

Engineer Skinner reported the 3rd East emergency sewer project is complete except for the asphalt patches which will be done by a sub-contractor chosen by the general contractor.

An update on the South 2nd East Street project was given. The water mainline is installed, has been pressure checked and the bacteria test was done today. If passed then they will start tying in service lines and start preparation for the curb and gutter. That is still two to three weeks of work and then they will start on the sewer mainline.

The bridge crane project has been awarded to Intermec out of Idaho Falls who has the steel on order and the City is ordering the bridge crane. The upcoming construction schedule will depend on material deliveries. The steel will be fabricated by Spartan Steel in Pocatello.

The Council reviewed a letter to Ruth Maughan drafted by Councilmember Hart giving her an update on the current status of the Ender's Building and the struggles the City is having maintaining the building, also noting the precedence of the JR Simplot mansion donation to the State of Idaho. The Council all felt it was well written. Councilmember Hart moved to authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the Mayor and Council and send the letter to Ruth Maughan, seconded by Councilmember Gambles. All in favor, motion carried. The renovation and success of the Harkness Hotel in McCammon was discussed along with a similar building in Malad that the City of Malad is now trying to renovate. Councilmember Hart also explained he discovered the Ender's Building is on the National Historic Registry not just the Idaho registry. The Mayor asked how long a sprinkler system would last if installed. Chief Squires suggested it should last 40 to 50 years and is pretty much maintenance free.

Chief Shaw clarified when Chief Bunderson took over as Chief eight years ago, he switched the department to twelve-hour shifts and built in eight hours of overtime per pay period. Councilmember Hart explained he hadn't really thought about that but assured Chief Shaw he doesn't want the Police Department to change the way they are doing things and the Chief should run the department the way he wants to. He added the Mayor and Council are happy with how the Department is operating. Chief Shaw added the school is offering to pay half the cost of wages and benefits for nine months a year for an additional officer that would serve as the school resource officer.

The Council reviewed the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) proposal again. Councilmember Hart updated the proposal spread sheet to suggest some of the more senior employees may find it more attractive to receive a lump-sum bonus rather than a rate increase. The Mayor will review the options with Departments and let them decide what is best for them. Councilmember Carpenter mentioned he likes giving the employees the choice. Councilmember Hart briefly explained the budget process, the appointed positions, administrative duties of the Mayor and how the Council sets budgets and creates policies. Councilmember Worthington and Carpenter thanked Councilmember Hart for the thought that went into the COLA proposal and they hope the employees appreciate the effort to retain them and know they are valued. Councilmember Hart commended the Department

Heads on how responsive and professional they are in doing their jobs and the benefits of a small town. Councilmember Worthington added his appreciation for the large amount of Law Enforcement presence during the 4th of July events. All agreed it was a very successful holiday event.

The Council reviewed the details of the 2023 FY proposed budget. Councilmember Hart noted he has reviewed and the Clerk has made the adjustments as instructed and he is comfortable with using it to set the tentative budget. He again reiterated the aggressiveness of the proposed budget. Councilmember Carpenter suggested letting the Department Heads comment on their priority project lists. Supervisor Squires suggested if the Council was serious about doing Main Street, they consider foregoing a project and use two budget years of funds to complete it. Engineer Skinner stated the funds would have to be accumulated first and expressed concern about bringing the funds balances too low. Councilmember Hart suggested Engineer Skinner put together some rationale behind the County contributing to the upgrade of Main Street. With the City really being the heart of the County and providing a lot of services to County residents. Engineer Skinner noted there is still a slim chance we could receive some grant funds. The priority projects were briefly discussed including Director Hansen's concerns about the safety of the Hooper Avenue, North Main intersection.

Councilmember Gambles moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:45pm, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS 20TH DAY OF JULY, 2022.

Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tausha Vorwaller, Clerk