

MARSING CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 11, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Mayor James Ferdinand called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor James Ferdinand, Councilman Cory Percifield, Councilman Marie Herman (arrived at 7:35 pm), Councilman Jolyn Green and Councilman Chris Even were present. Staff members present were Deputy City Clerk Doris Hayward-Roland, City Attorney Stephanie Bonney and Public Works Superintendent Philip Gibson. Others present were Kirby Cook from Civil Dynamics, Michael Nielsen, Ron Kiester and Sean Chaney from the Owyhee Avalanche.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilman Green moved and Percifield seconded to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2016 and December 14, 2016 Council meetings. Motion carried

Mayor Ferdinand asked the Council if they had looked at the Resolution Declaring an Emergency due the amount of snowfall, snow accumulation, ice, and flooding due to record precipitation and fluctuating temperatures. The Council decided an emergency did not need to be declared.

Councilman Percifield moved and Even seconded to approve agenda and the claims against the City in the approximate amount of \$35,776.63 less \$508.00 payable to Western States Equipment. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: Ron Kiester, 127 Motzko, addressed the Council regarding the 120' Verizon Wireless Tower that Owyhee County Planning & Zoning approved to be put in with 100 feet of his property line. The new tower is in the City Marsing's impact area. Kiester asked the Council why they had denied the tower to be placed at in the city limits previously. Mayor Ferdinand responded and said that the City did not have any provisions in our ordinances for towers at that time but do now. Kiester said that there are health issues with the towers. Bonney said that unfortunately no government entity is allowed to consider any testimony regarding health effects of radio frequencies from cell towers. They are prohibited for using that to regulate cellular towers. The federal government has determined that there are no health effects which mean cities or counties or anyone else cannot use that as a basis to regulate towers. Kiester said that they are wrong.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **City Engineer** – Amy Woodruff was absent. Kirby Cook with Civil Dynamics said that they got the bid docs for the boat ramps. He had called the US Army Corp of Engineers and they said they needed to do a biological assessment. He is going to throw in the boat dock also.

There were no comments from the public on the Island Park Grant Project.

They have been starting to put together the Parks & Trails Master Plan. Mayor Ferdinand said he was going to put together a Citizen's Advisory Committee.

The application for Meadow Brook Subdivision has been submitted. Cook and Mike Martin have been working on the sewer and water capacity analysis. They obtained EDUs from Janice. The next thing to do is the Traffic Impact Study to see how the new subdivision will affect Bruneau Highway.

Cook has been supporting Public Works the best that they can. Cook and Philip Gibson have been working on the "sign project". Some "stop signs" and "yield signs" need to be added. Some signs also need to be raised.

Councilman Even said there used to be a "yield sign" at 1st Street N and now there is a "stop sign" and that he has run it. Even asked why the sign got changed.

Philip Gibson he made the decision to change it based on liability reasons.

Mayor Ferdinand said that was in the transportation plan when it was finalized three years ago to change it due to the increase in traffic.

Even said that if someone does not obey a sign, it is not the City's fault. It is the driver's fault. He said he received numerous complaints with that sign being changed.

Mayor Ferdinand asked if Council had any feedback regarding that sign.

Councilman Percifield said he thought it should be a "stop sign" because the traffic that goes through there. He said there were a lot of cars and trucks that fly through there.

Mike Nielson asked about putting a stop sign on Motzko near his residence at 200 1st Avenue W. He said people fly around the corner and he is worried they are going to run into his home.

Philip Gibson said there was no stop sign there because it was a corner, not a "tee" or an intersection.

- b. **City Attorney** – Stephanie Bonney said that there was a Gem Irrigation District agreement presented in November. One change that Gem Irrigation requested was in the event they put a lien on property for non-payment, both the District and the City have to agree to foreclose on the property.

Councilman Even moved and Percifield seconded to approve the contract with the change. Motion carried.

Bonney wants a regulating irrigation ordinance that is similar to sewer and water. She asked Gibson to put together an estimate of what the cost will be and then more importantly the purpose of the ordinance is how to allocate the costs and bill for that. People will be charged according to their acreage and be charged monthly. She asked if Council if they wanted everyone to pay by the year or by the month.

Mayor Ferdinand said that the idea they were going to start an irrigation enterprise fund just like sewer and water. They would pass that right through. That is not a fund. It made sense to him to add the irrigation right to the monthly sewer and water bill. As far as an enterprise fund is concerned, Bonney can put together an ordinance to authorize that. He wanted to have it ready for the February meeting in case a public hearing was needed. Philip Gibson came up with an estimate of \$5.39 per month per acre as a maintenance cost.

Stephanie Bonney asked if residents had been billed yet. Mayor Ferdinand said not yet. She said that the plan was to roll the irrigation assessments into a monthly billing. The current charges for system operations are \$100.00 per acre per year and \$48.70 for irrigation per year.

Bonney said that if the charge is \$100.00 per acre per year then you are looking at approximately \$13.72 per month per acre. She said that they should look at putting together a Capital Improvement Fund. You want to charge a little bit more than what you need to maintain for the year for improvements. You are allowed to put general fund money into an enterprise fund; you just can't go the other way.

Mayor Ferdinand asked to have the numbers put together for the February City Council Meeting. We need to figure out what we've paid for water and for maintenance. We already know that the irrigation costs to the City are going up five percent next year. And they have told us that it is going to go up five percent every year. That is something to consider as well.

Bonney said if there is going to be public hearing in February, she needed a number now. The number could be reduced at that meeting but it can't be increased. We want to start billing everyone a monthly fee for irrigation. It will be attached to the regular water bill. You can increase that amount yearly up to five percent without a public hearing.

Green moved and Even seconded to advertise to charge up to \$20.00 per acre per month for irrigation. Motion carried.

- c. **Code Enforcement** – Mike Shimkus was absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORTS:

- a. **Maintenance Supervisor** – Philip Gibson state the public works crew did the following this past month:

- A-1 Heating fixed the heater at the Booster Station as there was a loose connection
- Replaced the flag at Island Park
- Cleaned the shops
- Due to weather, Track Utilities is behind schedule for the crosswalk light project
- Toured the Caldwell Wastewater Treatment Plant to see how they flare their methane gas. It is composed of a flame arrestor (safety), a flow regulator, necessary piping and a continuous flow of gas for the pilot light.
- Spoke with Scott Subler from ClimeCo about earning carbon credits.

Steps are as follows:

- Figure how much methane is produced per day
- Get third party verified (\$8,000 to \$10,000)
- Follow set protocols (currently none for methane out of drinking water wells)
- Register our project

Next Months Planned Projects

- Refurbish Picnic tables
- Maintenance equipment
- Snow Removal
- Repair water service line leak before the meter at 308 Riverview Drive (leak was discovered on 01/09/2017)

Questions for City Council

- Snow Removal Options
 - Plow for Sander Truck – Horizon - \$5,722 Installed
 - Plow for Sander Truck – Utility - \$6,685 Installed
 - Tire Skid to Mount on Loader – Hatfield Mfg. - \$2,900 Delivered
 - Contract with Showalter Construction - \$120 per hour
 - Blade for Kubota RTV – Burks Tractor – \$7,000 (blade, winch hydraulic system, installation)
 - Blade for Kubota RTV – Idaho Tractor Inc. \$2,789 (72” blade)

- Bid to Reconfigure Booster Station to Original Wiring – Southern Electric - \$350.00
 - Also Getting a Bid to Wire up the Methane Generator to City Hall
 - Repairing Methane Generator – Western States - \$600 to \$2,000
 - New Generator through Grainger - \$4,000 to \$5,000
 - Getting a Bid from Amerigas to Set up a Propane Tank for the Generator
- The 1997 Ford F-150 Won't Start (Juan Peña's Vehicle). Makes a terrible grinding noise when trying to start it. Do we take it to the repair shop or wait to get a new pickup? The vehicle has approximately 170,000 to 190,000 miles. Mayor Ferdinand said to take the vehicle to Busted Knuckle to find out what was wrong with it.

Mayor Ferdinand asked Philip Gibson about a bill received from Western Equipment for \$508.00. The bill said "to trouble shoot and to advise." The invoice does not show for what length of time period. The Mayor said he was more willing to contact Western Equipment regarding the invoice.

Gibson said two technicians were sent out for a one person job. They were probably there for three to four hours to trouble shoot it. Gibson felt it shouldn't have taken that long.

Mayor Ferdinand asked if they let Gibson know what it was going to cost prior to coming out. Gibson said no. He called them out to give him a cost for repairing it and said that weeks later he had to call them back to ask for the price. He wouldn't recommend going through them again.

Councilman Green asked if the bathrooms at the park were opened up again. Gibson said no. He said that they were completely froze up. They had heaters in the center of the building but there is no way to get heat into the restrooms.

Gibson asked if they needed to get a bid to put some heat in the bathrooms. Right in the center between both bathrooms, there is a little utility room with plumbing and piping. There is a heater in there. The pipes in there are warm as well as the pipes to the sinks and toilet. But the actual toilet bowl was frozen solid.

Mayor Ferdinand asked Gibson to see what he could do. He stated that he thought Amy Woodruff had a connection to the company that put the restrooms in.

Councilman Even asked about the road grader that the City owned and whether it worked.

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Gibson said that a previous employee went to start the grader and pumped it full of ether. When he went to start it, it blew all of the seals out of the fuel system. He thought the grader was a '65. He said it was really big for what they needed to do. He said that they could do whatever the Council wanted to do.

Councilman Even said that he knew someone who would give the City \$500.00 for it.

Gibson said he wouldn't see them ever using it. According to John Larsen, it tore more stuff out of the ground.

Mayor Ferdinand said he'd never known it to be operational.

Councilman Percifield motion and Green seconded to put the 1965 Cat No. 12 road grader up for surplus auction. Motioned carried.

- b. **Mayor's Report** - Mayor Ferdinand said that the City did buy a Cub Cadet snow blower for \$1,000.00. It is a fairly large and is self-propelled. He said besides hiring Showalter Construction that is only action taken regarding all the snow. He thought it was a good idea to wait until the off-season to price other equipment.

The Mayor received a phone call from Fish & Game. They are going to bring out two truckloads of adult fish and place in the pond on January 12, 2017.

He wants to also put together a Citizen's Advisory Committee for a pathway. The City has received a \$2,000.00 check for the Mayors Walking Challenge. The Mayor would like to use that as "seed" money to put a plan together for a greenbelt

Councilman Green asked is it was for a bike and walking path. (Yes.) She suggested that the School be included as they have started a Marsing Bike Project.

Councilmember Even moved and Green seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice C. Bicandi, City Clerk-Treasurer

James Ferdinand, Mayor

Date: _____