

Welcome / Pledge of Allegiance

Present via Zoom was Mayor Julie Good and Council Members Jeff Parnett, Darla Weber, and Shiloh Ryker.

Staff present at City Hall were Kyla Gardner, Dana Kautz, Daniel Potter, and Angie Mettie. Present via Zoom was City Attorney Dick Stubbs.

Present at City Hall were community members Kenda Farnsworth, Mechelle Le Pore, and Debbie Turner. Present via Zoom was Amy Manning of III-A, Drew Dodson, Tim Farrell of Mountain Waterworks, and Andrew Mentzer.

Mayor Good opened the meeting at 6:32pm.

Presentation

Volunteer Recognition

Mayor Good recognized Angie Mettie for her work in coordinating the Easter Egg hunt this year.

Reports

West Central Mountains Economic Development Council

Andrew Mentzer gave a report regarding the work of WCMEDC over the last year. He stated that broadband and housing were important tasks they were working on. One possibility is motivating second homeowners and short term rental owners to convert their homes to long term rentals. Other areas of progress were in developing a workforce/apprenticeship program, an early childhood program with 130 childcare seats, pathways to connect the Weiser River trail to New Meadows, and then a possible pathway to McCall, infrastructure, business development, and updating the Payette Scenic Byway website, signage, and information.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Good summarized her report, recognizing new City Clerk Kyla Gardner for her work in keeping the city in compliance with DEQ. She would like Air Bridge to present at the next meeting and discuss next steps for bringing broadband to New Meadows.

Discussion Items

Housing

Mayor Good shared several ideas regarding the housing challenges in the region. She would like to review the zoning, and possibly find an area for tiny homes or other housing options in New Meadows. Another idea included having local businesses buy in to a development program, which would then provide employee housing. She asked for ideas from the Council.

Action Items

City Hall Bench & Planter Boxes

Linnea Hall, with Citizens for Community Enhancement, asked permission to replace the planters and bench at city hall with planters that match the downtown corridor. She also would like to replace the bench at city hall and asked if the city would pay half of the cost of the new bench. After discussion, the Council chose not to have a bench at city hall due to the current bench's lack of use. They agreed that matching planters would look great at city hall and could be put in place.

The Council also discussed the half-barrel planter at the park. It was noted that plastic barrels are preferred due to their longevity. It was also suggested that an "adopt a planter" program could be established, allowing citizens to care for a planter box in place of city staff.

Backup Operator

Mayor Good would like the Council to approve Kirk Kundrick as the New Meadows backup operator for the water/sewer system. Kirk is currently the Meadow Creek operator. Mayor Good read the agreement to the Council and stated that he would be paid the same as the previous backup operator - \$300 per month.

- Council Member Ryker moved to approve Kirk Kundrick as the City of New Meadows' backup operator per the contract; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Parnett – yes, Ryker – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

Well #4 DEQ Testing

Mayor Good stated that DEQ will soon begin testing for PFAS, a chemical that does not occur naturally in the environment. Currently, the test is optional, and random test sites were chosen around the region, New Meadows being one of them. Public Works Director Wallace agreed that the well should be tested. If the substance is found in the well, measures must be taken to mitigate the issue.

- Council Member Parnett moved to allow DEQ to test well #4 for PFAS; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Parnett – yes, Weber – yes, Ryker – yes. Motion carried.

Opening of Park Restrooms

The Council discussed the opening of the park restrooms. Council Member Ryker stated that there have been many complaints about the restrooms being closed. There was concern about vandalism to the restrooms. It was suggested that they be open during daylight hours to prevent misuse. Use would normally occur into the evening hours; however, staff are not on duty at that time to lock them. Therefore, it was suggested that the restrooms be open from 8am-5pm on a trial basis. Signs will be created informing the public of the hours.

Dust Abatement Approval – Roadwise

The Council reviewed a quote for dust abatement for \$24,999.80. The company has been utilized in the past and the amount has not changed.

CITY OF NEW MEADOWS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
HELD MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 401 VIRGINIA STREET, NEW MEADOWS

- Council Member Weber moved to approve the Roadwise dust abatement quote; Council Member Ryker seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ryker – yes, Parnett – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

Stibnite Foundation Funding Request

The Council discussed application ideas for the Stibnite Foundation grant. They chose to request funding for a new dog pound and for a flashing speed limit sign. Mayor Good will talk with the previously interested party regarding a quote for the dog pound.

Recommendation to Rebid – Water System Improvement Project

Tim Farrell of Mountain Waterworks stated that two bids were received, and both were considerably higher than the budget estimate. Mayor Good will work with Farrell on a course of action, and the project will be rebid.

- Council Member Weber moved to reject the bid received for Wellhouse #5; Council Member Ryker seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Weber – yes, Ryker – yes, Parnett – yes. Motion carried.

Utility Bill Review / Correction Approval

The Council reviewed a billing correction for two customers who resided in the same unit at different times. The meter connected to the home was not the meter connected with the billing software. Staff adjusted the bills to reflect the correct readings and requested the Council review and approve the adjustments.

- Council Member Ryker moved to approve the credits for customers #1 and #2 and remove late charges for customer #2 per the document presented; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ryker – yes, Parnett – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

EMS Grant Letter Request

The Council reviewed a letter supporting the EMS in their request for funding.

- Council Member Weber moved to send the letter of support on behalf of the EMS for a grant; Council Member Ryker seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Weber – yes, Ryker – yes, Parnett – yes. Motion carried.

Water Project – Request for Reimbursement

This item was not discussed.

USDA Final Grant Expenditures

Mayor Good stated that a seepage test is required at the lagoon and must be completed in 30 days. Great West Engineering has provided a quote to complete the engineering requirements, and IRWA will complete the work that they are able. Any remaining funds left after the seepage test could be used for manhole needs.

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- Council Member Weber moved to accept the Great West seepage proposal and use other USDA dollars for manhole repairs; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Parnett – yes, Ryker – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included minutes from April 12, 2021, March 2021 Financials, and paid and pending claims. Mayor Good read the claims. An Analytical Lab claim was on hold to inquire about the large charge. This was due to a compilation of annual tests.

- Council Member Parnett moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Parnett – yes, Ryker – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Topics

- III-A presentation – Amy Manning
- Dog License Fees
- Air Bridge Presentation
- Water Project Response
- Housing Information
- Dog Pound Estimate

Adjournment

Mayor Good adjourned the meeting at 7:42 P.M.

Julie A. Good, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Kyla Gardner, City Clerk