MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2/11/2020

Mayor Ryan Smathers
6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members: Jennifer Dunaway, Mark Swayne, Shannon Schrader, Josh Tilley and Doug Donner

Absent: Sean Simmons

Staff: Administrator-Rick E. Laam, Clerk-Janet R. Montambo, Treasurer-Donna Wilson, Building Official-Todd Perry, Public Works Supervisor-Shane Miller, Water/Wastewater Supervisor-Michael Martin, Police Chief-Jeff Wilson and Fire Chief-Jon Hoyt

Guest: John Hughes, Ken Harvey, Mike Mount, Joan Mount and Lupe Sims

Media: Elizabeth Morgan

MINUTES

Councilmember Schrader made a MOTION to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes held January 28, 2020 as written. Councilmember Swayne seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Councilmember Tilley made a MOTION to approve the regular bills and the additional bills as presented and the Payroll ending February 1, 2020. Councilmember Donner seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

PETITIONS, APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Suddenlink Letter-Changes to Commercial Customers Rates - The City of Orofino received a letter from Brad Ayers, Senior Director of Suddenlink Cable. The letter is for information regarding the upcoming changes to the Video Rates for new commercial customers. Customers are being notified in advance of the increase and will go into effect on February 28, 2020.

City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 2/11/2020
Avista Community Academy Request - Administrator Laam reported he met with Mike Tatko, General Manager of Avista. Avista is reaching out to small cities inviting city leaders to attend a two-day Avista Community Academy in Spokane, Washington with other public and private leaders. Local leaders and business peers will connect with Avista leadership and be encouraged to ask questions and share insights. Avista will pay for travel and meals for the two day academy. Participants will tour the Avista facilities and the newly renovated Huntington Park, get behind the scene look at the complex issues of Avista’s business including energy generation and efficiency, the regulatory environment, environmental issues, energy resource management and emerging technologies. Hear broad perspectives from Avista leadership concerning opportunities and challenges we all face and collaborate in shaping our energy future. Laam commented at a later date the City Council can make a decision on who they want to attend the academy.

NCIJA Re-organize Alliance - This was referred to later in the meeting under Departmental Reports.

Clearwater Paper Fire Protection Mutual Aid Agreement - Fire Chief Hoyt submitted a preliminary copy of a Fire Protection Mutual Aid Agreement for Council review. Hoyt was asking Council’s approval to enter into an agreement with Clearwater Paper because of the capabilities of equipment and extended manpower for the Orofino Fire Department in the event of a fire. Orofino will have access to more equipment in place if needed. Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to accept the Clearwater Paper Fire Protection Mutual Aid Agreement. Councilmember Donner seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Administrator - Administrator Laam reported he attended the Airport Phase 2 & 3 pre-bid conference. Laam stated there were several contractors in attendance and may team up together for the tree removal and dirt work removal. It is the contractors responsibility to haul away the dirt and dispose of the trees. In other news Laam stated he stepped down from PRIMA Board and Donna Wilson was appointed to fill his vacancy. Membership to National PRIMA will be in Donna Wilson’s name and she will be applying for a scholarship to attend the National PRIMA Conference this year in June. The Conference has some of the best training for public officials, especially for newly appointed PRIMA Board members.

Administrator Laam and Mayor Smathers met with Avista and Clearwater Power regarding the Avista Franchise Fee Agreement and the proposed Clearwater Power Franchise Agreement. Laam and Smathers will keep the Council apprised as things develop.

Laam reminded the Council that the next budget cycle for 2021 is right around the corner. During the last budget cycle for 2020, the Council approved some major changes in the Police Department salaries. During these discussions, it was mentioned that during next year’s budgeting process the other city departments salary wages would be examined for major changes. The idea is to eliminate the current salary schedule and convert to a straight salary system. The ultimate goal is to make Orofino a competitive city to work for while converting to a salary system that ultimately is cost-effective and saves the city money over a period of five-years. Most employees are capped out on the existing salary schedule and have no place to climb salary wise.

City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 2/11/2020
Laam received an email from Dan Johnson, President of the North Central Idaho Jurisdictional Alliance (NCIJA). The Alliance was formed in 1996 due to the jurisdictional differences between the Nez Perce Tribe and the public entities in North Central Idaho. There were twenty-three members within the NCIJA made up of Counties, Cities, School Districts and Highway Districts. The relationship between the Tribe and NCIJA was contentious to say the least. The NCIJA has not met since 2011 and has in effect disbanded as an organization. Many of the original membership entities are no longer around or are no longer in an elected position. There is interest in reorganizing the NCIJA under new leadership. Laam indicated he has no idea what has prompted this reorganization of the NCIJA, but cautioned the Council to think long and hard before making a final decision to get involved in a new Alliance membership. This is a very unpopular organization that is perceived as Indian Haters but popular if you reside on the Nez Perce Reservation. No matter what we do, it could get very ugly. My suggestion is we do nothing because Orofino has a pretty good working relationship with the Nez Perce Tribe. This may not set well with other public entities in North Central Idaho, but working with the Tribe is a whole lot easier than continuously fighting with them.

Treasurer - Treasurer Wilson submitted the Clearwater County, State, Cable and Electric Revenue Recap reports to the Council for review.

Building Official - A copy of the January 2020 Building Permit Report was submitted for Council review. Building Official Perry reported he ordered new trees to replace the trees in front of the Library and Dempsey property on Michigan Avenue and trees in front of Frontier Foods. Perry reported the trees that are planted on Highway 12 and prohibiting sight of the Lamar Advertising Signs will be pruned. In the fall the trees will be extracted and replanted in front of the Wastewater Plant on Highway 12. Perry commented UFO Committee will help with the planting of twelve trees.

Public Works - Public Works Supervisor Miller reported the Main Street lift station had a buildup of grease and wipes that were disposed of in the system. Miller contacted Brookside and they had no one in a position to maintain the grease trap until just recently. Miller stated the new person now knows what needs to be done on a weekly basis. Miller commented there was moderate flooding during the last few days with minimal damage. It was noted the lights at the Public Works Shop were changed out at no cost to the city.

Police - Police Chief Wilson reported the Department is busy battling with the recent thefts of tools from cars. Wilson reminded if anyone sees anything that doesn’t look right to please call the Police Department. In other news Wilson was invited to the Chamber of Commerce Meeting to be the program speaker. Wilson was able to share with the group what the Orofino Police Department capabilities are and how modern the department is compared to other local Police Departments.

Water/Wastewater - Water/Wastewater Supervisor Martin reported we have three main pumps that pump sludge to the Wastewater Treatment Plant under the Clearwater River. One of these pumps burned out while the other two pumps carried the wastewater load to the treatment plant. The issue, is that the three pumps are designed to have a maximum flow of 250,000 gallons per day. During this time of the year when inflow and infiltration (I&I) is at its highest, the city is experiencing 2.3 million gallons of flow per day with only two pumps working. What this is leading to is that our infrastructure is experiencing excessive infiltration of rain and ground water that is being treated at our Wastewater Treatment Plant. This adds additional expense for treating non-wastewater flows.

City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 2/11/2020
Fire - Fire Chief Hoyt reported the Department has been busy. Hoyt commented that recently Sunnyside, Twin Ridge, Grangemont, Upper Fords and CPTPA Districts renewed their Fire Protection Mutual Aid Agreements with the City of Orofino Fire Department. It was noted there were no changes in the Mutual Aid Agreements. Hoyt commented the Fire Academy is scheduled for March and he expects over two hundred to attend the academy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lupe Sims, Orofino High School Tennis Coach addressed the Council requesting that the taped pickle ball lines be removed at the Tennis Courts and replace them with painted-on lines. The taped pickle ball lines present a safety issue as when the student players or anyone playing tennis would be hampered by tripping or misfooting due to the taped lines. Ms. Sims would like to contact the individual who had permission to install the lines for pickle ball and work something out to have the lines painted instead of the tape. Councilmembers all voiced that they thought those were painted lines on the tennis courts and directed Ms. Sims to meet with Shannon Carducci who was responsible for the pickle ball lines and come up with a plan and report back to Administrator Laam.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:00 p.m., Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to adjourn. Councilmember Schrader seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ryan Smathers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janet R. Montambo, City Clerk

City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 2/11/2020