**RIGGINS CITY COUNCIL**

PUBLIC HEARING – 4/12/23 – 6:00 p.m.

RIGGINS CITY HALL

A Public Hearing was held on the Amended Comprehensive Plan dated March 1, 2023.

Present: Mayor McClure, Councilors Akins, Clay and Wilson; Matt Sinclair, Sherri Cereghino, and Cody Killmar

No public comment was received. Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 12, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Riggins City Council was called to order by Mayor Glenna McClure.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Roll Call – Akins, Clay and Wilson. Councilor Sampson was absent.

Guests: Megan Thompson, Sherri Cereghino, Robert Crump, Trisha Simonson, Jenn Berggren

Staff: Jeff Joyce, Trenton Thompson, Cody Killmar, Dan Wash, Susan Hollenbeak

**MARCH MINUTES:** Council members were individually polled and all confirmed they had read the March meeting minutes. Motion was made by Clay to approve the March meeting minutes as presented; motion was seconded by Akins. Voting yea, Wilson, Akins, and Clay. No nays; motion carried.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT and BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** The financial statement was read detailing $122,132.30 was paid after the March meeting bringing the total March disbursements to $254,142.67. Bills in the amount of $82,001.32 were then presented for payment. Motion was made by Wilson to approve the financial statement and allow the bills for payment; seconded by Clay. Voting yea, Wilson, Clay, and Akins. No nays; motion carried. A copy of the financial report is attached and hereby made a part of this record.

PERPETUA RESOURCES: Robert Crump provided a brief update for the Council including that a draft record of decision will be released in December 2023. Antimony’s value as a mineral continues to increase.

Stibnite Foundation 2023 Grant applications will close May 31st. Crump urged every City department to apply. The Foundation is required to use 5% of revenue as grants; estimated $40,000 available in this grant cycle.

**AMBULANCE BILLING CONTRACT:** Cody reported there have been many issues with Sole Stone Reimbursement; Susan audits billing and revenue and has found it difficult to communicate with SSR. Cody received a recommendation from both McCall EMS and Aberdeen Ambulance for Systems Design West of Seattle. Systems Design met with Cody and Susan via online meeting and discussed concerns, and processes. SDW has over 100 staff; the contract fee is based on a flat rate per ambulance run which will result in a savings of approximately $7,500 in contract fees. SSR will continue to collect on billings they have started. Systems Design’s contract will start July 1, 2023. SDW required a Billing Policy be in place documenting processes and procedures. Cody will e-mail a copy of the policy to Council.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

AMBULANCE - Cody provided the following report:

* Pancake Breakfast will be served Sunday, April 16th from 6 to 10 a.m. Suggested donation is $6.
* First Responders Bash proceeds saw a 16% increase; revenue was split between City Fire, Salmon River Rural Fire and Riggins Ambulance.
* Seven of our Advanced EMT students passed the practical exam.
* Two grants were awarded - $16,000 for five new AED units; $6,000 for five new radios (department is growing).

LIBRARY - no report

FIRE - Jeff provided the following report:

* Fireworks will be in City Park on Saturday night during Jet Boat Races. SR Rural Fire will be staged on the other side of the river.
* Jeff will be participating in a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing tomorrow in White Bird; there was a property owner fatally burned in Monday’s fire there.
* Lettering on the new truck is completed.
* Firefighter I and II course will begin next Monday; SR Rural and White Bird crews are participating as well.

PUBLIC WORKS – Dan provided the following report:

* Ace’s Place Project – Dan will be meeting with Keller Associates on Friday, April 21st at 11 a.m. to review the project and do a walk through.
* Manhole Covers – Jared with ITD is in the process of finding funding to replace manhole covers.
* Back Eddy Grill property – Dan is meeting with the property owner tomorrow about her plan to put in trailers on the property.
* Irrigation Ditch – spring work is progressing.
* Shortage of Staff housing – Dan advised the Council that housing is not available for a City staff person, and asked what could be done. Dan requested the Council consider taking the Heritage Center property and turning that into housing in order to take care of our valuable employee. Councilor Wilson posed the idea of sub-leasing property, even on a temporary basis. Another idea was for the Housing Task Force to consider legal action against the Nez Perce Tribe on their requirements for the proposed housing project across the Little Salmon River.

SURPLUS FIRE TRUCKS: Clerk reported that both surplus Fire Trucks have offers from Rob Means - $300 for the Duplex (green), and $1,700 for the Mack. After discussion, a motion was made by Akins to approve the sale of both fire trucks; motion was seconded by Wilson. Voting yea, Akins, Clay and Wilson. No nays; motion carried.

CEMETERY ROAD GARBAGE SERVICE: Clerk reported that residents on Cemetery Road have not had garbage service for two weeks; there was a suggestion of placing a dumpster somewhere in the area that residents could access. It was suggested that Mayor McClure contact Lake Shore Disposal and request a small truck be dispatched to serve these properties immediately.

CITY PARK BOAT RAMP PROJECT: A walk through of the site was held April 4th; Mayor and Clerk met with engineers; the contractor applied an additional 80 square yards of concrete which was more than was called for by engineering; Nate with Welch Comer reported he would review that for accuracy; agreed to open the ramp.

Clerk reported that the Contractor has submitted Pay Request #4 for $155,157.92. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Akins to approve the Pay Request as indicated; motion was seconded by Wilson. Voting yea, Wilson, Akins, and Clay. No nays; motion carried.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – PUBLIC HEARING: It was noted there are some grammatical and redundancy issues with the draft plan that need addressed before finalized next month.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS: Councilor Akins nominated Lucy Smither and Madison Pottenger to be considered for the City of Riggins Certificate of Appreciation. After discussion, a motion was made by Clay to recognize both students for their volunteer and community efforts; motion was seconded by Wilson. Voting yea, Akins, Clay and Wilson. No nays; motion carried.

ACCESS IDAHO – PAYPORT: Clerk reported that the Payport service that processes credit/debit card payments for utility bills would like to amend the contract and reduce the fee to 3%. After discussion, a motion was made by Wilson to approve the amended contract with Payport; motion was seconded by Akins. Voting yea, Akins, Clay and Wilson. No nays; motion carried.

ZIPLY FIBER PROJECTS: Clerk reported Ziply Fiber has two projects in city limits that are scheduled to start June 1st. Projects will involve installation of aerial and underground cable lines. Locations will include MacArthur and Borah streets in North Riggins, Ace’s Place, and Chukar Point.

PAST DUE UTILITY BILLS: Council reviewed the March services past due report.

FACILITY RENTAL APPLICATIONS

RIGGINS COMMUNITY CENTER:

* May 11 - Upper and Lower (Kitchen Only) - Teen Center Open House (Teen Center will be located in the old school building near the Elementary School).
* June 10 - Lower Level w/Kitchen – McPaws Regional Animal Shelter Dog Behavior Seminar – 10 to 1 pm
* July 22 – Lower Level w/o Kitchen – Alita Arendell – 50th Class Reunion

CITY PARK:

July 13 – Rubicon Outfitters – U of I Alumni BBQ – 2 to 9 pm

COUNCIL ROOM:

July 27 – Cemetery District Meeting – 11 a.m.

ORDINANCE REVIEW/DISCUSSION:

WATER - Councilor Clay thanked the Council for their work on amending the Water Ordinance. He reported he has gathered data on water usage and the cost of processing; it costs 2.2 cents per gallon to process from the pump to the tank. The city is charging .0098 cents per gallon. For the month of February, the City lost approximately $11,000. Council discussed the need to consider rate increases in the budget workshops this summer. Councilor Wilson suggested including information on educating the public on what it costs to process water, and some information on how to read their water bill.

FRANCHISE BUSINESSES – Councilor Clay raised the issue of franchises opening in City limits, for example Ace Hardware. Should the City Council consider an ordinance to restrict a chain store/franchise, or require a fee before they can open? Councilor Wilson indicated they should be allowed, and that competition is good for business; in his opinion the City should not discourage any industry, business or jobs coming to our area. He stated that he did not feel that it was the city's job to regulate or micro-manage free enterprise. Councilor Akins expressed concerns with the impact to local mom & pop businesses, and that the City should consider charging a large fee that could cover the cost of infrastructure improvements in the City. Dan recommended the Council research impact fees and what goes along with those. Dan commented on fast-food establishments being very important for working class people; the ability to get served quickly is a benefit for folks on the clock.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Tilley, City Clerk-Treasurer