

## **Meridian City Council Work Session**

**February 28, 2023.**

A Meeting of the Meridian City Council was called to order at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 28, 2023, by Mayor Robert Simison.

Members Present: Robert Simison, Brad Hoaglund, Luke Cavener, Jessica Perreault, Liz Strader and John Overton.

Members Absent: Joe Borton.

Also present: Chris Johnson, Bill Nary, Steve Siddoway, Garrett White, Daniel Torres, Brian Harper and Dean Willis.

### **ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liz Strader	<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Borton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Hoaglund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Overton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Perreault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luke Cavener (5:09 p.m.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor Robert E. Simison	

Hoaglund: All right. I will call the City Council work session to order. For the record today is Tuesday, February 28th, 2023, at 4:32 p.m. Our first item of business will be roll call attendance. Mr. Clerk.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Hoaglund: Our next item is adoption of the agenda.

Strader: Mr. President?

Hoaglund: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: I move that we pull off Item No. 8 --

Hoaglund: We will do adoption of the agenda and, then, Consent Agenda.

Strader: I move that we adopt the agenda.

Perreault: Second.

Hoaglund: I have a motion and a second to adopt the agenda as published. All those in favor, please, say aye. Any nays? We have adopted the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED: FOUR AYES. TWO ABSENT.

### **CONSENT AGENDA [Action Item]**

- 1. Approve Minutes of the February 14, 2023 City Council Work Session**
- 2. Approve Minutes of the February 14, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting**
- 3. Apex Northwest Subdivision No. 3 Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Easement No. 2**
- 4. McClure Dental Lab Water Main Easement No. 1**
- 5. Nine Mile Creek Bungalows Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Easement No. 1**
- 6. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision and Order for Denial for U-Haul Franklin (CR-2022-0008) by Hillside Architecture, PLLC. located at 1030 W. Franklin Rd. on the north side of W. Franklin Rd. halfway between N. Linder Rd. and N. Meridian Rd.**
- 7. Agreement Between the City of Meridian and the City of Boise for Participation in Watershed-Based Mercury Fish Tissue Monitoring Program**
- 9. Approval of Task Order 10038.d to Consor North America, Inc. for the CAN ADA Lift Station & Gravity Line – Final Design project for the Not-To-Exceed amount of \$837,379.00**
- 10. Award of RFP and Approval of Agreement for the Design-Build Services for Conduit & Fiber Installation for the Fire Safety Center project to Fatbeam, LLC for the Not-To-Exceed amount of \$60,720.00**
- 11. Award of RFP and Approval of Agreement for the Design-Build Services for Conduit & Fiber Installation for the Lakeview Golf Course project to Fatbeam, LLC for the Not-To-Exceed amount of \$105,000.00**
- 12. Resolution No. 23-2376: A Resolution of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Meridian Establishing the Reappointment of Charlie Rountree to Seat 3 of the Meridian Board of Adjustment; and Providing an Effective Date**
- 13. City of Meridian January 2023 Financial Report**

Hoaglun: Now up is Consent Agenda.

Strader: Mr. President?

Hoaglund: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: I move that we move Item 8 off the Consent Agenda for discussion tonight.

Hoaglund: We will move Item 8 off the Consent Agenda. So, for the remainder of the Consent Agenda what's your pleasure?

Strader: I move that we approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda, except for Item 8. For the President to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Perreault: Second.

Hoaglund: We have a motion and a second to approve the Consent Agenda with Item 8 removed. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Any opposed? And the Consent Agenda is approved.

MOTION CARRIED: FOUR AYES. TWO ABSENT.

#### **ITEMS MOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA [Action Item]**

**8. First Amendment to the October 18, 2022 Subrecipient Agreement Between City of Meridian and Jesse Tree of Idaho, Inc. for Emergency Housing Assistance Grant Funds**

Hoaglund: Next up is the item moved from Consent Agenda, Item 8. This is a subrecipient agreement between the City of Meridian and Jesse Tree of Idaho for Emergency Housing Assistance grant funds. It is an amendment to the current agreement. So, Mr. Nary, if you could give us some information, please.

Nary: Yes. Mr. President, Members of the Council. So, the Jesse Tree agreement that the person had inquired about is already in place, has been in existence since October. This was discussed last year during the budget process. You may recall the director of Jesse Tree, Ali Rabe, came and spoke to you. The money isn't being allocated out of ARPA funds. So, that's the American Rescue Plan Act. And so those funds are a different set of funding than some of the things that the person that wrote the e-mail had concerns about. One was whether or not it conflicts with Section 8 funding and Section 8 housing. It does not. So, intentionally, it's an allowed use to have another additional source -- and, in fact, in the agreement with Jesse Tree they are directed to go look for additional sources, so that all of the funding for rental assistance doesn't come just from the ARPA funds that they are being provided. The only purpose of this addendum was simply to allow a larger draw on the account versus a smaller one, so they didn't have multiple reasons to have to come back for multiple changes for that if -- if the amount was over 5,000 -- I think was the original one -- they could do -- they could do more. So, that was the only intent of why we are here. This isn't to change the agreement. The agreement is already in place. So, I can answer some of the questions that were raised of concern. One was, again, this -- does this conflict with Section 8. It does not.

The -- the ability to use these funds in addition to other sources of -- of rental assistance out there in the community, whether it be at the federal level or the state level. is allowed and actually encouraged to be done. The question was asked about whether or not these funds are being used to pay legal expenses on evictions and the answer is no. Jesse Tree doesn't do that. They only provide the rental assistance to hopefully get people out of the eviction arena, but not the legal service cost that goes with it, if there is one. They do not pay for that. That's what legal aid does. That's -- there is another source out there for that type of assistance, but the Jesse Tree does not. There was a concern about the -- the housing first is an approach to assisting people that -- that we are concerned that it's a low barrier for housing first shelters. Again, it's encouraged to try to get people out of homelessness and houselessness into some type of other means. So, that is the intent of the program that we all -- that the city agreed to when we entered into an agreement with Jesse Tree. The -- it says -- oh. The concern was is that the -- that it wasn't clear to the person asking that the funds could only be used for people that reside in Meridian. It's specifically stated in the agreement that it is only for people that reside in Meridian. So, that is a requirement of that. So, they do have to show that as Jesse Tree draws on these funds that where the money is going. The concern was that there was -- again there was concern about double dipping. Again, it's not double dipping. It's encouraged to find as many resources as possible to assist people to get out of this situation. That's the whole intent of this program, along with Section 8, along with other programs that are provided. So, that was the intent. Also there was a -- a desire for a cap by this person. Again, the Council discussed that and the intent was we want to move the cap, so that way it can be much more assistance -- a little bit more nimble and be able to be more fluid. So, that was the intent of it. I think that pretty much is most of the concerns that are raised. Again, it was concerning that it was being used for -- for legal assistance. It's not. A concern primarily that it's being used in conjunction with other funds. That's the intent, yes. It is supposed to be used with other funds. The concern was that it was being used to create this lower barrier for people to access it. Yes, that was the intention is to try to get people out of this situation. So, all of that was discussed. That's all within the existing agreement that we have. This addendum doesn't change any of that. All it does is change the cap limits. Again, it still has to get monitored. It still has to get reported. The city does have its eye on it as well. So, it isn't something that isn't being done without the city's participation and knowledge. I can answer any other questions if you have any.

Hoaglund: Thank you, Mr. Nary. Any further questions or comments?

Strader: Mr. President?

Hoaglund: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: Just a couple comments and, then, I will make a motion. So, I think to summarize like -- so, key takeaways for the individual who reached out to us about the agreement. The agreement is already in place. It keeps the existing services that Jesse Tree provides the city in place. That was done at the time of the agreement. I mean it's not meant for the purpose of tenants avoiding an eviction for other reasons,

other than financial. and so I think that's important. You know, I have been a multi-family housing owner myself in the past and I understand there are a lot of reasons that tenants could be evicted from their apartment, you know, lawful reasons. This -- this grant and this agreement is not meant to address any of those concerns. It is simply meant to address financial need within the City of Meridian and specifically the agreement is in place -- the subrecipient agreement is not -- is just an amendment to that agreement. So, again, it's the contract we have in place. It was previously approved. Hopefully this answer from legal answered your questions, but I think, Mr. President, if Mr. Nary wouldn't mind following up with that individual in writing, just so that they have those answers in more detail in an e-mail.

Nary: Yes.

Strader: I think that would be appropriate, because it's kind of hard to take away from a five minute discussion all the legal nuances there. Anyway, with that in mind, unless there are other questions -- oh. Okay. I will yield, then, to Council Woman --

Hoaglun: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: Thank you, Mr. President. So, just wanting to understand the request from Jesse Tree to increase the amount that -- that can be invoiced at any one time. Can you give a little more information on -- were they running into challenges with just the timing of invoices and it's just sort of an administrative thing or can -- can you kind of help us understand why there was a request to go above 25,000 in any given time period for their invoices?

Hoaglun: Mr. Nary, you or Daniel.

Nary: I want to say I think Daniel Torres will be able to answer that particular question.

Hoaglun: Daniel Torres, welcome.

Torres: Thank you. It really is to speed up the process. So, when we set up the contract it was limited to 25,000 dollar draws and it was limited to reporting quarterly. Their first submittal was a total of 50,000 dollars and change and they had it split up between three different requests to make it fit within the 25,000 dollar cap. So, it was really just to make it easier for them to submit all at once and in some follow-up that we did with them we have better clarification of what the money is being used for. So, I feel like they have satisfied the reporting requirements and, again, it's just to make it easier to submit all at once.

Perreault: Mr. President?

Hoaglun: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: So, what they are invoicing the city for is service that's already been provided. It's not service that's going to be provided in the future. It's -- and they have -- they have connected that service with individual help --

Torres: Correct.

Perreault: -- to -- to Meridian families?

Torres: -- by individual.

Perreault: Okay.

Torres: It states the purpose and, again, they -- I should also point out that they started a month late in the time it took us to approve the contract. It was envisioned that the program would be 12 months, ending by I think September 30th of this year and they didn't get started until September -- until October of 2022. So, they started behind the gun.

Strader: Okay. Thank you.

Hoaglund: Thank you, Dan. Any other comments?

Strader: Mr. President?

Hoaglund: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: I move that we approve now Item 8, the first amendment to the October 18th, 2022, subrecipient agreement between the City of Meridian and Jesse Tree of Idaho for Emergency Housing Assistance grant funds.

Perreault: Mr. President, I second the motion.

Hoaglund: We have a motion and a second to move -- to approve Item No. 8. Is there any further discussion? If not, Mr. Clerk call the roll I think. We will go ahead call the roll.

Roll Call: Hoaglund, yea; Borton, absent; Cavener, absent; Perreault, yea; Strader, yea; Overton, yea.

Hoaglund: All ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION CARRIED: FOUR AYES. TWO ABSENT.

## **DEPARTMENT / COMMISSION REPORTS [Action Item]**

### **14. Meridian Pool Update and Fee Proposal**

Hoaglund: Okay. Next up Item 14. Garrett. Meridian Pool update and fee proposal. Go ahead and dive right in.

White: All right. Sounds good. Mr. President and Members of Council. thank you for having me today. I'm here to kind of give you an update on, obviously, the pool operations of 2022. So, last summer. There is three things I want to try to accomplish tonight if possible. First one being -- give you an overview of what happened last year. Second being kind of get your guys feedback on the private fee -- swim lesson -- or private swim lesson fee proposals that will be discussed tonight and, then, get your feedback on the proposed schedule and just kind of talk through some of that stuff. So, with that, like President Hoaglund said, we will dive right in. And, Chris, I think I can just control this by the arrows; right? Notice the ripple effect with the pool. So, try to get a little bit creative. So, to start off with some key dates that I listed here from last year. Two of them that aren't listed on here are the operations and maintenance agreement with WARD. So, WARD, just for reference for those who don't know, is the West Ada Recreation District. We signed that agreement -- or Council signed that agreement and discussion on mid February. We ended up hiring Willow Spurlock, our aquatics coordinator, middle of March and, then, really hit the ground running with getting the pool up and going. You can see that we opened swim lesson registration three weeks after hiring Willow, which was April 8th and, then, pool cover came off April 15th. The dewinterization process started April 18th and it's interesting when you take that pool cover off -- I mean the -- the pool -- since water is in it year around, it's pretty nasty. We get it up and running and going and that takes about a week -- a little over a week process to get it going. The first swim team tryout was May 7th. Lifeguards training and stuff like that May 9th. And I will back up a little bit from there. We actually start interviewing lifeguards now in mid February, March, so they know they have summer jobs and to really get those kids trained and ready to go. So, the first lifeguard training started May 9th and, then, opening day was June 6th. Now, opening day -- and as I get into some swim lesson stuff later, it kind of reflects on when school gets out and when school starts and those type of things. So, the West Ada School District schedule is something that we do take into consideration with some of these. Some of the impacts we had last year was contractor availability. We as -- you guys all know we had an inspection done prior to us taking over operations and maintenance of the pool and there were some things that really needed to get done, some critical items and other things. So, we got all the critical items taken care of prior to opening and opening day. And, then, some of the other items were done during season, which, yes, we would prefer to have it all done prior to season, but they weren't critical for the operations. So, we got those done during the season. Pool capacity. We started with a capacity of 221 and we increased it through the season. The big thing was -- was swim lessons. We offer swim lessons to over 1,100 kids; right? And that -- that's a big deal. And to kind of reference the school district calendar and how it fluctuates here, is we try to offer sessions, either four, five or six sessions a summer. Sessions are two weeks long. Basically swim lessons are -- there is eight days of 30 minute lessons, if that makes sense. A session is two weeks. We try to offer as many as we can. This year, based on our schedule, we are going to get five sessions of swim lessons in based on the current schedule. With that one thing that we are really excited about this year is we

want to open swim lessons up for the care enough to share program that we have. That's the scholarship program for those that may have struggled to get -- to afford swim lessons or other programs through our recreation department. So, in doing that with the care enough to share program, it's pre-qualification. So, we need to get information from them prior to them calling to register. So, once we get that stuff lined out they can register and -- over the phone or we will do in-person registrations for them as well. So, we are working strategically to let that happen. I can tell you the challenge is those swim lessons -- when once they are open on -- like last year on the 8th, they filled up within 30 minutes. I mean the demand for that is so fast to where it actually over our Rec One software -- scheduling software, registration software, it actually overloaded their server and we had some issues with that that day. So, we have to pre -- let them know, hey, we are going to have a big surge of registration. So, the demand for swim lessons was -- was incredibly high. So, we were able to service over 1,100 kids. So, that was an accomplishment. One thing that we implemented this year for the first time ever at the Meridian pool that we know of is a swim test. So, what that is is when kids get there for the public open swim they go through a quick swim test, which we put them in the water, they swim and go through -- there is some criteria that Willow, our aquatics coordinator, put together that allows them to go into different areas of the pool. For the big pool we split into three different areas. Obviously, we have a shallow end, kind of the middle shallow, four to five feet deep and, then, obviously, the deep end where the high dive and the low dive is. So, Willow put together that criteria. Her guards established that. Trained them. Got him to go through the -- the test and they went from over 60 plus jump-in rescues to six last year. So, that's a huge improvement. That's really kudos to Willow and putting those criteria for each one of those in there. Were there some backlash on it? Like I have always been able to go out to the deep end, this and that. Yes, a little bit. But once Willow or myself had to explain to some parents and/or some kids what it was and why they were doing it -- it's a safety thing really. It's a one hundred percent safety thing. And kudos to Willow again and her staff. Is if the kid couldn't get to the deep end they would say, hey, work on these things to get you to the deep end. So, they would give parents and/or kids just coaching techniques on what they can work on -- whether during the open swim in the shallow end or when -- if they do it at home or in their HOA pool. what have you. So, the program was very very successful. It started out -- I'm not going to say rough, but we had some tweaks throughout the season to make it better, more efficient throughout the season. So, it really turned out great. But from 60 plus to six, that's pretty good. That's literally one or more a day to one a week or less than a week. So, that -- that was a huge improvement. Staffing. Everybody knows the staffing criteria right now and the crunch that we are having right now; right? So, last year we were at -- we want 65 to 70 guards. That is our goal. That's what we want. That keeps us open seven days a week and that is our ultimate goal. That's what WARD had back in 2019 right before COVID; right? So, we want to get back up to those numbers. Last year we were able to hire 39 guards. Now, we probably had 42, 43 apply. We ended up hiring a lot of them. Some of them didn't work out. But we ultimately had 39 guards through the whole season last year and that is including Willow, because Willow is trained through all that stuff. Going to the next one. This I'm sure will get a lot of discussion, but in -- in short, this -- this kind of tells the story of where we want to get and this was WARD's



schedule. So, as you go with the more guards the more we offer; right? The goal is to get a swim lesson, public swim balance, the best that we can; right? If we had the 65 guards that -- that's -- we are open seven days a week, rock-n-roll with parties and open swim and public swim and swim lessons and all the above. As we grow -- last year in 2021, the far left of 35 to 45 guards, that was WARD's schedule. We took on that same schedule this last year with 39 guards. So, we kind of fit right in that range there; right? So, we did that. As we grow we did hear that, yeah, we want more public swim and, honestly, we do, too. We do want that. As we move on, the next goal right now is we hope to have 45 to 55 or more. But if we were to get to the 45 or 55 -- you can see right there in the green, the 7:30 to 9:30 public swim. We are just listening to feedback -- not only from -- from Council. but also from participants and people that are at the pool, from what I heard last year, is why can't we be open weekends? We would love to be open on weekends. And I would completely agree with you. We would want to be open weekends. So, in my mind I would work with Willow, based on staff and availability and we would have, I would want to at least talk about moving that evening public swim Monday through Friday to save those guard hours and open on a Saturday; right? If we can do that. That -- that's what we would want to do. So, at least giving that opportunity for public swim on a weekend when families do have stuff. Now, on weekends Saturday, Sundays, parents and other people do have other activities; right? Baseball. Basketball. Whatever it may be. Church groups. Whatever that we do on weekends. But we at least want to have that offering on a weekend. That is a goal that we want to have. So, this is kind of what WARD had set in place. We want to make some minor adjustments here and there, if we were -- if we have that opportunity regarding staff. So, please, keep that in mind as we -- we go through this and at the end I will answer some questions on this if there is any with this, so -- I hope that all makes sense there. Moving on to pool projects. See if I can keep up here with my notes. Oh. I should say -- going back to this -- and maybe I did say this, but we already have 30 applications turned in for guards, which is a really -- that -- I don't want to jinx anything, but that's a lot farther than we were last year at this time. So, it's -- it's promising and we are going to keep -- we are going to keep pushing for that. We are working on getting banners made. We are still working on social media blast and blitz. We are going to job fairs. I think we just got one back -- just got back -- or I say I. It was Willow and another staff went to those things. I should give them kudos and credit where it's due. But we are doing job fairs, social medias, we are doing mailers. We are hitting the schools again. And, then, we are going -- like I said, we are going to a -- BSU is hosting a -- a job fair shortly as well that we are going to be going to, so -- sorry if I skipped that over or duplicated that, but -- moving on to projects. So, these are the projects we finished. Some of these happened during season, like I had mentioned before, based on contractor availability and just the time crunch to get things done prior to the season. But all the critical items were done previous and done right before we opened the season. But you can kind of see here that the big UV systems, that was a big undertaking. We got that taken care of during the season. It was awesome. The ADA chairlift, that thing had been broke just since right before COVID and that was one of the things I said that has to be -- we have to get that done. So, that was one that I took on personally and got it done and it was done prior to the season opening. So, that was a really good thing. The pool slide, that we -- we did an examination of that slide before

and there is a double -- there is actually three slides in the big pool and one in the baby pool. The double slide, if you are familiar with the pool. One of them had some pretty good cracks in it to where if a kid went down there it wouldn't end well. It would -- it would -- it was some sharp edges there we will say. So, our park staff came to the rescue and helped us basically close it down, but they ordered a piece and that piece was 12 weeks out from once we realized it was broke. So, we went without one of the slides last year and, you know, it's fixed -- it's getting fixed this year. The part came in and our park staff is putting it in prior to us opening this year. So, that will be all done. The pool automation system -- this is something I highlighted here. This -- this is something that is really helpful to a certified pool operator. Last year I did get my certified pool operator re-cert. I was in a previous job a certified pool operator and got that and what that automation system does is if we are low on chemical, it e-mails me and also e-mails our contractor to where I know that here at City Hall my e-mail dings, it -- regardless if it's low or high or whatever it may be, I get e-mails at midnight and at noon and it lets me know what it is. It's tracking our -- what our chemical levels are and that I can tell you that last year that saved us from possibly being shut down for the next morning. I got an e-mail about 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon and our chemical level -- when I -- when I say chemical -- chlorine level was very low; right? It was still decent, but it was very low. So I had to run down there and I changed out chemical stuff and we got the chemical back up and running. If I didn't the next morning we get there to test the water for swim team at 5:30 in the morning in the chemical is low, we can't allow them get in and that just kind of snowballs, one, parents and participants are upset and you get the snowball as we go through and it affects swim lessons and all the way through the day. So, that really helped us in that sense. And that happened a couple of times, you know. So, having that e-mail presence it really allows us to stay open more and it also alerts our -- we have a maintenance agreement with Superior Pools, they get alerted as well. So, if it happens on a weekend or whatever, if I'm not checking them, I'm on vacation, there is always that backup that it gets checked. So, that was a really good upgrade for us. You can see here in the picture there -- if I zoomed in it got blurry, so you can see the corrosion and some of the leaks that it had on the chemical feeders from -- from the -- from the tanks into the -- the system. The corrosion there. So, we got all those replaced and redone. The secondary catch basins for chemical spillage, if there is any, that was there and those were replaced as well and, then, throughout the summer some of those big umbrellas we had to get repaired and replaced. So, that stuff all got taken care of throughout the season and during the season, if not before. So, moving on to the next one. This is something you guys are familiar with is it's the one meter dive. So, we ultimately had to make the decision to take that out last year. We struggled -- I struggled. We still had a high dive. We still had two of the slides operational, plus the kitty pool slide, but everybody wants a one meter dive, too. And I say one meter, it's the low dive. Three meter is the high dive, just for reference there. So, you can see the base, what it looked like. We deemed that not safe, so we had to pull it out. I thought that was going to be our biggest complaint, concern and issue all year and, honestly, I didn't get one person ask me about it and, then, same with Willow on site every day, not one person asked about it to my understanding. So, kind of out of sight, out of mind, you know. We will see. But that is scheduled to be installed within the next month, hopefully, again, pending contractor availability. But the goal is to get

out there this next month in March and get it installed and done and, realistically, per their contract the contractor has until May 1st to get it installed. So, March, April it should be installed. And that -- and, then, the rim around the pool it was chipped and painted five -- probably five different colors all around the pool. So, we are getting that dressed up and cleaned and repainted this -- this April as well when the pool cover comes off, because the pool cover currently covers that so you can't see it. So, with that I kind of wanted to quickly touch base on some key dates for this year, 2023. So, pending we -- we get all these possible or proposed swim lesson fees approved -- or not necessarily approved tonight, but kind of get a head shake of where we are at, we will post them and come back to you here in -- in the month of March to get them approved and we want to open swim registrations or swim lessons up April 7th. The pool cover comes off April 13th, April 14th. Dewinterization starts the 17th. Very similar schedule to last year. With that opening day right now is scheduled for June 5th. Here I kind of posted the positions that are available right now. That's what we want. We want 65 plus guards. When I say lifeguards, those are also swim instructors. Guards and swim instructors are kind of one and the same. So, we train all of our lifeguards to become instructors as well. So -- and that's to teach some lessons. With that move on to the next one. This is one of the things I wanted to talk about. So, pool fees. Just day open swim just for public swim, drop in use, it's two, three or four bucks is kind of where we are at. I can tell you that those fees are very similar to what our neighbors are. Boise and Nampa. That's right in the ballpark with those. The season pass, the family pass is 160 and that's for a family of four. You can see in red there is the new proposed fee. It's just an individual fee and all we -- to come up with that number we divided 160 by four; right? Simple math there. So, we got the 40 dollars. The swim lesson fees, the group lesson 45 dollars per kid. Private lesson is a hundred. Semi-private with twins -- that's where a lot of the twins happen. I have twins myself. They went through that program. It was awesome. Tell you what, being -- having twins and being able to go to the same swim lesson have them do that it was -- it was great. So, the semi-private lesson for the twins -- or for two children, isn't -- is -- is popular, but not as popular as the private one-on-one. So, we do still want to offer that semi-private lesson there. So, you can see the proposed increases are really just to the private lesson, the semi private lesson, and the reason for the proposed increase is for -- to match up with our current cost recovery pyramid that we all just discussed a few months ago and this and that. That aligns with private lessons where it comes into. I will tell you that the group lesson at 45 does align with, honestly, the top pyramid and also aligns with the middle pyramid. So, that's still in alliance with what it needs to be. That's why there is no proposal for the group lesson. So, with that I can stand for questions.

Perreault: Mr. President?

Hoaglun: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: I have three or four. Can I go for it?

Hoaglun: Go ahead.

Perreault: Okay. Since we just discussed the fees, I have a quick question there. So, just for clarification, open swim is just one individual session and, then, the season pass is for open swim through the whole season. Okay. So, that's -- both of those are open swim times.

White: Correct. Just to clarify, yes, open swim and season passes, yes, are for the public swim times.

Perreault: Okay. So, if an individual has a season pass that -- they would pay that in addition to the swim lessons. So, it's not -- the swim lessons are not covering --

White: Correct.

Perreault: -- open swim, they are two totally separate things.

White: Correct. Great question. Yes.

Perreault: Okay.

White: Correct.

Perreault: Wow. It's cheaper to swim than it is to get a Starbucks, huh? Okay. So -- so, on the -- the new proposed fee for the individual, 40 dollars, that will -- that would include all open swim times. If the city decides to increase or decrease the open swim times based on staffing, how does that work out for the member of the public who paid that fee?

White: So, if we were able to offer more public swim -- is that what you are saying?

Perreault: Actually, the question is if you offered less. So, more would be great; right? More options are great. But if at some point we lose some staffing over the summertime and we have to cut back that evening open swim or possibly a Saturday swim, is -- is that just -- is there something that's sort of disclosing that to the -- the season pass holder up front that says, hey, this is a possibility and you realize when you pay this fee that we may have to adjust the time space on staffing, just to kind of let them know that, you know, if they are buying this under the assumption that they are going to go in the evenings or the weekends and, then, that's taken away, we may have a few people that have questions about it.

White: That's a great question, Mr. President, Councilman -- Council Woman Perrault. How we kind of do the season passes and things like that -- we established the -- the bare minimum schedule; right? So, we say, hey, we know you are going to have open swim from 1:30 to 4:30. So, buy your pass based on that time. If we can increase it we will and that's just a bonus for you to get more public hours, if that makes sense. So, we -- we kind of sell it as, hey, this is what your minimum is going to be and that's kind of what our minimum is, if you remember that schedule I put up. So, to answer your

question, that's kind of how we sell it. If we have to drop back farther than that I think at that point we would have our discussion with our director and as well as Finance and probably you guys and say, hey, we are offering less, should we pro-rate this, how can we do that, that type of thing. So, that -- that's kind of how I would probably handle it to be fair and equitable to those that have already popped out, yes.

Perreault: So, is that the expectation for the season that we would -- would offer the open swim times that are in that lowest staffing to -- to time frame ratio based on last year?

White: Correct. Yes. So, we would offer that public swim from 1:30 to 4:30 and just tell -- tell people, listen, hey, we would love to grow this, you know, and those -- those are the fees that like -- that WARD had proposed way back when; right? So, that -- yes. To answer that question, yes, based on that minimum time that's what we would sell it at.

Perreault: And we would anticipate that the website would be updated if we were able to -- so in other words, at the beginning of the season -- you are going to make that decision at the beginning of the season. It's not going to fluctuate as the season goes on. Okay. Okay. So, it's not going to be like weekly we might have some -- okay. Based on our staffing.

White: No. To that point, we want consistency; right? That way parents know, hey, little Johnny can go down on Saturdays and give that -- we want the consistency. So -- and we want the consistency in swim lessons and everything above; right? So, yes, we want to make that -- we want to establish that soon and what's nice now is we are -- we are -- with the city website is it's constantly updated. So, we have been working with IT to get that stuff done and IT has been great with it. So, yes, update stuff online -- we will know our full staffing numbers when we start the training or right after the training, about May 9th, May -- you know, right in the middle of May and we can update things as we go. But, yes, to establish stuff now we are kind of putting the minimum schedule we know we are going to be able to do. As we grow, then, we will open up more. So, yeah. And that will be updated instantly as soon as we know.

Perreault: You mentioned the Saturday swim versus the evening swim. I think the Saturday swim is a great idea, because, you know, evening you may have a family that has three different ages and maybe the oldest ones can go in the evening, but the youngest one has to go to bed. You got dinner times that people usually eat later in the summer. So, I like that idea of the Saturday. Also only having two hours -- when you haul all the stuff down there and, then, you have to, you know, pack it all back up, you really only get like a -- everybody changes and all that you get like an hour, you know, really, with everything. So, I think the Saturday swim is -- is a better option if it's possible. Can -- can you quickly go over -- it seems to me like 55 guards is a lot. So, are -- are they just having like part-time shifts? Are there like a dozen on site a day? How does that work?

White: That's a -- Mr. President, Council Woman Perreault, great question, because as teenagers it seems like some of them want to work part time, some of them want to work 40 or 50 hours; right? Some of them want to work 20 and they kind of know that. But, then, also a lot of them are like, well, I'm going to be gone these three weeks or I'm going to be gone these two weeks and I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that; right? Or whatever. All those things factor in when it comes to that; right? And doing that on site at one time -- just -- we will just use public swim, for example. We have a minimum of 15 guards on site at one time. Sixteen-ish if you count front office. Sixteen to 17. That's all at one time; right? So, that's a lot of hours in the day and this and that, plus the -- the breaks in between. So, yes, a lot of things factor into that. But it's basically availability. Now, if we get into -- or we get 55 guards on the middle schedule and all want to work full time -- well, okay, we will open up more; right. So, this is just kind of historically what they have been able to do with this many guards. So, yes, just know that we want more. So, if our guards are wanting to work more hours, we will open on those weekends for consistency, right, and getting those done.

Perreault: What is the -- based on the capacity, what is the guard-to-swim -- swimmer ratio? Just curious.

White: Really there is really not. So, the capacity of a pool is determined by surface area of the water, then, depth comes into play and, then, the number of amenities comes into play and it's a mathematical equation to go through. My mathematical equation for Meridian pool is about 263 people; right? Others will argue with me on what it could be and the depth and this and that and there is a slope of the pools as it gets deeper and who can be in this and that; right? And, then, where our amenities are and where our amenities are located affect certain areas. So, some would say that, oh, well no, I'm calculating 273 people and I'm calculating 263; right? Regardless, we don't want to ever be over capacity and have somebody get hurt or injured, because that's just not a good thing to do; right? We want to stay at our capacity or a little lower. But that's how capacity is, I guess, determined. It's not necessarily -- there is not -- there is not a special magical -- like, oh, 35 people to one guard. It's -- it's certain areas of the pool and, you know, they have different sites and they have to be able to go -- you know, they have to be able to diagnose if somebody's, you know, drowning or floundering within like three or four or five seconds, you know. That's probably more of a Willow question. She's the one -- and, honestly, going through this -- Willow -- there is a picture of Willow in here. So, if you see her you will kind of know who she is and say hi to her. She really made my job easier last year in the short time that we got to take over the pool and get things going. She was super organized. Ready to go. She's the one that trains the guards, schedules the guards, does everything with the guards and she runs a pretty tight ship, because, obviously, there is safety involved with that and she can tell you exactly the rotations and how many guards have to be where and where and why they need to be there. So, that's why we have the 15 on site and it's time -- because there is blind spots in the pool we have to monitor. So, there is really no -- to get back to the capacity question, there is really no one guard to 35, whatever. It's based on the shape of your pool, depth of your pool and those things. That's a great question though.

Perreault: Thank you for those details. I thought I was asking a simple question.

White: Sorry.

Perreault: No. It's --

White: My wife will tell you I like to talk.

Perreault: So, if Willow is listening, thank you, Willow. Too bad she's not here this evening so we could recognize her. Okay. So, the swim test that you mentioned -- awesome. That sounds amazing. I have a brother who is in a wheelchair and so that ADA chairlift is awesome, because there are very few places in the valley where he has access to that. How do those swim tests work for individuals that may need to use the chair? Are there different skills that -- or abilities that a lifeguard would look for for someone in that situation?

White: So, the lifeguards -- to answer that question. Willow is probably the better one to answer those questions. But with my knowledge of a pool and being a certified pool operator and stuff, the chair actually straps you in and allows you to dip in the pool and stuff like that and move around. So, when it comes to -- I mean there is -- you probably know this better than I do regarding -- with your brother, but there is different levels of what they can do in the water; right? So, the lifeguard is going to look and ask that person -- communicate with that person what they feel comfortable doing and, then, obviously, be there with them to operate that chair. So, yeah, I think --

Perreault: So the chair -- so they stay in the chair in this situation. They don't get out of the chair. Oh. Okay.

White: Correct.

Perreault: All right. Thank you.

White: That -- that chair allows them to be in the pool, cool off, swing around in the pool and things --

Perreault: Oh. Okay. Okay. Well, congratulations on a fantastic first season. I was so curious to see how it would work out. It sounds like it went better than we expected, which is amazing, and based on the year before, 39 guards is a huge success so -- do we have a lot of returning this year?

White: Council President -- yes. Yes. So, we -- we have got probably half of the -- maybe a little over half of the 30 that have applied are returners and we have already started those interview processes with that. But, yeah, we are hoping to get more -- and, yes, we had a successful year, you know, but I'm a competitive person and I -- I want to improve every year and find efficiencies and things like that. So, we are -- we still got a long way to go, you know, but at the same time it was successful. We didn't

have anybody hurt. We had some guards -- you know, we -- we operated the pool and it was good. We got a lot of projects done. But we are not done. So, we want to -- we want to keep getting better and so --

Perreault: Well, thank you so much for your commitment for it. It -- I'm so impressed with how -- I mean just this report is fantastic. So, thank you also for being willing to run over to the pool at off hours to do what needs to be done and that commitment that you have made to this and kind of the ownership that you have taken of it. Thank you so much.

White: Sure. You're welcome.

Perreault: It's very appreciated.

White: It's a good challenge, so it's good.

Strader: Council President?

Hoaglun: Yes, Council Woman Strader.

Strader: Thank you. Just have a couple of quick questions. Did we look at the market to determine the fees for private and semi-private lesson increases? How do we arrive at those figures?

White: Yes. To answer that question. Council President. So -- we did. So, what we first did was looked at what our direct costs are; right? And we kind of calculated our direct cost based on kind of how we did the -- the pyramid and where it would land. We need to cover our direct cost, because it's a private lesson; right? So -- but, then, on top of that we wanted -- we didn't want to be the most expensive in town. All right? And be like what's the going rate. By doing that we can tell you that -- bear with me here. We are -- we are -- we are proposing the 140 for private lessons. I can tell you that Roaring Springs right now is 154. So, we are about 14 to 15 dollars less than them. The YMCA offers a little bit different. They will offer a certain amount per private lesson. We had to calculate based on our eight 30 minute lessons. Does that makes sense? And that's what Roaring Springs does. So, that was a very good comparison. So, 140 to 154. The YMCA does a little different. They do it per 30 minute -- 30 minute lesson and if you equvalate the eight -- and it's probably not fair to the YMCA to -- to do this, because there is pros and cons and apples and oranges here is what I'm getting at. But a private lesson is a private lesson. Is theirs would be equivalent like 288. So, we -- we would still be kind of right there -- Boise and Nampa were right there last year. So, we are right there at the -- we are right in the threshold of what Boise and Nampa were to our understanding, so --

Strader: Mr. President?

Hoaglun: Council Woman Strader, go ahead.



Strader: If you don't mind I have a couple kind of --

Hoaglund: Go ahead.

Strader: -- I will just dive in. So, it's not for one lesson, that includes multiple lessons? Could you just clarify how many like lessons it includes and what time frame?

White: Absolutely. Yes. So, the time frame kind of depends. So, on a private lesson we offer three, maybe four students -- depends on the semi-private or not -- in -- per half hour in the day. So, we start swim lessons at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 and so on; right? So, we offer those lessons. We try to make -- match it up with the parents, if that makes sense. So, to answer that question -- so, the 140 would cover eight 30 minute classes.

Strader: Okay.

White: For a total of four hours, if that makes sense.

Strader: Yes. That -- that does make more sense. Because I was just comparing it. I have kiddos in swim lessons twice a week throughout the year and the pricing seemed to offer one session, but it makes more sense if it's for multiple sessions. So, that's helpful. And, then, with the cost recovery -- so, if we are going to be hopefully recovering more of our cost by increasing the fees for these private and semi-private lessons, do we then use that to just return funds to the general -- like how do -- how does -- how does that -- does it subsidize the other activities? Are we looking at increasing the pay for the guards this year? Like help me understand how you are thinking about that, because I'm looking at it like this should be offsetting something so we can get more usage out of it. Because I totally agree, I would love to see weekends, I would love to see parties, all that stuff. That would be great.

White: Yes. Council President. So -- yes. So, basically, what this increase covers is staff -- is wages is what it comes down to; right? So, just for a little history on that, we are starting ours right now at 14.50 an hour. Our guards. And that is -- Nampa is hiring their guards at 14.36 an hour. Boise and Meridian are at 14.50 an hour. Roaring Springs is close to 15 and, then, the YMCA is at 15.15 an hour. So, we are right with Boise. We are not the highest, we are not the lowest, but we are close to the lowest; right? But just those cost increases -- so, WARD -- when WARD was doing this back in '18, '19 -- in 2018 they were paying eight dollars an hour. 2019 they were paying nine dollars an hour. Now we are up to 14.50; right? So, that's not all the double -- I'm not a math guy, I'm a rec guy, but it's almost doubled; right? So, in doing that we felt like we needed to increase some of these costs, really, just to cover direct costs of wages to get people there. So, that's really 99.9 percent of this increase is that.

Strader: That makes tons of sense. I appreciate you walking us through that, because it felt like -- all right, we want to expand our offering. The main item appears to be the guards. So, that's how you are addressing that is through these increases to the private and semi-private fees. Well, just some feedback. First of all, congratulations on a

successful start with the pool. I mean, really, you guys are knocking it out of the park compared to how it was operating before. I'm really excited. I feel like we could expand this. Swimming is a critical skill. It's a life skill. People need it to stay safe. I would hope that we could, you know, increase our open hours if we get more guards that we could open up more swimming lesson spots for kids. If they are filling out within 30 minutes, then, we are not serving the community as much as we could. So, really appreciate all the work you are doing. I'm personally okay with the proposed increase in the fees. It makes sense to me. But thank you.

White: You're welcome. Thank you. And -- and just to -- to clarify, you will -- kind of wanted to get a head nod before we publish these fees and we will come back here in the next couple weeks -- probably -- I think it's March 21st is where our target date is -- to have you guys approve the fees and I will come back up here and say here is the fees and stuff like that, but --

Hoaglund: Garrett, I did have a question and, then, it goes back to that lifeguard swim instructor deal, because, you know, there is a lot of lifeguards in the area and they might be working at say the Y and they want to pick up extra hours and just do Saturdays, do you guys allow that sort of thing to happen?

White: Council President, great question. So, yes and no. So, to answer -- to answer that question -- so, there is three different lifeguard certifications that you can go through. One is Ellis, which is what we are, as well as Roaring Springs. Okay? There is another one -- it's a YMCA certification and that's basically what the Y certifies; right? Then there is also American Red Cross. So, there is three different certifications. So, we are an Ellis facility. So, if I were to -- and I can tell you that Boise, Nampa, I believe Caldwell and BSU are all American Red Cross. The Y is the Y. And, then, like I said, Roaring Springs and us are Ellis. So, for America Red Cross to come and guard for us, we have to re-cert them in Ellis per insurances and liabilities and things like that; right? I can tell you that there is very little -- and, honestly, I couldn't tell you what the differences are by reading which ones are. To my understanding Ellis goes in more in-depth in the water -- actual water saves and things. The YMCA goes into more depth in other things. And this and that. So, there is -- there is three different certifications. So, to share guards that's -- I went the same way last year, like, okay, how do we get more guards? You know, I'm good friends with Nampa, Boise, and BSU. How can we -- hey, do you have guards that need extra hours or whatever, can we share? And, then, I was -- the more I learned about it I realized that there is re-certifications and this and that -- re-cert them. Another thing is so -- I don't think we are opposed to that, but I know with us we are going to work our guards as much as we can to keep open for the weekends and stuff like that. I think, knowing that others are short staffed as well when it comes to guards, I think they would be reluctant to share guards for more hours, if that makes sense. Because at the end of the summer they are going to all be burned out if they are working 60 hour weeks working at two different places; right? And there is only a handful of teenagers that want to do that, to be honest. But I think the window is still open for us to be able to do that and share guards with say Roaring Springs or here or whatever. But I know that we are -- everybody's looking for more guards. So, I hope

that answers your question, kind of in a roundabout way. Yes and no. We are not opposed to it, it's just hard to do.

Hoaglund: Okay.

White: It's a great question, though, but -- yeah.

Hoaglund: Yeah. Appreciate that, Garrett. Yeah. It's just interesting, how do you -- you know, especially in this world where, you know, gig work and part time and have some flexibility in their work-life balance and the summer time -- you know, how do you -- how do you make it work and fit, so -- and it's just -- it's a competition out there for workers in this market --

White: It is.

Hoaglund: -- as you well know. So, yeah, just -- just a thought on that, so -- Councilman Overton, any other questions or thoughts?

Overton: Yes. I thought I would go last. Thank you, Mr. President. Garrett, great job. I -- I guess -- I'm so glad that you brought in the fees from the other cities around us and the other entities that we deal with. I had the opportunity to look at that list when these were first being established and realize how we were fitting right in the middle. We weren't going to be the cheapest, we weren't going to be the most expensive, but we were definitely going to be within market. You know, we wanted to make this work with the cost recovery for the pool as best we could and I thought this was a great idea. I don't know that you are ever going to satisfy everything that Council wants, the public wants in open public swim time, unless we can magically get 75 lifeguards and, hopefully, we can hire as many as we need to get all that public swim time and open up the party room and get the -- take advantage of the entire facility you have got there at the pool. I also wanted to point out, Garrett -- to really compliment you and your staff for what an amazing job you have done with the things that the public can't see. You showed a picture of some of the equipment that's in the -- the locked rooms and after going through those rooms with you on that tour with Director Siddoway and seeing how that room was beautiful, it was clean, it was well kept. All the equipment was top notch. Being maintained. If I was a member of the public and I had an opportunity to see that that would put a lot of confidence in me that I know that I have got a city that's really taking care of our children and all these kids that are getting swim lessons and the quality of equipment they are getting to use. It was fantastic seeing the stuff that -- that nobody really gets to see and what a great job you guys are doing taking care of that. So, I'm -- I'm fully supportive of this when it comes forward for a vote. I thought you guys have done a fantastic job with this pool. I don't think it's ever looked this good since probably when it first opened.

White: Thank you for that. I appreciate that. And I -- I got to pass the kudos onto Willow, you know. She's there -- she lives there in the summer. I honestly try to stay out of her way the best I can. But thank you for that. I appreciate that.

Hoaglund: Well, Councilman Overton, I -- I hate to say it, but I -- I can attest to that fact, because I was there when it opened a long time ago. So, anyway. Councilman Cavener, you joined us at 5:09. I had my screen minimized didn't see you right away, but welcome. Any -- any thoughts or comments? Questions?

Cavener: Thanks, Council President, and -- and I echo the comments of my fellow Council Members on Garrett's presentation. Apologies for being fairly late this evening. Garrett, I think you covered a lot of the questions that I had kind of sent you via -- I sent via e-mail. I guess maybe just some -- some suggestions for -- for Council to consider. One, I'm -- I'm in full support of the -- of the proposed fees and you will have to forgive me, I think like a lot of us, I -- I take a certain amount of ownership in Meridian pool, because that's the pool where I learned to swim and I have taught my kids to swim and it's -- it's such an important community and we have invested a lot in the facility and so I'm of the mindset of I want to make it available to as many of our citizens as -- as possible and, Garrett, if you touched on this and I missed it, my apologies, but can you share with Council a little info about the demand for lessons and how kind of -- there is a lot of excitement about kids learning to swim at Meridian pool that it almost kind of overwhelms our system. Can you just maybe give the Council a little flavor for that, if you haven't already?

White: Yeah. Absolutely. I can -- I can go over that one more time. Not a problem.

Cavener: No. If you have, then, just skip that. I see the smile on Council Member Perreault's face, which means you guys have probably already talked at length about it and so I won't belabor the point. I want to be respectful of everyone's time. I guess just maybe a suggestion for Council to consider and I sent this to the Parks director. Because we have so much demand for swim lessons, a suggestion that I think that we should explore is -- particularly for maybe some more of the in-demand swimming lesson times or times that maybe we wouldn't be able to provide because we don't have enough lifeguards -- is that maybe we increase the rate for those lessons as a way to offset the cost of hiring more lifeguards? I -- I -- I hate to kind of equate it to surge pricing, because I don't think that's the right approach. But if we were able to charge more and hire more lifeguards, that may be able to allow us to offer more lessons and be able to expand the services for the pool and I really believe as much as we can have as many citizens in that pool as possible that that should be our priority.

Hoaglund: Okay. Any other questions? I think that's something they can be -- be watching for and thinking about for -- for next year, Councilman Cavener, so --

White: Yeah. Thank you for those.

Perreault: Mr. President?

Hoaglund: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: Just curious if the season pass holder from last year and those that signed up for lessons are going to receive an e-mail or contact in some way letting them know that there is going to be a fee change and a public hearing coming, so that they especially can comment on those changes?

White: Council President, Council Woman Perreault, we haven't, but we can. We can send through an e-mail blast saying these fees are being proposed and a hearing on the 21st, if -- if that's the direction you would like us to do. We can easily do an e-mail blast.

Perreault: Mr. President?

Hoaglund: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: Of course I would like to hear from my fellow Council on that. I just -- percentagewise it's 40 percent increase, right, on the -- and so as a parent I probably would at least want a bit of a heads up before I were to go and enroll my children again to know that there is that increase and I just think it would be respectful to them and appreciative for, you know, them coming back this year.

White: No. Absolutely. And we -- we can do that. Right now the fees -- you know, TBD, to be determined, because we want to make sure we talk to you guys about it first.

Hoaglund: Okay. If we don't have any more questions, I think you have got the approval to move forward and, of course, publicize it is always helpful and, of course, the agendas are usually out for our public anyway, so -- but, yeah, it wouldn't hurt to let people know that --

White: Yeah.

Hoaglund: -- so they know -- be prepared for -- some may say it's sticker shock and it's like everything else, it's going up, but --

White: Sure. Sure. No. We will. Absolutely. And invite -- you know, if you guys do want a tour -- I know Councilman Overton -- I took him on a tour with Steve. Happy to do that. I mean there -- there is some improvements there that -- that are worth seeing and gives us a little bit of chance to brag about what we have done. So, thank you guys again for tonight. I appreciate it. I won't take up anymore of your time. But thank you.

Hoaglund: Thank you, Garrett. And give Willow our thanks as well.

White: I will.

Hoaglund: All right. Council that is the last item on the agenda for this evening. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Strader: Mr. President?

Hoaglund: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: I move that we adjourn the meeting.

Hoaglund: There is a motion adjourn. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Any opposed? We are adjourned. Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED: FIVE AYES. ONE ABSENT.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:29 P.M.

(AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE OF THESE PROCEEDINGS)

_____	____/____/____
COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRAD HOAGLUND	DATE APPROVED

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS JOHNSON - CITY CLERK