MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 5/23/2023

Mayor Sean Simmons
6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Staff: Administrator-Ryan Smathers, Clerk Treasurer-Donna Wilson, Building Official Todd Perry, Water/Wastewater Supervisor-Michael Martin, Police Chief-Vincent Frazier and Fire Chief-Bart Jones


Media: Elizabeth Morgan and Nancy Butler

Absent: Public Works Supervisor-Shane Miller

MINUTES

Councilmember Schrader made a MOTION to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written held on May 9, 2023. Councilmember Swayne seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

A copy of the Regular Planning and Zoning of Orofino Meeting Minutes held May 16, 2023 was submitted to the Council for review and information only.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Councilmember Donner made a MOTION to approve the regular bills, the additional bills and the payroll dated May 20, 2023. Councilmember Schrader seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

PETITIONS, APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Susan Jacobson, CCED Director – Evening Farmer’s Market Street Closure Request – Director Jacobson requested to amend the time from 4:00-7:00 pm to 2:30-8:30 pm to allow for set up and City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 5/23/2023
tear down. This will also allow for Public Works to put up barricades, for the Police Department to do what they need to get signs out and the vendors to set up and tear down. Director Jacobson provided the council with a copy of a petition that went around to all the businesses. She spoke with each one of them. The businesses stated they would put up signage to inform their customers of the street closures for the Farmer’s Market. It will take some time and education for the patrons for a closure of the streets on the third Thursday of the month. Director Jacobson stated that she would hope the newspaper can help get the word out. Councilmember Donner inquired if this would be just for the summer? Director Jacobson stated that it would run from June through September at this point with a possibility of going in to October. Councilmember Dunaway stated that she is very much for it, but it concerned with parking. Director Jacobson stated that the Farmer’s Market could make up some flyers to alert the public, do their own press release. They are also getting very active on their social media channels. These pieces should not fall on the shoulder for the city to make sure that the public is informed of the Farmer’s Market. Director Jacobson stated that after each event, she can go to the businesses and get feedback on the market if they had any concerns or there was support. This will help if the City will need to re-evaluate. Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to close Johnson Avenue from College Avenue to First Street from 2:30-8:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month to hold an evening Farmer’s Market, with a review after each month from Director Jacobson. Councilmember Tilley seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

Susan Jacobson, CCED Director – Downtown Entertainment District – Draft Ordinance – Director Jacobson reported that the information provided was an example of another communities’ ordinance and how they’ve addressed it. Looking at that section, they called out a larger footprint than maybe exactly where the festivals would be so that they can address all of the other issues; parking, beer and wine options and the applications that come with it. It creates rules around the potential of festivals in the downtown entertainment area. It also makes a possibility to be eligible for some of the other grant funding because of the developed district.

Krista Baker – CEDA – DIGB2 Grant Application – Krista stated she wanted to come out to talk to the council about a capital projects fund grant application that called DIGB. DIGB2 stands for District Two Interoperability Governance Board. It is the 911 services. The local emergency services, and Idaho County have partnered together and they are with Idaho County as the sponsor submitting a grant application for North Central Idaho. It is a middle mile and last mile broadband grant application. The grant application is due June 20th. Everything is pretty much in place. They have received all of the permissions to start applying for the grant. So far they have Idaho County, Lewis County, Utah County, Nez Perce County, Clearwater County, the City of Greenville, the City of Nez Perce, and the City of Orlando is in progress. Airbridge Broadband, First Step Internet Inland Cellular, the Port of Lewiston and Idaho Regional Optical Network. When they talk about middle mile; the middle mile is the big highway that runs down and provides internet service as the big highway. Th last mile is the little roads that branch off out of there and provide last mile to the homes and businesses. This is mostly a middle mile grant application. The area for this grant is Orofino to Nez Perce and then Nez Perce down to Grangeville. There is already middle mile fiber that runs from Orofino to Moscow. There was a recently awarded project that’s going to take middle mile from Greenville down to Stark, Idaho. This piece will connect that highway and
make it so that there is middle mile fiber from Moscow all the way down to southern Idaho. Right now, all of the internet traffic runs through either Seattle or Portland and it takes the money with it. Internet service providers have to pay rent at the places where the internet traffic goes. This means Idaho money is leaving and it is going to Seattle and Portland; it is going outside of Idaho. This will also help the economy throughout the entire state. It will provide a redundant loop, so when there are internet fiber cuts, there is a backup. Krista stated the reason DIGB is so passionate about this project is because there are 911 issues. When fiber gets cut, people lose connectivity and cannot call 911. The match commitment with Idaho County is committed for $500,000, Latah County is committed for a million, Lewis County is committed for $250,000, Nez Perce County is committed for a million, City of Grangeville is committed for $66,793 and the City of Nez Perce is committed for $1,500. This does have a last mile component. The City of Nez Perce as getting fiber to the home connected specifically to the home. Unfortunately, the City of Orofino is unable to receive grant funding this round because there was grant funding provided already before. The full engineering and construction estimate is estimated at $10,820,801. The match commitments total $2,816,793 for about 26% match. At this point they are requesting a letter of support from the City of Orofino. Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to give a letter of support for the DIGB2 grant application. Councilmember Schrader seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

Sal Lauria - Flooding on Brown Ave – Sal provided videos to the council from three weeks prior to the council meeting, but was not able to get a video of the more recent rain storm that was much worse. The video shows flooding of the streets from 421 Brown Avenue down to the library. Sal stated that there is so much pavement that makes the center of the road high and with not much gutter, the water just runs right over and floods their driveway. Previously when a water main had broken, they were having to get sandbags. That water main break had flooded the apartments next door. The recent rain storm has flooded the apartments again. Mayor Simmons inquired if the concrete in Sal’s driveway was new? Sal stated that it was new that he had poured. They had also replaced part of the sidewalk. Sal stated that he is afraid that if he builds his up, the water will go down and flood the neighbor’s backyard and he does not want to be liable for that, but on the other hand he doesn’t want to flood. It is taking all the dirt, sand and gravel out of the driveway and putting it against his back shed. Sal stated that he has spoken with Public Works Supervisor Miller about this. Stated that one more pavement job there would not be any more curb there. He had asked Miller about grinding, but was told that it wasn’t in the budget. Administrator Smathers stated he had a conversation with Public Works Supervisor Miller and he agrees that before any new paving happens it will need to be roto milled and get some curbs back. There are some issues about a block up as well. The last time Brown had been paid was approximately 12 years ago. Councilmember Dunaway stated that further discussion will need to be had with Public Works Supervisor Miller after some research is done.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Administrator - Administrator Smathers reported that CCED Director Jacobson and him will be working on the close out of the bike park grant. He recognized Cody Stanton, Eyler White and any other addition people for all of the hard work that they did to the bike park. It is their vision
and design that has made it what it is. It is almost complete. They had run out of dirt, but more had been hauled in for them for the lower section. Smathers reported that the Downtown Revitalization Grant is coming along. Department of Commerce will be coming next week to walk the downtown area and see some of the challenges. There is a bid opening on May 24th for the crosswalk project at the Elementary School, Dunlap Road and Swayne Lane. The Champion Park Bathroom project plumbing and electrical has been done and the slab is coming. The bathroom is due to be delivered the week of June 12th. Everything is stubbed out to their specs. They will come in with the pre-built bathroom, the crane and set it in place. Councilmember Gladhart inquired about the wall and the basketball hoops. Smathers stated that they will hopefully make contact with Josh. There is another portion of concrete that needs done. It is ADA parking pad in concrete and then a ramp up to that sidewalk. That has to have a cultural oversight, an archaeologist on site when they dig it. Trying to coordinate that now. There has been some other challenges with the tennis court portion of it with the fencing. The fencing company that gave the quote that was approved in the grant has changed hands so they want a chance to requote it. There have been some changes with Avista on their portion of it for burying the lines and new lighting. That grant doesn't end until the end of 2024; there is still time to get it all completed. Water/Wastewater Supervisor Martin stated he would have the bracket and poles up by the end of the week, but wasn't sure on the fence stretching. They will be building brackets to bolt on the wall to be able to put the fence back up. Councilmember Donner inquired about the sidewalk at the Police Department? Building Official Perry stated that he has a meeting with a contractor to finalize some details. They will pour the first section from the corner of the building up. Perry stated they are going to break the project in to thirds. The straight section on Bartlett, the radius corner and then the straight section on Michigan. Perry will let Felipe with ABBA Construction know that he can start. Perry stated that it had been really hard getting contractors lined up to do the work.

Clerk Treasurer-Clerk Treasurer Wilson reported that UB/Deputy Clerk Spencer was going to report on the CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) training that she went to in Boise. Spencer stated that it was a wonderful training, it was very positive and she had a lot she wanted to share with the council. Spencer did provide a sheet with some of the information and will speak about it more at the next council meeting.

Building Official-Building Official Perry reported May 10, he published a notice in the paper notifying all property owners to clear their property of rank vegetation and noxious weeds. Properties remaining in violation of that notice 10 days after publication will receive a letter to comply with those additional 10 days were up on Sunday May 21st. He will start sending out some letters Wednesday May 24th and Thursday May 25th. He has compiled a list and most of the people on his list are the same people from the last couple of years. Councilmember Donner inquired what the Roary Club is building on Railroad Road. Perry stated that they are building a covered area for batting cages over at the VFW fields. Lonnie Simpson has a number of items for batting cages and is donating it.

Public Works-Public Works Supervisor Miller was not in attendance. Administrator Smathers reported something that happened after the last council meeting. Iron Horse, the contractors for City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 5/23/2023
the CIPP project were still here. They were working on the sewer and it has backed up in to Avista's shop. They called Shane during the council meeting. According to Michael Knight with Avista, Shane had went up after the council meeting to help them clean up till almost 10:00 p.m. that night since the city had caused it. Michael Knight was super complimentary of him coming up. It solved a potential claim.

Police-Police Chief Frazier reported for the month of May this year to date they have had 152 calls for service generating approximately 52 cases for his officers to work. They haven't finished the month yet. This same time 2022 they had 131 calls for service with only 30 cases. They are staying busy. Chief stated that he turned in his budget to Clerk Treasurer Wilson. That will be presented to council later. He has been working with Fire Chief Jones they had a phone conversation with the public surplus. They did get a vehicle lined out and the first vehicle should be on their website before the end of the week. It looks like it is pretty self-explanatory how it goes. He has another meeting at 9:00 a.m. May 24th with the main vendor to get the rescue truck, the first one for the Fire Department on there to make sure we know how it works. His goal is continue to submit as there is surplus to the council and then we can slowly put things on there. It seems pretty self-explanatory; plus has been working well for the county as well. The website is called Public Surplus. Chief Frazier reported that the range has been excavated and got some gravel down, but more is needed. They did find a little bit of water that they will need to figure out some drainage. It is moving right along. Chief has met with the Prison and they looked at it. They had some ideas as well with some good input. As it progresses they are willing to supply some hand labor if needed. Water/Wastewater Supervisor Martin did mention that Jimmy Thornton, his own time built, built to Sasquatch and made an address sign for this place and somebody has stolen the name off of it already. If anyone sees somebody who has something that says Pew Pew Lane on it. It was stolen from there. Chief Frazier stated that the shooting range is progressing nicely. It will be well utilized by the officers. It gives an option for the county as well to be able to shoot their long rifles farther than 50 yards. Councilmember Tilley stated that he had someone come in to his office that lives up in the Konkolville area and they were complaining about the logging trucks going through early in the morning with their loud breaks fairly consistently. Chief Frazier stated that he would see what they could do, but the City of Orofino does not have an ordinance to deal with air brakes or jake brakes. On the same token, they use those for a reason. They may be getting on them when they shouldn't have, but that extra breaks make a difference. If the council wants to put an ordinance in effect about jake brakes or air brakes within the city limits, then the Police Department will gladly enforce that, but currently they do not have something to enforce that at this point.

Water/Wastewater-Water/Wastewater Supervisor Martin reported they are excited to get a vendor down within the next week to fire up the ultraviolet disinfection system that should significantly impact the cost of chemicals at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Fire - Chief Jones reported the Konkolville month of May they have had five fire calls and seven rescue calls so far. They are gearing up for wildland season and they are doing the wildland training. They have done the pack tests. Chief stated that there were nine firefighters that passed the arduous pack test and six passed the walk test. Chief reported that he spoke with the Assistant City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 5/23/2023
Chief in Boise and have been looking at different ways to obtain the SCBAs. SCBAs are a necessity. They ones that they currently have are old and out of compliance. The Boise Assistant Chief is going to talk to his city council to see about donating their surplus SCBAs to the department and he didn't see that it would be a problem. Their old ones are still certifiable and have a lot of life left in them. A set of SCBAs consist of a pack, mask and two bottles which average approximately $9000 to $10,000. The city’s department need 32 to 40 updated SCBAs. The department did put in for a grant a couple of years ago and they were denied, but did put in for it again. The relationship with the Boise Fire Department doesn’t just benefit Orofino, but it will benefit all the other rural districts that are looking at the same issues of a lack of funding to buy the SCBAs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Erbst inquired about the protective sleeve for around the new tree that has been planted? Building Official Perry will work on getting that taken care of. John asked of Police Chief Frazier if there was a law about people having little kids riding in the back of a pickup? Chief Frazier stated, Yes there is. John stated that he is seeing that and kids late at night, riding around on their bicycles. They are all over the place with no lights or anything running through traffic. John inquired if the side by sides have the same speed and everybody else? Chief Frazier stated that if they are being operated on the city streets, yes they have to obey the speed limits. Chief stated that the officers are running traffic and they are going to stop a sized by side just like they would any other vehicle. He will have them make an extra effort to watch them as well. Sal Lauria inquired if bicycles have to abide by the same traffic laws as well? Chief stated that yes and no, there are certain laws the bicycles don't have to abide by like, for example, they don't have to actually stop at a stop sign. They have to slow and they have to stop if there's traffic coming, but they're able to yield and continue on. If there is nothing there disrupting their way of travel. There are some provisions that the bikes get to slide on a few normal traffic laws. Because nobody wants to put their foot down.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Simmons stated that he went down on Saturday and hung out for about five hours at the music festival that was in the park. They put a lot of time and effort into it. It was a decent turnout, but there could have been more people they raised almost $1,500 for a nonprofit called Source of Strength that is mental awareness for suicide and things like that for teens and different things. So it was a very good thing put on by Mrs. Craig, at Orofino High School. It was a senior project they had a lot of help from Terry Nelson and some others. They went around the community and received a lot of donations from the businesses here in town. It was pretty cool to see the time and effort they put into it and everybody that supported it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

City of Orofino Regular Council Meeting held 5/23/2023
At 7:12 p.m., Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to move into executive session after a five minute break pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 subsection 1 (a) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general. Councilmember Tilley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

At 8:24 p.m., Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to return to regular session. Councilmember Tilley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:24 p.m., Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to adjourn. Councilmember Tilley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Sean Simmons, Mayor
Donna M Wilson, City Clerk Treasurer