

RIGGINS CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 9, 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, Sampson and Clay. Councilor Wilson was absent.

Guests: Eric Hook, Trisha Simonson, Sherri Cereghino, Doug Boggan and Charlie Shepherd
Staff: Jeff Joyce, Shane Harper, Eric Coates, and Dan Wash

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT and BILLS FOR PAYMENT: The financial statement was read detailing \$1,625.71 was paid after the July meeting bringing the total July disbursements to \$48,833.94. Bills in the amount of \$33,804.27 were then presented for payment. Motion was made by Clay to approve the financial statement and allow the bills for payment; seconded by Akins. Voting yea, Clay, Sampson and Akins. No nays; motion carried. A copy of the financial report is attached and hereby made a part of this record.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA: Mayor McClure requested an amendment to the agenda to include the Ambulance Billing adjustment request. Motion was made by Sampson to approve the addition of the Ambulance Billing adjustment request to the agenda; motion was seconded by Akins. Voting yea, Akins, Sampson and Clay. No nays; motion carried.

AREA OF IMPACT – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (Doug Boggan)

Doug Boggan expressed his concern about not being contacted about the Area of Impact contained in the city's Comprehensive Plan; he indicated property owners within the Area of Impact should have been notified and involved. Boggan went on to say he was involved when the previous Comprehensive Plan was created in 1995 as the State law requires. Councilor Akins stated the City has no plans to annex any of the properties outside the city limits at this time, and that the Comprehensive Plan is a future planning document the City is required to have. Councilor Sampson indicated the Area of Impact was not changed in the updated Comprehensive Plan. Mayor McClure thanked Boggan for bringing his concern to the Council's attention, and assured him the specifics would be researched and he would be advised of the outcome.

ACE'S PLACE PROJECT – ENGINEER SCOPE OF WORK: Mayor McClure indicated Scott Linja with Keller Associates is available via phone for questions.

Councilor Clay reported he had discussed the project with Diane Thach who owns property on the private road north of the High School; Thach agreed to deed the Hill Road property to the City. School Board member, Eric Hook, stated a maintenance agreement between the School District and the City could be obtained in order to proceed. Discussed the runoff from these properties at the top of Ace's Place (School and Thach), and the need to make this a priority in the project. School Superintendent, Trisha Simonson, indicated the School District could be a collaborator on any grant applications for funding this project.

Scott Linja agreed with the need for a maintenance agreement and for the school and city to collaborate on grant applications. Linja indicated the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council

(LHTAC) has grant funding available; there is a board of reviewers who score grant applications; letters of support from the school would be beneficial.

Councilor Sampson voiced concern about the Scope of Work map not including the Hill Road area; Linja indicated that was a basic map not intended to show the entire project area, and will make sure this is addressed. Sampson also expressed concern regarding the runoff issue; Linja stated slope stabilization will be addressed in the project to prevent the runoff issue.

Mayor McClure thanked the school officials for their feedback on the project. After discussion, motion was made by Sampson to approve the Scope of Work proposed by Keller Associates; motion was seconded by Clay. Voting yea, Akins, Clay and Sampson. No nays; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

LIBRARY - no report

FIRE – Fire Chief, Jeff Joyce, provided the following report:

- ✓ Increase in the number, and type, of calls.
- ✓ Zuehl house fire was complete loss; city crew had 5 on scene and SRRFD had 2 crew. Assistance was also provided by New Meadows and White Bird fire departments. State Fire Marshal conducted investigation on August 1st; cause was an electrical outlet in the front of the building. There was an incident involving a resident driving over Rural's fire hose that was connected to a hydrant; State Fire Marshall stressed the need to file charges (Obstructing Emergency Services) due to the seriousness of the residents' actions. Motion was made by Clay to contact the City Attorney regarding filing charges; motion was seconded by Sampson. Voting yea, Akins, Sampson and Clay. No nays; motion carried.
Discussed the need to get "hose ramps" to prevent this from happening in the future.
- ✓ Firefighter I and II training is continuing. Currently have three chapters left in Firefight I, then the next course will start.
- ✓ Jeff requested that the foam truck not be declared surplus at this time; needs to remain in service until a replacement vehicle is available.
- ✓ Jeff advised the Council that he will be retiring as City Fire Chief effective September 1st. He recommended Paul Gatti be appointed as Fire Chief.

PUBLIC WORKS – Dan Wash provided the following report:

- ◆ Eric and Dan were on site to monitor water flow during house fire; Councilor Clay also assisted with monitoring the water tank. Dan stressed the need for hose ramps to be available.
- ◆ Been dealing with pH issues at the plant; have installed a caustic soda injection system; high flows in the summer seem to be the cause of the pH imbalance. Changes have been made to the aeration as well so as not to over oxygenate the water which can impact the pH level.
- ◆ Women's restroom at Park had a waterline break today.
- ◆ Have been working on painting no parking areas on Main Street. Mayor McClure stressed the need for city crew to wear safety vests when working on these areas. Dan indicated paint has been backordered for street painting.
- ◆ Manhole in front of Seven Devils will be replaced; Kern Construction is scheduling.
- ◆ Briefly discussed the increased traffic on Highway 95. Councilor Akins indicated the increase can be attributed to increased highway user fees in Oregon (Interstate 84) which have caused trucks to reroute through Idaho since it's cheaper.
- ◆ The pickup that Trenton drives broke down again; has been in the repair shop frequently. Dan would like to get a replacement. He will start looking and review auction sites.

AMBULANCE – written report provided by Killmar:

- Ambulance B overheated and broke down again. Turns out Elk City is getting a new ambulance through a grant and is willing to sell their current 2010 ambulance to Riggins for \$1,000; it has

50,000 miles and is still in service until they get their new vehicle; hoping for a September delivery. Cody was planning on researching options for another ambulance in a couple years with the potential of doing inter-facility transfers out of Grangeville or McCall. He is planning on evaluating the need.

- Ambulance District held their budget public hearing with no comments received. Cody will have the Joint Powers Agreement revised and signed by the Ambulance District to change the reimbursement frequency to monthly.
- Full-time EMT positions – four applications received for the three positions. Ambulance District Commissioners, Clerk, Susan and Gary Haueter will be ranking applicants. City Council members are encouraged to participate if possible.
- Paramedic school is going well for Cody and Fred.

AMBULANCE – THANK YOU LETTER: Council reviewed a letter from Clint Greene expressing his deep gratitude for the City of Riggins Ambulance service. Greene thanked the Mayor and City Council for the foresight and investment that's been made in life saving EKG equipment in Riggins. Greene suffered a heart attack in June and was transported via Life Flight to Boise; a cardiologist in Boise was able to read the EKG results and advise the Emergency Room physician in McCall on how to begin treatment. Damage to Greene's heart was minimal and now he has a good long term prognosis... all because the Riggins ambulance was equipped with a mobile EKG instrument.

BUSINESS OWNER COMPLAINTS – OBSCENE MATERIAL SIGNS: Councilor Clay indicated he would not be in favor of sending a letter to private property owners. Mayor McClure tabled the issue until all Council members are in attendance.

CITY OF WHITE BIRD – BULK WATER REQUEST: The City of White Bird has been under water restrictions as a result of problems with their well. They have made a request for bulk water from Riggins to be put into their water tank. Discussed the current rate for potable water - \$50 per 2,000 gallons; Dan requested the Council consider an adjustment for White Bird as this rate is exorbitant in his opinion. The Clerk reported the City of Grangeville recently charged White Bird \$817.52 for 124,895 gallons = .006 per gallon. White Bird expects to need water a couple times a month until summer is over or they find another source; they are looking at rehabbing the well at the old school, and will be receiving funding through IDEQ. After discussion, motion was made by Akins to charge the City of White Bird .006 cents per gallon for bulk water. Motion was seconded by Clay. Voting yea, Clay, Akins and Sampson. No nays; motion carried.

CITY PARK BOAT RAMP PROJECT – ENGINEERING AGREEMENT: Council reviewed the Engineer Agreement Amendment from Welch-Comer for Phase 3 engineering services - \$41,000. After discussion, motion was made by Akins to approve the engineering agreement amendment of \$41,000; motion was seconded by Clay. Voting yea, Akins, Clay and Sampson. No nays; motion carried.

EXTENDED USE PARKING – CITY PARK: Clerk reported she had contacted Wild River Adventures recently about vehicles that appeared to be parked over the 16 hour time limit. They had asked for the City's feedback on where all guiding business clients on multi-day trips could leave their vehicles. Discussed the increased number of vehicles that are being left for extended amounts of time at the upper parking lot; these vehicles also impact the local community events held at City Park by reducing parking. Potential locations include the old mill property, as well as the Elementary School parking lot. Mayor McClure indicated she would call Mike DeBoer about the mill site parking. Mayor McClure also suggested considering a parking "permit" for multi-day guests that outfitter/guides could issue with

pertinent information (outfitter name, date of departure/return). Councilor Akins indicated he would take time to visit with local guiding businesses about the issue; he also expressed concern about the number of outfitter employee vehicles that are being parked at the City Park lot for an extended time.

ABANDONED VEHICLES ON CITY PROPERTY: Dan reported there has been a vehicle parked in the Community Center parking lot since September. There is also a vehicle with a flat tire that has been parked in the Upper Park lot all summer. These vehicles need to be towed at the City's expense.

FY23-24 BUDGET: Mayor McClure requested a Special meeting be scheduled to review the budget data and consider for tentative approval. After discussion, Wednesday, August 16th at 6:30 p.m. was scheduled.

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

UTILITY BILLING WAIVER REQUEST: A request from Steve Zuehl to waive his utility billing until he can determine what he's going to do with his home was approved; water and sewer will go to unused connections.

AMBULANCE BILLING ADJUSTMENT REQUEST: Cody and Susan submitted a request to adjust the ambulance billing on a call that occurred 10/21/22 involving a major nosebleed. Medicare denied the claim stating "a bloody nose is not an emergency". Given the patient's long history of bleeding, transfusions and medical procedures for this issue, we appealed the decision and were denied again. Documentation was provided detailing the extent of the patient's medical issues, yet the billing company has refused to resubmit the claim. Therefore, the request to reduce the bill to what the patient's co-pay would be if Medicare had paid the claim (\$185). After discussion, motion was made by Sampson to approve the billing adjustment to \$185; motion was seconded by Akins. Voting yea, Akins, Sampson and Clay. No nays; motion carried.

FACILITY RENTAL APPLICATIONS

CITY PARK:

August 15 – National Geological Society lunch for 80 people. Requested a waiver of the Park Use Fee. After discussion, the waiver request was denied; use fee of \$200 is required.

SALMON RIVER SENIOR CITIZENS – LETTER: Council reviewed a letter from the Senior Citizen Board regarding the Riggins Community Center lower level. Concerns centered around the dining area carpet and the City not holding facility users responsible for cleaning the carpet when stains are made, as well as the kitchen area. They have been told tile flooring is not an option due to the acoustics in the lower level. Councilor Sampson suggested carpet tiles be considered; these could be replaced a section at a time when necessary. The Senior Board has received another grant to purchase equipment or make renovations to the building. They are planning on purchasing a carpet cleaning machine, as well as replacing counter tops in the kitchen area. The Council expressed their appreciation for the Senior Citizen Boards comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Tilley, City Clerk-Treasurer