

**RIGGINS CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 14, 2024 – 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, Sampson, Wilson, and Mann

Guests: Jerry Wolcott, Dana Greig, Sonia Coates, and Abner King

Staff: Dan Wash, Savannah Hill, Susan Hollenbeak, Eric Coates, and Shane Harper

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

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT and BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** The financial statement was read detailing \$2,958.82 was paid after the January meeting bringing the total January disbursements to \$110,451.53. Bills in the amount of \$87,769.81 were then presented for payment. Motion was made by Sampson to approve the financial statement, seconded by Akins. Motion was then made by Akins to allow the bills for payment; seconded by Mann. Voting yea, Mann, Wilson, Sampson, and Akins. No nays: motion carried. A copy of the financial report is attached and hereby made a part of this record.

**SYRINGA HOSPITAL & CLINICS—ABNER KING, CEO:** The Syringa Hospital Board has a community engagement plan, and they want to know the needs of communities in their area. Kootenai Health is no longer part of the Syringa contract. Syringa has a general surgeon, 5 family practice physicians, 3 physician assistants and 3 nurse practitioners all on staff. Syringa is looking for a location to possibly have a clinic in Riggins and possibly a delivery service from the pharmacy to Riggins. They have looked at using the Heritage Center but would like to research other facilities.

**ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** The council discussed appointing a City Council President and Wilson made a motion to appoint Akins as City Council President, seconded by Sampson. Voting yea, Mann, Wilson, and Sampson. No nays: motion carried.

**BID OPENING—Surplus 2000 Chevrolet Pickup:** No bids were received. Council would like it to be advertised again and possibly on Facebook.

**ACE'S PLACE PROJECT:** Scott Linja with Keller Associates updated the council via email. The approved grant award is \$536,700 and of this amount the city will be responsible for matching \$36,700.00 (7.34%). Scott will assist the city in applying for an LRHIP grant to cover the match amount. Scott is still working with a couple property owners on square footage of the required right-of-way donation, including Diane Thach on her property on Hill Road near the school. We should continue looking for other funding opportunities.

**CITY PARK BOAT RAMP PROJECT:** Nathan Wright with Welch-Comer sent an email providing a breakdown of the proposed costs vs the available budget from the grants. The available grant money for construction is \$369,830.00. The roadway access improvements were quoted to be \$282,465.49. The stairs quotes were based on 4 different ways to finish the steel. Ultimately the stairs quotes came in significantly higher than expected. The stairway design is completed, and the city can opt to pursue additional funding now to try and get that completed with the other roadway, or could also wait for an opportunity to complete the stairs at some future date and potentially combine with other projects in the future. Nate estimated there will be \$87,000 left over that could be used to add an inch of asphalt to the access road, making all asphalt 3".

Cook and Sons would like to complete the curbing and gutters before Jet Boat races in April, and then paving in the fall (September/October). Council requested Nate check into what the other money can be spent on, paving upper parking lot, trees etc.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT—USE OF HERITAGE CENTER:** The Idaho County Sheriff's Office requested permission to install a keypad for entry into the Heritage Center. Mayor McClure suggested putting the keypad on the backdoor so only the Sheriff's office has codes. Council members questioned how often this building is used for law enforcement and requested further information from the Sheriff's office, also to check on our previous agreement for use of the facility.

**COUNCIL MEMBER DECISIONS:** Council decided Jake Mann will be a signer on the checking accounts. The following appointments for Department Commissioners were made:

- McClure—Library
- Wilson—Emergency Services
- Akins—Parks and Streets
- Sampson—Water
- Mann—Sewer/Wastewater

**RIGGINS URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY:** A motion was made by Sampson to accept the URD Calendar year 2023 financial report for publication. Seconded by Mann. Voting yea, Mann, Sampson, Wilson, and Akins. All Ayes, no nays. Motion carried.

The Idaho Code related to composition of the URD Board has changed; a majority of community members and fewer elected officials are required. Jerry Wolcott volunteered to be on the board. Akins, Mann, and Sampson agreed to step down. Wilson and McClure will remain on the board. If we get enough community interest Sampson would like to be an alternate to rejoin.

**SEWER JETTER—STATUS UPDATE:** Shane Persaud with Nevada Consumer Affairs said our case was brought to the counsel at the Nevada Attorney General's Office. They've found that other businesses were affected by this business, and they are working with the other victims. Councilor Wilson would like to file a report with the local sheriff's office in Nevada for possible criminal charges. He will check with the city attorney about this.

**MATT JESSUP--PROSECUTION OF INFRACTIONS & MISDEMEANORS:** Council would like to hear from ICRMP on this issue. They would also like the clerk's office to check with other cities and see what they have done about the contract.

**ADA LIFT ACCESS (BOAT RAMP):** Councilor Sampson talked about the Chamber of Commerce getting a grant for a portable ADA lift in the future. Probably not feasible.

**PURCHASE OF ZIMMERMAN PROPERTY:** Councilor Sampson wanted the city to consider purchasing this property to expand the Fire and Emergency Services building and access. Council discussed. No action taken.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**LIBRARY** –Susan Hollenbeak reported that she received a \$5,000 grant for the children's section of the library from the Henry Allred Foundation.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Dan Wash provided the following report:

- ◆ The last prolonged power outage that occurred in January really highlighted the lack of emergency preparedness by the City. We don't have a power source to operate City Hall or the Fire/EMS building. The wastewater lift stations located in north and south Riggins do not operate and the lift station that serves the park restrooms doesn't work either. We do have a generator at Well Street that powers both the wastewater pumps, and the drinking water wells at that location. While this ensures our drinking water keeps flowing, it also means the non-operating sewage pump stations fill up rapidly with potential to overflow onto private property and into the Little Salmon River and the Main Salmon River. During this outage there was no cell phone service either which meant no ability to communicate with other agencies. I will point out that Cody was able to use the internet connection on Starlink on the ambulance to contact Idaho Power for an update on the outage. The lack of ability to communicate or even function in our offices in an emergency is unacceptable and needs to be resolved.
- ◆ We had the chlorine injection line for the drinking water break, possibly due to gas build up in the ball valve. New chlorine rated valves have been ordered to correct this situation.

- ◆ During the below zero temps we experienced in early January, the water tank float controllers stopped working. This resulted in having to manually operate the wells to fill the tank daily. The true cause is unknown as the batteries that power these units are rated to -75 degrees for functionality. However when the temperature warmed up, they started to work again. We replaced the batteries anyway. I have reached out to Jerry Brown with Challenger Companies to discuss this issue.
- ◆ I have two sealed bids for irrigation culvert replacement and repair on Ace's Place. The City Council opened the bids. This will be added on the agenda for the next City Council meeting for decision making.
  - Kern Construction \$34,700
  - SRS Construction \$28,860
- ◆ Dan would like the Chamber of Commerce flags that are torn to be removed from the light poles and the Christmas lights in the park removed.
- ◆ Questions and concerns that Dan has raised regarding the irrigation ditch have yet to be addressed by the Council. After much discussion, it was decided to have a special meeting on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm to discuss the ditch.
- ◆ Public Works ran a jar test to determine the correct polymer to use while filling the GEO bags at the wastewater plant. The use of this polymer also showed that we can remove phosphorus from the wastewater which will probably be required in our new permit.

It was brought to the cities attention that some concrete had been poured over the bank at the park. Discussed steps for removal. Possibly ask Cook and Sons when they have their equipment here for the boat ramp project.

AMBULANCE – no report.

FIRE –no report.

**CITY IRRIGATION DITCH:** Tabled until next meeting.

PAST DUE UTILITY BILLS/UTILITY UPDATE REPORTS: Council reviewed the January services past due report, and utility update report.

FACILITY RENTAL APPLICATIONS:

RCC: 4/6 Sharon Wilson for funeral of Pete L. Wilson upstairs and downstairs  
 7/11-13 Lawrence "Tracy" Foutz upstairs and downstairs for a family reunion  
 7/27 Class of 1974 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion Cathy Tumelson downstairs with kitchen  
 PARK: 6/26 Robert Eggimann for wedding

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Susan D. Hollenbeak, Deputy City Clerk*