per the City Personnel Policy. Councilmember Lau moved to approve the tuition reimbursement in the amount of $1000, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

Director Skinner gave a report on the City clean-up week. He mentioned that they hauled approximately the same amount as last year and helped with about a dozen special requests to haul off things like refrigerators and water heaters. The afterhours drop off was pretty busy until 6pm and then it slowed down. He suggested closing up in the evening a little earlier. Councilmember Hart commended the City workers for checking back and picking up everything even if it was set out late and mentioned they did an excellent job cleaning up sticks and branches. It is a very nice service the City provides. Councilmember Lau asked about doing a fall cleanup. Director Skinner explained that the County would have to be approached about allowing free disposal. Director Skinner also mentioned that the LDS Stake youth planted 11 trees for the City as a community service project.

Director Skinner reported that the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) highway project is scheduled to begin Monday, May 23rd. The project has been assigned a new team and Director Skinner has the contact information. The project schedule was reviewed which has the majority of the work happening after the 4th of July. Originally most work was going to happen at night but that has changed and will be done during the day. Staker Parsons is the contractor on the job and will have their asphalt batch plant setup on the State property at the gravel pit.

The notice to proceed for the Library expansion project was presented for approval. The contractor’s schedule was reviewed. Director Skinner explained that if the notice to proceed is approved then a preconstruction meeting will be held next week. Councilmember Hart moved to approve the notice to proceed for the Library expansion, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried.

The Rose Avenue construction project schedule was reviewed. The contractor has videoed the mainline and found several problems including that the line is orangeburg pipe which
is a fiber type pipe that was used until the late 70's. Director Skinner also mentioned that there are eight to ten residents that may want their service lines replaced as part of the project.

The status of the current infrastructure and improvement projects were reviewed. Director Skinner reported that the Ledge creek pump rebuild has been completed and the other pump will be scheduled for 2018. Mayor Smith pointed out two priority projects that need to be added to the list one of which is the water line on 1st East Street where the amount of patches is making it impossible to repair further and the second is a portion of Pioneer Drive that is in severe condition. The Mayor mentioned the road repairs will be a challenge without the need for water and sewer replacement but the asphalt repairs are needed.

Clerk Vorwaller and Director Skinner presented proposed changes to the zoning code reviewed and recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The changes address the previously discussed hotel/motel issue along with clarifying and updating several outdated definitions and uses. Director Skinner was asked to forward a list of the changes in lieu of reviewing in the meeting in order to save time.

Mayor Smith reported to the Council that the Fire Department had an opportunity to attain a military 2 ½ ton truck that can be converted to a brush truck. This would round out the Departments equipment. The Mayor supported the acquisition of one of the trucks which are late 90’s with low miles and in great shape. The program allows the City two years to paint and put the truck into service and at the end of the 3rd year the title would revert to the City. There is no cost except transportation to get it here, painting and equipping with a water tank. The Mayor stated that he authorized Fire Chief Squires to proceed with the acquisition. The Mayor also mentioned that the painting may be able to be completed with donations as part of a senior project mentored by Jeff’s Body Repair. The Council agreed with pursuing the truck.

Clerk Vorwaller presented a request from Head Librarian Cindy Erickson to change the status of a current part-time employee to a benefit eligible position allowing for more hours weekly. The letter submitted by Mrs. Erickson explained that the library has been operating several months without replacing the part-time regular position vacated by Chris Gentry who had to resign due to medical reasons. The request was to promote JulieAnna Lee. Councilmember Gambles mentioned that he understood Mrs. Lee had accepted a teaching position. The Mayor and Council supported Mrs. Erickson’s efforts but asked that when she had a specific individual eligible to hire that it be presented to them at that time.

Clerk Vorwaller reminded the Mayor and Council that the deadline to register for the Association of Idaho Cities Conference was May 31st.

Councilmember Gambles reported on the HR committee meeting held on May 13th. The Committee reviewed and discussed the cost of benefits, the estimated increases, the health savings account (HSA) contributions and the cost of living wage allowance. The Committee agreed to recommend the same HSA contributions as last year which is a total of $1500 for
single coverage and $3000 for family coverage with ½ up front the other ½ a dollar for dollar match to the employees contributions. The committee agreed that if the cost of health insurance increased more than 5% then they would consider decreasing the upfront HSA contribution. After review of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) amount which is less than 1% for the most current 12 months the recommendation for the COLA is 1%. Councilmember Hart supported a higher COLA and recommended including a 3% in the proposed budget. Councilmember Hart pointed out that the City and County is at full employment and the area unemployment is extremely low. This may cause the contractors to offer much higher wages in order to get enough workers for the seasonal positions and it may be tempting to the City workers who do not get the highest wages. Councilmember Hart stressed that he would like to maintain the City’s valuable workers whom the City is demanding more from with capital projects and extra duties. Councilmember Lau mentioned that he would like to complete the wage comparison started by the HR committee and evaluate the wages to comparable positions. The Mayor pointed out that the City offers a favorable work schedule, good benefits and excellent retirement. Clerk Vorwaller was directed to prepare the proposed budget including the 3% COLA but showing the difference if reduced to 1 or 2%.

Utility rate increases were considered. Councilmember Hart suggested an increase to keep up with inflation but taking into consideration the citizen’s needs. He suggested a 3% rate increase. Councilmember Lau agreed that the proposal was defendable to the citizens. Councilmember Hart requested some evaluation of the fund balances be done and a structured, defined guideline is set regarding the funds balance. He feels some thought needs to go into what is an adequate balance for each fund and consider what level to spend the balance down to and then rebuild. Councilmember Hart suggested that Councilmember Goode and Gambles review and evaluate the fund balances. Mayor Smith agreed it would be good to have a basic rule to provide confidence in the fund balances.

Mayor Smith reported that the Department Heads met with the budget review committee and went over next year’s budget requests and projects. The Mayor asked the Council to provide feedback on whether the Council wants the Department Heads to present a summary report of their budget requests at City Council. Councilmember Lau suggested that quarterly reports from the Departments would be more useful than just once a year.

Councilmember Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm, seconded by Councilmember Lau. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 1ST DAY OF JUNE, 2016.

_______________________________________  
James R. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:

______________________________
Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk