MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD 3/10/2020

Mayor Ryan Smathers

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members: Jennifer Dunaway, Mark Swayne, Sean Simmons, Shannon Schrader and Doug Donner

Absent: Josh Tilley

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

Guests: Josef W. Chamberlayne, Dennis Harper, Shirley Harper, Dennis Fuller and Diana Fuller

Media: Elizabeth Morgan

MINUTES

Councilmember Swayne made a MOTION to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes held February 25, 2020 as written. Councilmember Simmons seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

The Minutes of the Regular Urban Forests Meeting held March 3, 2020 was submitted to the Council for review.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Councilmember Simmons made a MOTION to approve the regular bills and the additional bills as presented and the Payroll ending February 29, 2020. Councilmember Schrader seconded the motion. Treasurer Wilson interjected and reported on the regular bills there was a correction on Central Square One. The meeting was cancelled and the per diems were taken off this bill. The new total for the bills is $266,247.20. Councilmembers also questioned the bills from the Orofino Business Center, the Dennison Publish/Advertisement for the Airport, and the registrations for the sixteen firefighters for the upcoming Fire Academy. After all questions were answered, the amended motion and seconded was passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

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PETITIONS, APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Candidate for Idaho District 7 Dennis Harper - Dennis Harper, a Candidate for Idaho District 7 introduced himself to the Council. Harper was asking for support and input in the upcoming election.

Parking Proposal - Josef Chamberlayne, owner of the Clearwater Serenity Store presented the Council with a parking proposal. Mr. Chamberlayne would like to see Johnson and College in the four-block downtown area be converted to one-way traffic flow with 45-degree parking on one side and enhanced length marked parallel parking on the other side to accommodate larger pickups. Mayor Smathers commented the Council has looked at several suggestions on downtown parking but was not able to come up with a solution until last fall when the Council voted on implementing Painted T Lines. Chief Wilson reported this is the fourth time that parking was brought before the Council. Chief Wilson and Public Works Supervisor measured the downtown area and came to the conclusion that diagonal parking will not work on Johnson Avenue for the fact the streets are not wide enough to handle parking and through traffic. Councilmember Dunaway stated the Council all agreed last fall to implement the T Lines for parking spaces in the downtown area. After Council discussion it was determined as soon as the weather changes public works will move forward on painting the T Lines in the downtown area.

CEDA Annual Meeting Invitation April 16, 2020 - The City of Orofino received an invitation to the annual CEDA Membership meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 16, 2020, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel in Lewiston. Clerk Montambo will call and RSVP for those who will attend.

2020 Arbor Day Proclamation - A copy of the 2020 Arbor Day Proclamation was submitted to the Council and media for information only. Mayor Smathers is proclaiming April 25, 2020 as Arbor Day along with the city-wide clean-up day in the city of Orofino. The proclamation is for all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to protect our trees and woodlands and promote the well-being for future generations.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Administrator - Administrator Laam reported the beginning of the budget process for FY 2021 is right around the corner. Laam stated that he will get with the Mayor and Treasurer to compile a Budget Schedule for the new year. Laam stated he has been busy responding to our State Representatives and Senator regarding several pieces of proposed legislation which will negatively impact public taxing entities. Of particular concern is HB 409 which would freeze property taxes for three years at the level they are currently at. Property taxes are the key revenue source that helps fund police and fire protection services. The legislature also made serious changes to the distribution formula within the states revenue sharing program relating to sales tax. The new formula actually hurts the City of Orofino and reduces our sales tax revenue between $5,000 - $6,000.

Treasurer - Treasurer Wilson reported she is working on budget information.
Building Official - Building Official Perry reported he conducted a final inspection on the Orofino Business Center expansion project for SJX Boats. In other news, Perry reported he replaced a tree in Memorial Park which had died last fall with a Renaissance Birch Tree. It was noted he contacted the Clearwater County Road Department to see if they would pick up the bundles of left-over cardboard from the Shopko’s parking lot. He was told that Robert Simmons from Nadl/Simmons will pick up the cardboard and haul them away.

Public Works - No report. Public Work Supervisor Miller was not in attendance of the meeting.

Police - Police Chief Wilson reported the Department has made good progress in several burglary cases in the community. A suspect was placed in custody but needed to be passed onto the Tribal Police since the suspect is Native American. The individual was responsible for a lot of crime in Orofino and was eventually tracked down from a stolen check stolen from a vehicle and cashed in Kamiah. Through surveillance video, OPD was able to identify the suspect. OPD turned over a lot of critical investigative work for the prosecution of the case. In other news, Wilson reported that last year he applied for a $45,000 grant from the State of Idaho for the upgrading of OPD’s police software that would interface with the states upgraded software allowing officers utilizing e-ticketing to share information on driver’s license, registration, and vehicle information. And lastly, Wilson reported since changing from a six department officers down to five officers, compensatory time has significantly been reduced.

Water/Wastewater - Water/Wastewater Supervisor Martin reported he is down one employee due to non-work-related injury. The employee may need surgery and may be laid up for a while. His department will fill the void until the employee can come back to work.

Fire - Fire Chief Hoyt reported the Fire Academy is this week-end. He is extremely busy helping with the Fire Academy and the required prep work that goes into this type of training. Hoyt commented there are 265 individuals from all around the state that are signed up to attend the academy.

WORK SESSION

Chairperson Dunaway was not in attendance of the Work Session held March 3, 2020, but commented the Committee, along with Councilmembers and staff, met in the arena to discuss how all users of the arena can work together and have some buy-in on how to make the different activities run smoother and more efficiently. Dunaway commented that the Park and Recreation Committee is comprised of the right members from each organization and that they are all working well together. The next meeting will be announced at a later date.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Smathers reported that he met with Mike Tatko and Mike Thomas with Avista Utilities regarding a potential location for the two-sided LED Reader Board. Tatko and Thomas will meet with ITD to get approval for the location to place the reader board. Suddenlink will donate the power for internet service. Chamber of Commerce will be in charge of the controls on the reader board. Mayor Smathers commented as soon as ITD approves the site, Sign Crafters will install the reader board as soon as it is confirmed on the location.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Fuller announced he is one of the candidates that is running for Clearwater County Commissioner for District 2. Fuller invited the Council to the Clearwater County Lincoln Day Dinner. The event is scheduled Saturday, March 21st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Best Western Lodge. Fuller is selling tickets which costs $30.00 for a single individual and $45.00 for a couple.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:08 p.m., Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to adjourn. Councilmember Simmons seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ryan Smathers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janet R. Montambo, City Clerk

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