

**RIGGINS CITY COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
February 26, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.  
Riggins City Hall

Mayor McClure called this special meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the change order for the City Park Boat Ramp project, consider the bids for the Ace's Place culvert replacement, and discuss the irrigation ditch.

Roll Call: Bill Sampson, Roy Akins, Jake Mann, and Jonny Wilson.

Staff: Dan Wash, Shane Harper and Eric Coates

BOAT RAMP CHANGE ORDER: Council reviewed Change Order #6 increasing Cook & Sons Construction contract by \$296,078.23. Nate with Welch-Comer provided a written report with the Change Order detailing the increase in the asphalt expense with the change from 2" to 3" depth. The contractor would like to start on the curb work in early March in order to be completed with that part by early April. After discussion, motion was made by Sampson to approve Change Order #6 in the amount of \$296,078.23. Motion was seconded by Wilson. Voting yea, Akins, Wilson, Mann and Sampson. No nays; motion carried.

Nate also addressed the Council's question regarding the possibility of damage to curbs between April and the fall when the asphalt will be put in for the road. The contractor will be responsible for faulty work, but they would not be responsible for damage caused by human neglect (vehicle collision).

ACE'S PLACE CULVERT REPLACEMENT BIDS: Council reviewed two bids received on the culvert replacement, including labor, equipment, materials, concrete, cold mix and culvert—Kern Construction \$34,700 and SRS Construction \$28,860. Dan noted that Spring Break would be a good time to complete this project when there is less traffic for the school. After discussion, motion was made by Mann to approve the SRS Construction bid of \$28,860. Motion was seconded by Wilson. Voting yea, Mann, Akins, Sampson and Wilson. No nays; motion carried.

CITY IRRIGATION DITCH: Councilor Sampson provided a written report detailing the ditch maintenance issues along with options and solutions to consider. Sampson questioned if there are any properties with water rights to the ditch. There are a number of properties outside of city limits that have access to the ditch, yet do not pay what city residents pay; the city still maintains those sections of the ditch – possible to negotiate with these property owners? Dan indicated the city is allowed 12 cubic feet of water per second out of the Little Salmon.

Sampson questioned how many of the 124 properties billed for the ditch use the ditch water; this is undetermined.

Safety is the #1 priority – many areas of the ditch are a safety concern including the rock cut, burning in the spring, potential vehicle collisions as a result of falling rock from the ditch, and the liability issue of working on other people's property.

Eric suggested focusing on the city's biggest priorities – water and sewer; improve water infrastructure instead of focusing on the irrigation ditch which he sees as being on the bottom of the priority list. He suggested looking into funding the drilling of another well; the well could be capped for the future, but at least it would be available. Briefly discussed possible locations; Well Street is not an option. Possibly near the tank? Another idea is for the school to install their own well for the football field; would need to consider ordinance requirements.

Dan questioned if it's fiscally responsible to continue to put money into the ditch. He requested that the Council provide him with a heading on how to proceed, and decide on some real solutions. He'd like to see the ditch included in the city infrastructure. If so, is a grant even possible to fund ditch improvements? Research a waterway engineer.

ITD project between Seven Devils Road and Rapid River is estimated to start in 2029. Need to discuss the rock cut area with ITD representatives – don't want to put money into repairing this long term if it's going to be impacted with the ITD project.

Councilor Akins pointed out that annually the top priority on the ditch has been worked on the last few years... flume, head gate. He suggested sending a letter to all irrigation users – educate users on the issues and importance of the ditch. Possibly do a survey to help determine how many actually use the ditch water, get feedback from the users.

Summer water restrictions are in place going forward. Need to educate the public on this.

There are huge rocks in the rock cut that will need to be removed before startup. The culvert behind Riggins Whitewater Market needs cleared of all the silt buildup and may need to be replaced.

Dan commented that most people don't "see" Public Works as it's one of those "invisible" jobs yet is the most important – running water and wastewater processing. Councilor Wilson commended Dan and the Public Works crew for the improvements they've made to city equipment across the board.

Councilor Sampson and Dan will meet on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. to determine best steps for moving forward.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Brenda Tilley*  
City Clerk-Treasurer