

RIGGINS CITY COUNCIL

July 13, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.

Riggins City Hall

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

Councilors present – Sampson, Akins, Clay and Wilson.

STAFF: Dan Wash, Cody Killmar, Jeff Joyce

GUESTS: Belinda Provancher, Matt Sinclair, Sherri Cereghino

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT and BILLS FOR PAYMENT: The financial statement was read detailing \$506.32 paid after the June meeting bringing the total June disbursements to \$69,378.12. Bills in the amount of \$59,526.12 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, Sampson and Akins. No nays; motion carried. A copy of the financial report is attached and hereby made a part of this record.

PERPETUA RESOURCES – Belinda Provancher, Community Relations Manager, provided a brief recap of the July 9th Stibnite site tour that was attended by a number of Council members and staff. Mayor McClure asked for an update on the transport of materials through the City of Riggins. Provancher indicated there is a possibility of antimony shipments in the future; training will be provided for First Responders; Perpetua is currently working with some of the universities to help refine the antimony on site to ammunition grade. Discussed HAZMAT resources; in the past, there was quite a delay (up to 8 hours) to get a HAZMAT team to our area; Provancher indicated there is a strong possibility of having a HAZMAT trailer stationed in the McCall area. Councilor Clay pointed out that the trucking company is responsible for what they are hauling when they leave the site; compliance with hazardous material transport regulations, and emergency resource contacts are the responsibility of the trucking company. **ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY:** Provancher reported that the "Save the South Fork" group and Idaho Headwaters Group, who are both in opposition of the project, are requesting a new study be completed. Provancher provided a pamphlet detailing the economic impact studies that have been completed already, including three studies conducted by independent contractors, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Stibnite Advisory Council. The Idaho Headwaters Group is requesting a study on recreational impact. These groups are approaching County Commissions and City Councils to participate in funding another study. The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Study will be out for review in late August. Perpetua will be starting a Strategic Development Group to develop a mitigation fund to address community concerns. Mayor McClure and the Council expressed their appreciation to Provancher for the information and update.

IRRIGATION DITCH – BILLING REPORT: Councilors reviewed the current irrigation fee billing report for all customers.

IRRIGATION WAIVER REQUEST: Matt Sinclair requested that his Irrigation billing be waived; Sinclair indicated he does not have access to the ditch. At this time, motion was made by Wilson to waive Matt Sinclair's Irrigation fees; motion was seconded by Akins. Voting yea, Akins, Clay, Sampson and Wilson. No nays; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

LIBRARY – no report

FIRE – Jeff Joyce reported the following:

- Have had a number of calls recently including a garage fire at the Rashok property on Race Creek, which the City responded to in order to assist Salmon River Rural.
- Mack truck which was donated from Council continues to have mechanical problems with the pump. Jeff indicated he would like to declare this truck surplus. The LaFrance truck has been declared surplus already; Jeff would like to sell it for scrap.
- Salmon River Rural is offering to donate a truck to the City. Jeff will make sure it's mechanically sound before accepting.
- A committee is being formed within the fire department to research grant opportunities for trucks.
- Ropes class will be held tomorrow night.
- A mannequin has been purchased to aid with training.
- Reviewed the list of calls responded to in the past few years. Incident reports – ITD can be billed for car fires. Cody Killmar is going to assist Jeff with reporting to NFIRS. These reports are required to show activity and need when applying for grants.
- Roger Rashok's fire equipment was lost in the fire at his property; estimated value of \$1,500. Clerk will research filing a claim since this was City owned property.

FIRE BURNOUT FUND: At this time, a motion was made by Akins to make an expenditure of \$1,000 to Roger and Kathy Rashok to defray expenses from the garage fire; motion was seconded by Sampson. Voting yea, Akins, Sampson, Wilson and Clay. No nays; motion carried.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT – 1980 MACK FIRE TRUCK: Motion was made by Wilson to declare the 1980 Mack Truck surplus; motion was seconded by Akins. Voting yea, Akins, Clay, Wilson and Sampson. No nays; motion carried.

AMBULANCE – Cody reported the following:

- ◆ To date, there have been 18 calls this month.
- ◆ Grant applications are still pending; if the DHW grant for another ambulance is denied, there is another grant that opens next month for vehicles.
- ◆ Flooring in the upstairs space is nearly complete; walls and trim will be completed this month.
- ◆ Two new drivers with the crew – Lin Dipo and Debbie Swift
- ◆ Garage door openers will be installed on the front doors in the near future.
- ◆ If the City chooses to pay the County Dispatch fee, Cody believes the GEMT Grant may reimburse this expense if it's included in the Ambulance budget.

PUBLIC WORKS – Dan Wash, PW Director, provided the following report, with pictures:

- ◆ Blower that was ordered in January was just received; installed.
- ◆ Shane was using the Skid-steer with the Street Sweeper in early morning hours recently; skid-steer broke down; part has been ordered. Street Sweeper worked well.
- ◆ Trenton is weed eating around fire hydrants and around city buildings.
- ◆ Potholes have been filled – received some positive feedback on this.
- ◆ Lateral by Fitch – will be doing some experimenting with water levels to make this operable.

TREATMENT FACILITY PLAN UPDATE: Dan reported he held an introductory meeting June 29th with Mountain Waterworks staff (Bryan Donaldson, Stuart Hurley and Maddi Osburn), Shane, Eric, Brenda and Councilor Clay to review the project. There are a number of issues needing addressed in preparation for the IDEQ Wastewater Planning Grant Letter of Interest submittal in January: 1) increased sampling; 2) locate and inspect all manholes and identify issues/concerns; 3) five years of data to be reviewed. Various concerns were identified and will be researched further including SCAT biological issues, lift station issues, salsnes screen, RAS pumps, blower capacity, and sand beds. A flow chart for the next three years was also reviewed. A map of the collection system will also be developed by Mountain Waterworks.

SALMON RIVER AMBULANCE DISTRICT: Cody Killmar reported that the Idaho County Commissioners officially declared the SRAD a taxing district, and approved the District map and its three District Commissioners – Smither, Anderson and Kuskie. The District's first meeting is August 2nd at 6 pm. The Joint Powers Agreement between the SRAD and the City will be on the August City Council Agenda.

RESOLUTION 22-6 – IRRIGATION LATERAL MAINTENANCE FEE: At this time, the Resolution to add a Lateral Maintenance Fee was reviewed. Motion was made by Sampson to approve the Resolution; motion was seconded by Wilson. Voting yea, Wilson, Akins, Clay and Sampson. No nays; motion carried.

IDAHO COUNTY COMMISSIONER RESPONSE: At this time, the Council reviewed the Idaho County Commissioner letter dated June 14, 2022 which was in response to Councilor Wilson's letter to the County Commissioners dated May 27th voicing concerns with the radio system that included, *"This lack of basic radio functionality is putting the lives of our citizens, emergency services personnel and law enforcement at risk, PERIOD."* In addition, Councilor Wilson addressed Sheriff Ulmer's proposal to charge the city \$1 per hour (\$8,760 per year) for dispatch services indicating he would recommend paying the County for these services, however *"we have some concerns we'd like to have addressed first"*. The Commissioners response stated, *"Idaho County, its Commissioners, Sheriff's Office and Emergency Manager are engaged and actively working to improve radio system services everywhere in our large, remote county"*.

A letter from Idaho County Sheriff, Doug Ulmer, in response to Councilor Wilson's letter was received along with the letter from the County Commissioners. Sheriff Ulmer stated, *"Our concern is Idaho County pays 100% of the costs, yet it's utilized by many other agencies, including Riggins Fire Department and the Riggins Ambulance, not just Idaho County personnel. The call volume has increased significantly over the past few years, and with the*

current working climate, employee retention has been increasingly difficult. Therefore, we are asking other agencies who have a vested interest in the success of Idaho County dispatch contribute to help with employee retention. If the City of Riggins chooses not to participate, we are requiring a phone number to forward all calls to and then it will be their responsibility to proceed from there".

After a brief discussion, both Cody and Jeff indicated they've noticed improved radio transmissions, noting the radio was clear during the structure fire recently on Race Creek which was around midnight. Also noted, the Riggins tower has not been updated. Jeff stressed the need to continually keep pressure on the issue, indicating the radio issue has been a problem over 20 years.

Councilor Wilson stressed that he wants the same level of service for our citizens as each County Commissioner has, and posed the question, "*Why would the City pay the dispatch fee if problems with the radio persist?*" It was decided no further response is necessary at this time.

CITY ATTORNEY CONTRACT: the current City Attorney, Adam Green, was elected District Judge and will take that office January 1st. Therefore, the City will need to contract with a new attorney. Mayor McClure stated she had discussed the issue with Matt Jessup, associate in Green's practice, who indicated he is unable to consider taking the City on with his workload. Jessup recommended Wright Law Office in Grangeville. Clerk will contact Wright about contracting with the City.

RIGGINS HOUSING TASK FORCE Report: Councilor Clay reported nothing new to report.

PERSONNEL POLICY – Employee Drug Testing: Followup from last month's meeting regarding a policy amendment to include drug testing on all reportable vehicle accidents in City vehicles. Councilors reviewed the current Personnel Policy that includes the following statement in Section III-B)xi. [Not use any substances, lawful or unlawful, that will impair the employee's ability to competently perform his/her work or threaten the safety and well-being of other workers or the public.] All staff, including Ambulance and Fire, will receive a copy of the Personnel Policy. It was determined no further action is necessary on the issue.

SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS ADVISORS: Councilor Sampson requested that the City sponsor a location so that folks 65 and older who may be seeking assistance with Medicare enrollment could receive help from a SHIBA representative. Clerk will contact the representative based in Coeur d'Alene to schedule a time.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW: Work is continuing; a survey is being sent out to all residents and businesses with the August newsletter. August 10th is the next meeting.

PAST DUE WSG ACCOUNTS/UTILITY CHANGES: reviewed

FACILITY RENTAL APPLICATIONS

PARK USE: 8/13/22 – Steffani Taylor – Wedding; Stage Electricity requested

SEWER ORDINANCE REVIEW: tabled

CLERK REPORT:

- ✓ Boat Ramp Project – permit has been approved by Army Corps of Engineers. Project is anticipated to start in September.
- ✓ Riggins Community Center – one of the Senior Citizens freezer doors was left open resulting in a loss of several hundred pounds of meat. Three of the old, heavy tables were ruined and were discarded. Crime Scene Cleaners responded immediately and cleaned up the mess.
- ✓ A number of complaints about Will Hubbard's property below the Cemetery have come in.
- ✓ Vacation Rentals list reviewed. Discussed amending Water EU Schedule for these properties to Large Commercial rate. Issue will be put on August 10th agenda.
- ✓ IDA-LEW Economic Development Council – FY23 membership dues. After discussion, Clerk was directed to not include this expense in the budget.

At 9:18 p.m., Councilor Akins made a motion to enter into Executive Session under Idaho Code 74-206(b) to discuss a personnel issue; motion was seconded by Wilson. Mayor McClure conducted a roll call vote: Clay–yea; Wilson–yea; Sampson–aye; and Akins–aye.

At 9:40 p.m., Councilor Akins made a motion to end the Executive Session and resume regular business; motion was seconded by Sampson. Mayor McClure conducted a roll call vote: Clay–yea; Wilson–yea; Sampson–aye; and Akins–aye.

At this time, a motion was made by Wilson to have Mayor McClure respond to Cinquini in writing that the complaint was discussed in Executive Session; neither City employee violated policy, and that the complaint is closed; motion was seconded by Akins. Voting yea, Wilson, Sampson, Clay and Akins. No nays; motion carried.

At 9:44 p.m., Councilor Wilson made a motion to enter into Executive Session under Idaho Code 74-206(b) to discuss a personnel issue; motion was seconded by Akins. Mayor McClure conducted a roll call vote: Clay–yea; Wilson–yea; Sampson–aye; and Akins–aye.

At 10:00 p.m., Councilor Akins made a motion to end the Executive Session and resume regular business; motion was seconded by Sampson. Mayor McClure conducted a roll call vote: Clay–yea; Wilson–yea; Sampson–aye; and Akins–aye.

At this time, a motion was made by Sampson to have Mayor McClure respond to Wald in writing that the complaint was discussed in Executive Session; neither City employee violated emergency protocol policy, and that the complaint is closed; motion was seconded by Clay. Voting yea, Clay, Akins, Wilson and Sampson. No nays; motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Tilley, City Clerk-Treasurer