MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 2/22/2022

Mayor Sean Simmons
6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Staff: Administrator-Ryan Smathers, Clerk-Janet R. Montambo, Treasurer-Donna Wilson, Building Official-Todd Perry, Public Works Supervisor-Shane Miller, Water/Wastewater Supervisor-Michael Martin, Assistant Fire Chief-Bart Jones and Police Chief-Jeff Wilson

Guests: Ken Harvey, Ernest Tuning, Tina Lauria, Jerry Johnson, John Erbst, Mary Wilson and Mary Stanley

Media: Elizabeth Morgan and Nancy Butler

MINUTES

Councilmember Schrader made a MOTION to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes held on February 8, 2022. Councilmember Swayne seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

A copy of the Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes held on 2/17/2022 were submitted to the Council for review and information only.

BILLs AND CLAIMS

Councilmember Donner made a MOTION to approve the regular bills and the additional bills and the payroll dated February 15, 2022. Councilmember Tilley seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

PETITIONS, APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Letter of Clean Up Day Coordinate with City of Pierce and Weippe-Administrator Smathers’s reported the City sponsor’s the City Wide Clean Up day every year in conjunction with Arbor Day. Clearwater County Commissioners were requesting the city’s Orofino, Pierce and Weippe to coordinate for one planned clean-up day. That way the Transfer Station will accommodate a single, pre-planned “free” day for this event. Administrator Smathers referred the letter to Erica.
Holland, Clearwater County Chamber of Commerce and she was able to coordinate with Pierce and Weippe for County Wide Clean up on April 30, 2022.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Administrator-Administrator Smathers presented a copy of the revised draft agreement between the City of Orofino and Clearwater County Sheriff’s office for dispatch services and Orofino Fire Department Rescue Services. The agreement will be placed on the March 8, Council Agenda for approval. In other news, Smathers reported two students inquired about job shadowing with some of the city of Orofino employees. It was noted on March 8, Smathers along with Public Works Supervisor Miller will attend a meeting with Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and JUB in Clarkston to begin the scope of work for the Traffic Safety Study.

Treasurer-Treasurer Wilson submitted the Revenue vs. Expenditure by Fund Report ending October 2021 for Council review.

Building Official-A copy of the January 2022 Building Permit Report was submitted to the Council for review. Building Official Perry inquired from the Council if they are interested in allowing the Plaza to be put up again. Perry commented last year the consensus was; some like it and some did not like it, but eventually it was accepted and utilized. Perry will attend a Rotary Meeting in the near future and will be talking about the Plaza. Perry will ask the Rotarians if they would be interested in supporting of the Plaza and ask if they would like to donate in maybe purchasing something that can be used for the Plaza. Perry will go forward and talk to the neighboring business’s and get their input. Councilmember Gladhart questioned why can’t the Plaza be placed in a parking lot. Councilmember Dunaway responded by stating that the City does not own the parking lots. A few years past, Chamber of Commerce approached the Council with pictures of a conceptual plan for a plaza in the down-town area. The Chamber of Commerce was not able to follow through because loss of revenue. City Council did approve, and Building Official Perry requested from the Council to do a trial run on a temporary Plaza. Councilmember’s asked Perry to remind them again in April so they can suggest things to do for the Plaza.

Public Works-Public Works Supervisor Miller reported they took advantage of the spring like weather with street sweeping and cleaning off sidewalks. In other news the Security System at the Business Center was down. ASC Sign Company had called Ziply to get rid of their fax lines to help save costs. It was noted that the Security System was hard wired in one of those fax lines. Miller contacted Ziply and they will reconnect line, but the City will pay for the line for the Security System.

Police-Police Chief Wilson reported the department is busy working on cases and working with multiple agencies for court. Wilson wanted to thank Michael Martin and Todd Perry for their help in putting tother the conference table that is fourteen (14) feet long and six (6) feet wide. Martin will come up with a design to add wheels so it can be easily moveable in the event of a conference to be moved out of the way. In other news, Wilson was inquiring from the Council they have one office available in the building. Orofino Police Department would like to offer it to Idaho State City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 2/22/2022
Police (ISP) to utilize the office. The officer would have a key card to access the office and he would be able to copy or fax or use the phone to fill out reports instead of driving all the way to Lewiston to the main office. All Councilmember’s gave Chief Wilson their blessing to allow ISP to set up an office in their building.

John Erbst from the audience asked permission from Mayor Simmons if he can ask Chief Wilson a few questions. Mayor Simmons responded yes but to keep it short. Erbst inquired from Chief Wilson with Clearwater County Sheriff’s Department being short staff is the City Police Department helping out. Chief Wilson responded that they have a good repoir with Clearwater County Sheriff’s office and all officers who are on duty work well together all the time and have always helped with each other in the past. Erbst asked if Police Chief Wilson has a “use of force policy”. Wilson confirmed the Orofino Police Department has one in place and is different from the Sheriff’s Department, but yes every department have one in place. Erbst was inquiring with the gas price’s increasing he wanted to know why police vehicles are running and sitting idle at times. Police Chief Wilson reported police vehicles are equipped with different electronics and sometimes they need to keep the vehicle running to have continuous connection.

Water/Wastewater Supervisor Martin reported they are busy with routine maintenance. It was noted Martin and Jim Thornton traveled to City of Pierce to help out with their sewer system. Martin will always help out where they can and offer assistance.

Fire-Assistant Fire Chief Bart Jones commented how wonderful it is to work with the other departments. It was noted the new Rescue Vehicle is equipped and in service. This past Saturday, the department had three fire calls and a lift assist. With a network in place fire victims who have lost everything from a fire, are able to get assistance through the Fire Auxiliary with food, clothes and other assistance to help the victim’s.

In other news, the Fire Academy is scheduled for March 18 – 20th. Jones commented there can be up to 250 Fireman from all over the state to attend this training. It is an opportunity for fireman to get beneficial training.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Erbst inquired about the Fire Chief. Mayor Simmons reported he is on leave and an ongoing investigation is being conducted.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Swayne reported the Ad-Hoc Committee meeting with Orofino Rural Fire Department was very productive, discussion was in general. What is needed is a consensus should ORFD start doing things to become independent from the Orofino Fire Department and continue with agreement to help them become independent. All Councilmember’s agreed for Ad-Hoc Committee to find a solution, but don’t know if the Orofino Rural Fire District want to become independent. Councilmember Swayne inquired from the Council a consensus if the Committee
should work towards Orofino Rural Fire Department becoming independent from the Orofino Fire Department or keep existing agreement. Mayor Simmons commented people who are in the Rural Fire District want to continue being a part of city and continue partnering with Orofino Fire Department. Simmons continued with influx of new people growing in the Orofino Rural District it is hard for city to continue with existing agreement. Councilmember’s all agreed for Ad-Hoc Committee to find a solution that will benefit all. It is recognized they have same man power, same equipment there is no two different departments. Becoming harder to improve fire protection services. It was noted we are at capacity and can’t spread anymore. Councilmember Schrader commented few are not getting services even within the boundaries.

The important thing is it takes money, need to focus on protection requirements, organization structure and more equipment to be an effective organization.

Jerry Johnson inquired if some of the Councilmembers want to separate, then how much money comes from tax payers and if the goal of the Council is to separate and go a different direction then the Council needs to say that before this negotiating can move forward. Councilmember Dunaway reported the Council is strapped with older agreements and don’t want to be kicking the can down the road. This agreement, unfortunately needs to be updated and definitely needs re-evaluated.

Councilmember’s agreed Councilmember Swayne will be able to still be on the committee, and explore options with the Ad-Hoc Committee.

It was decided the Orofino Rural Fire District Agreement will be placed on the March 8th, Council Agenda for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:55 p.m., Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to adjourn. Councilmember Schrader seconded the motion it passed unanimously.

Sean Simmons, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janet R. Montambo, City Clerk

City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 2/22/2022