MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 4/27/2021

Mayor Sean Simmons
6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Guests: Walt Parker, Crystal Gamble, Chris St. Germaine, Tina and Sal Lauria and Todd Robinson

Media: Elizabeth Morgan and Nancy Butler

MINUTES

Councilmember Schrader made a MOTION to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes held on April 13, 2021. Councilmember Tilley seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes held on April 19, 2021. Councilmember Schrader seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Councilmember Donner made a MOTION to approve the regular bills and the additional bills as presented and the payroll dated April 24, 2021. Councilmember Schrader seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

PETITIONS, APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND COMMUNICATIONS

CCED Sponsor Request-Chris St. Germaine Clearwater Economic Development Specialist reported CCED program works with the community and businesses across Clearwater County. The program strives to be proactive in business retention and expansion: bringing resources to the City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 4-27-2021.
business community to help hold on through hard times and flourish in good times. St. Germaine commented they were successful in over $5 million in COVID relief funds that went to local businesses, support those wanting to get into government contracting, manufacturing business facility expansion, workforce development assistance, business to business networking and shop local campaigns and marketing efforts. The program support startups have a partnership with the Small Business Development Center, which allows access to a treasure trove of resources for the startups: Market Research, financial planning tools and business planning assistance. Supporting community projects that benefit citizens and enhance livability projects include: Broadband connectivity efforts through ID CARES Act – Elk River high speed wireless; Orofino & Weippe-Fiber to premise, Elk River FEMA City Hall Flood Mitigation. Transportation planning: Clearwater Highway District, City of Weippe, City of Elk River. Blue Cross Foundation: Orofino Community Transformation Grant, Pierce-Weippe Voices of Community access to Healthcare, Safe Routes to Schools program development and Off Road Motor Vehicle trail clearing – IDPR grant. Last on the list CCED is helping with the Konkolville Redevelopment project and respond to outside business relocation desires. Councilmember Dunaway thanked Chris St. Germaine for a successful year of Economic Development. Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to sponsor CCED in the amount of $10,000 FY 2022. Councilmember Swayne seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

Request to add City of Orofino signatory to Port of Lewiston’s letter opposing Congressman Simpson’s concept to breach the Lower Snake River Dams - Councilmembers all agreed that they would like to draft their own letter that is more specific to Orofino’s concerns than to sign on to Port of Lewiston’s letter.

Cell phone use while driving concern - Walt Parker reported to the Council that he has had close calls with people who are on their cell phone while driving. Parker commented he was run off the road because someone was not paying attention while driving. Parker was concerned because he sees it all the time and wanted to know why the Police do not pull people over and ticket them for cell phone usage. Police Chief Wilson reported last July 2020 Legislation changed the law where no one is allowed to use their cell phone while driving unless they have a blue tooth set up to allow both hands on the steering wheel. Police Departments were asked to give warnings to motorist through January 2021 until public is educated about the law change. The first offense is a $75 dollar ticket, second offense is $150 and 3rd offense is a $300 fine. Within the law change, people can still activate or deactivate while on their phone to talk through the Bluetooth. Wilson commented it’s a law that is hard to enforce.

Park Schedule - Crystal Gamble submitted a letter to the Mayor and Council regarding the park schedule. Ms. Gamble who is a resident of Orofino and an Elementary teacher, and youth activity advocate wanted to inform the Council of a discrepancy within the current park scheduling. On March 26, Ms. Gamble called to request the use of the City Park for the Orofino Babe Ruth baseball program. At this time Ms. Gamble was referred to Scotty Tondevold who was in charge of the schedule for the Orofino Youth Baseball and had blocked out time from 8am to 8pm. There was an offer to extend the time. The Mayor and Council agreed to the request made by Ms. Gamble and block the time from 8am to 5pm.

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no time available for Orofino Babe Ruth to schedule the baseball field for practices. Ms. Gamble did contact Scotty Tondevold through emails, text messages and phone calls began bouncing back and forth. Eventually a schedule was proposed and accepted. Official practices began April 12th and everything seemed to be working out. Until April 20 when one of the soccer coaches, who had been practicing at the same time marched over and scolded the baseball coach in front of his players during a concluding huddle. The Soccer coach was upset that they were hitting balls into the outfield while they were having soccer practice and had the rights to the field until 7:00 p.m. The following day Ms. Gamble called City of Orofino and after a lengthy conversation with Janet, who answered all of her questions, decided it was best to bring this issue to the Mayor and Council Members. Ms. Gamble does not think it’s right for one program to monopolize all of the days through the summer and not allow other programs to use the baseball field. Councilmembers Dunaway and Isbelle commented unless no one else put in for the reservation and is quite familiar with the park schedule and how hard it was to vie for time for practices. After the High School baseball field was completed Orofino Babe Ruth was able to utilize that field after High School baseball was done for the year. There is an indoor batting facility at the High School that was built by many community donors with their own dollars that is opened to the area Ball Teams. All Orofino Youth Baseball programs had a unified schedule to submit to the City for park reservation when there was so many teams and not enough fields. Clerk Montambo attested she sends out a letter to the Orofino Youth Baseball and Orofino Youth Soccer with a park calendar the middle of January. The deadline to submit their dates was the middle of February. It was noted Orofino Babe Ruth had vacated the Orofino Park baseball field five years prior. No one had called to ask for park reservations until after the park schedule was concluded. Councilmember Dunaway and Councilmember Isbelle remembers when participating with the Baseball program they all had to work it out amongst each team. Councilmember Dunaway referred Ms. Gamble to Scotty Tondevold to get more time or go to the High School and ask for field time up there. Ms. Gamble would like to make suggestions to the Council on the way the schedule is currently put together. Councilmembers all agreed to refer this to a Work Session. The next Work Session is in May but there was already an agenda set up to meet in the park for Sand Volleyball courts. The Work Session in June will be scheduled and the Park Schedule will be on the agenda for further discussion.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS
Administrator-Administrator Smathers reported he received a complaint regarding the basketball courts were blocked off with bleachers. Building Official Perry went there to investigate and was told by the Tennis Coach that she had permission from Ryan Smathers to place the bleachers there whenever they have a High School Tennis Match. Smathers replied that he never did say that, in fact he told the Tennis Coach the basketball court is a public facility and owned by the city and they did not have the right to block it off to the public who wants to use the basketball courts. They were able to compromise and allow the bleachers to be moved off until 4pm where they put the bleachers back in place. Smathers attended a meeting with the High School Athletic Director, Principal and Tennis Coach and said that went very well and it is understood that they will not place the bleachers on the basketball court unless they have permission. So with that being said,

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Smathers was asking for the High School Tennis Team to place the bleachers on the basketball courts on May 4, 2021 beginning 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for their last Tennis Match. Smathers indicated it was their Senior Night. Councilmember’s all voiced they will agree to this one request for the bleachers to be placed on the basketball courts for the Senior Night Tennis Match.

Treasurer-Treasurer Wilson submitted the Clearwater County Tax Recap Report ending April 2021. Treasurer Wilson reported Ziply Fiber installed the line to City Hall for internet service but was told that in order to get a static IP address, Wilson needed to contact Dominic Ponozzo with Compunet to finish setting up the service for internet. Compunet came in and did a site specific quote for City Hall and the quote was in the amount of $8,300 for installation and equipment that will be needed to get the internet into the building.

Building Official-Building Official Perry reported FEMA Surveyor’s will be in Clearwater County May-September to survey Orofino Creek. The surveyor will be in the city right-of-way and creek to survey. In other news, Perry reported the Mail box was still in the same place. After numerous phone calls, Administrator Smathers received a phone call from an Attorney that represents this Post Office. Smathers had relayed to him the mail box was in a wrong place at a busy intersection where the school was across from it and mounted in the middle of the sidewalk, where a pedestrian or wheel-chair would have to step off the sidewalk into the street to get around it. The Attorney will set up a meeting with USPS Staff and City Staff to determine another location to place the mailbox.

Public Works-Public Works Supervisor Miller reported the damaged sewer line is fixed behind IOOF Hall and Murray’s Shoe Store. Ziply Fiber damaged it when they bored in the alley to install the internet fiber. Public Works crew is busy doing locates, weed eating, sprinkler systems up and running and spraying weeds. Miller commented he is working on a list of what streets need to be done this year, but they are over budget.

Police-Police Chief Wilson reported this year he will be attending in person in Boise with the Idaho Highway Safety Board on May 13, 2021 and the Idaho Chiefs Conference is set to meet in person in August. In other news Wilson reported he was told about a 3.5 million Coronavirus Grant that agencies can apply for. The grant if awarded will go towards the police department’s new updated system for badging doors, camera’s and recorders. It was noted, Mitch Jared Construction will begin construction late next week on the Medical Park Building.

Water/Wastewater-Water/Wastewater Supervisor Martin reported the chemical washing on the membrane is working. Martin commented they are swapping out spare parts at the water plant.

Fire-Fire Chief Hoyt reported he received parts and equipment that was donated from CPTPA and Department of Lands for the Fire Department to equip the new Brush Truck when it arrives. Hoyt commented this past Sunday the Fire Department responded to two wild life fires and on Monday two structure fires. Hoyt announced the National Fire Academy this past week-end went well.
ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30 p.m., Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to adjourn. Councilmember’s Schrader and Tilley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Sean Simmons, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janet R. Montambo, City Clerk

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