



**CITY OF KETCHUM**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL**  
Monday, June 28, 2021

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**CALL TO ORDER:** *(00:12:58 in video)*

Mayor Bradshaw called the special meeting of Ketchum City Council to order at 9:09 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

Mayor Neil Bradshaw

Courtney Hamilton

Amanda Breen

Michael David

Jim Slanetz *(joined meeting at 11:00 a.m.)*

**Also Present:**

Jade Riley – City Administrator

Ali Swindley – Administrative Assistant

Lisa Enourato – Public Affairs & Administrative Services Manager

Shellie Rubel – City Treasurer

Tara Fenwick – City Clerk & Administrative Business Manager

Suzanne Frick – Director of Planning & Building

Bill McLaughlin – Ketchum Fire Department Chief

Jamie Shaw – Chief of Police

Will Fruehling – Assistant Sheriff

John Kearney - Recreation Director

Brian Christiansen - Streets Superintendent

Juerg Stauffacher – Parks and Natural Resources Supervisor

Pat Cooley – Water Services Supervisor

Mick Mummert – Wastewater Division Supervisor

Wally Morgus – Mountain Rides Transportation Authority Executive Director

Nathan Harvill – Blaine County Housing Authority Executive Director

Harry Griffith – Sun Valley Economic Development Executive Director

Carol Cole – Idaho Dark Sky Alliance President

Stephanie Eisenbarth – Friends of Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center Executive Director

Scott Fortner - Visit Sun Valley Executive Director

**CONSENT AGENDA:** (00:13:31 in video)

**Motion to approve consent agenda items 1, 2.**

**Motion made by Councilor, Courtney Hamilton. seconded by Councilor Amanda Breen  
All in Favor.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** (00:13:50 in video)

Budget Workshop facilitated by Jade Riley, City Administrator:

- a. FY21 and FY22 Overview
- b. Department Presentations
- c. Contractual Partner Presentations
- d. ACTION ITEM: Feedback from Council and preliminary motions

**Department Summaries / Council Questions:**

Fire and Rescue

- Salary increases recommendation / focuses on narrowing the differences with neighboring cities
- Staffing to replace planned retirements / talent acquisition / training / issues with housing

Planning and Building Department

- Work demands have increased significantly / staffing and salary increases recommendation
- Partnership with Historic Preservation will address 26 identified historic sites
- Permitting process will be addressed / creating design guidelines for downtown

Police

- Staffing and salary increases recommendation / focuses on narrowing the differences with neighboring Cities
  - Confirmation given to Council inquiry on staffing need / current coverage is lean, officer stress high, quality of service is not to preferred standard and single coverage safety is a concern
- Housing stipend to narrowing the compensation differences with neighboring cities
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council to approve their support for a county initiative to broaden a program like the City of Sun Valley has been providing - housing stipend to those that qualify
  - Jade Riley, City Administrator recommended Council have a discussion on program fairness for all City employees
- Technical equipment upgrades needed / vehicles and communication systems

## Recreation

- Salary increases discussion will positively impact the / challenge to run summer programs without part-time / seasonal staff
- Christina Potters Ice-Rink / Celebrating Pickleball / Youth Leadership Program

## Streets

- Asset management program to increase tracking inventory /service effectiveness of equipment
- Staffing request to move employee part-time to full-time / employee retention challenging per career advancement opportunities / affordable housing

## Facilities

- Travel, training, and professional services increases (*flowers / snow removal*)
- Salary increases recommendation / hiring and retention challenges

## Water

- Standard increase to avoid fund balance usage
- Request to comment on tiered system for water use
  - Continue use of 3 tiered system
  - Recommends further tiering to allow lower users lower rates / higher users higher rates
- Recommends a closer look at employee retention / encouragement to better understand staff turn-over and loss of talent to other opportunities / pay increases / affordable housing

## Wastewater

- New truck to be purchased / shared with Sun Valley Water and Sewer District
- Biosolid disposal is focusing on larger composting program at Ohio Gulch / partnering with all in the Valley to accomplish improvements
- Salary increases recommendation / hiring and retention challenges

## Mountain Rides

- Improving fleet to support 'green' strategies and reducing emissions / maintaining 'free' transportation because of obtaining grant funding / launching non-emergency transportation services between the Valley and Twin Falls, ID.
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council that CARES funding will be used over a five-year period
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council that the recent Ketchum trial red route will not be implemented

## Blaine County Housing Authority

- Increases to allow for additional programming (*ex. cost of moving from one location to another, first/last month rent, time-off work to make the move*), additional funding will

be channeled toward (*ex. buying down rent / providing direct serve to ensure resident retention, contingency living plans for residents when renovating existing facilities*)

- Increase advocating for community housing needs / website services
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council that Federal programs are not included in the data
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council that BCHA does provide Spanish / translation services
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council that BCHA does investigate enforce every anonymously reported violation for the programs they provide
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council on LiftTower / BCHA reported that local workers are filling this facility w/large waiting list
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council on lack of time / resources to effectively liaison with other mountain towns / unique tourist communities

#### Sun Valley Economic Development

- Sun Valley Culinary Institute / launch of professional program
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council that 10 is the max student class load
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council that membership is at 85 with loss of funding support post Covid / did receive cares funding to augment significant budget constraints
- Facility improvement / developing a food laboratory
- Continues to be action oriented on creating advocacy on workforce housing
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council on level of service for internet capabilities for remote workforces / paid services are available / Ketchum not eligible for Federal funds to improve services (*no need*)

#### Idaho Dark Sky Alliance

- Established in 2017 / created partnership with larger Wood River Communities created in 2019
- 501c3 / Board established in 2021
- Focus is programming / outreach and community education / maintaining Dark Sky Reserve status
- Going forward focus is on creating invitations to tourists to observe the Dark Sky / establishing an Astronomer in residence

#### Friends of the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center

- Machinery / forecasts / weather report production (*\$4,000 per forecast*)
- Focus will be on website development / additional public beacon at the Hemingway Memorial
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council on increased funds request support website improvement, snowmobiles and a salary increase for 4 forecasters

## Visit Sun Valley

- Significant shift in operations with a focus on understanding the visitor journey with our New York Times recognized 'Mindfulness in the Mountains' campaign, which will evolve into a campaign called 'Stay Sunny'
- Focus will be on creating an ambassador program / housing stock survey / resident sentiment survey
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council on revenue gained by the short-term rentals
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council on how one-time / on-going funds will be spent
  - Confirmation made for the Ketchum Council on how the short-term rental study done in 2017 will be refreshed to allow for an up-to-date occupancy projection / historical data perspective (*tourist trends / short-term rental market availability / average daily rates*)

**Move to adopt the proposed budget as presented.**

**Motion made by Councilor, Michael David; seconded by Councilor, Courtney Hamilton.**

**All in Favor.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (03:42:40 in video)

a. Labor Negotiations [74-206-1a].

**Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 74-206(1)(f).**

**Motion made by Councilor, Courtney Hamilton; seconded by Councilor, Amanda Breen.**

**All in Favor.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to adjourned.**

**Motion made by Councilor, Courtney Hamilton; seconded by Councilor, Amanda Breen.**

**All in Favor.**

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Mayor, Neil Bradshaw

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City Clerk, Tara Fenwick