

Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

Present at City Hall were Council Members Shiloh Ryker, Jeff Parnett, and Mayor Julie Good. Present via Zoom was Council Member Darla Weber. Council Member Gilliam was absent.

Present via Zoom were Attorney Dick Stubbs and Prosecuting Attorney Chris Boyd. Present at City Hall were city staff Kyla Gardner, Dana Kautz, Daniel Potter and Angie Mettie.

Public present at City Hall was Colby Peters. Present via Zoom were Darbey Edwards and Kim Northway.

Mayor Good opened the meeting at 6:31 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Presentation

Housing Presentation – Colby Peters

Colby Peters presented an idea to the Council to place housing at 409 S Heigho. Ideas included two four-plexes, two duplexes, or four single units. Peters stated that the purpose of the project was to create long-term housing for his employees and also for the community. Council Members agreed that housing is needed in the area. Mayor Good suggested that the next step be to look at the zoning code for the property to find what is permitted on the lot. It may be possible to look at a zoning change. City Clerk Gardner will work with Peters to see how this project will fit within the zoning code.

Reports

Prosecuting Attorney Chris Boyd

Boyd stated that there is a current conviction for a probation violation regarding the Hale case. The property is not being cleaned up regardless of the amount of citations and jail time that has been issued. Therefore, solutions included citing the property owner, eviction of the tenant, or selling the property so that a new owner could clean it up. Mayor Good stated that eviction is not a likely possibility due to COVID. Therefore, the Council and Mayor agreed that a letter should be sent to the property owner, giving him 30 days to clean up the property, and then a citation will be issued if not completed. Mayor Good also stated that the judge does not realize the ramification the property is having on the neighbors, who bring concerns to the city on a regular basis.

Regarding other cases in New Meadows, Boyd stated that new tools are being used to help with drug cases, and that the current detective is doing a great job at addressing the issues.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Good gave an update on the skatepark fundraiser, which raised over \$10,000. Daniel Potter will help with backhoe time this weekend for the bike park portion of the project. Also, the Air Bridge project is moving forward at the Industrial Park. Dillon from Idaho Power completed an energy audit for the city. City Clerk Gardner will be attending an LHTAC workshop for an upcoming grant. The trimming of trees in the right of way will be completed, however, the company that was being considered has a wait time, so other options will be sought out.

Discussion Items

Fiscal Year 21/22 Financials and Rate Review

The Council reviewed financials and rates for water and sewer costs. Because the seepage test on the lagoon showed a leak, it is required that this be repaired within three years. Therefore, an increase in sewer expenses may occur to repair the leak. The Council proposed raising the sewer flat rate from \$42 to \$45 to help cover the cost of this repair. All other rates were considered sufficient at this time.

Snow Removal Ordinance Review

The Council reviewed the snow removal ordinance. Council Member Ryker suggested education regarding berms. The information will be placed in the newsletter and on social media. A postcard was suggested for residents that will give reminders about winter.

Cat Population in New Meadows

The Council discussed possible solutions regarding the large number of stray and feral cats in New Meadows. McPaws is assisting with their spay and neuter program, but cats are returned to their environment. Council Member Weber stated that this process can take up to ten years to see a reduction in the number of cats. Council Member Ryker suggested a program by McPaws that would allow stray cats to be adopted as barn cats. The Council will research what other communities have done with stray cats. Many in the community feed the cats, and it is difficult to tell which are pets and which are strays. One suggestion was to identify the cats with a collar or tag. The item will be added to the next agenda.

Seepage Testing Results

Mayor Good stated that a leak was detected during the seepage testing. DEQ has given three years to find and repair the leak. Mayor Good will send a response letter within 30 days stating that the leak will be fixed during the summer of 2022. Public Works Supervisor Wallace has obtained dye to help detect the leak, but is waiting for snow, which will help reveal the area of leakage.

Local Option Tax

Council Member Parnett would like the Council to consider a local option tax for the community. He stated that 16 other cities in Idaho have the tax. He has talked with many business owners regarding the tax, with a mixed response. Many are in favor of the tax, and others had concerns

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such as the time to collect the tax and how it will affect their fees (such as even dollar amounts for drinks). Parnett would like the tax to be such that it is paid by visitors to local businesses instead of by locals. He would like to put together a committee to choose how the money would be spent. Mayor Good suggested the Council read the state code on local option taxes. The item will be added to a future agenda.

Housing Survey

The Council reviewed a draft housing survey regarding the community's opinion on what type of housing they would like to see in New Meadows. The survey will be online, and links will be placed on social media and in the water bills. Paper surveys will be available at City Hall and at the library.

Bike Station Placement

Mayor Good suggested placing the bike station in the area between the unused door at the front of City Hall and the entryway. The Council agreed with this location, and it will be installed.

RV Use Application – 500 S. Commercial

An RV Use application was reviewed by the City Council. The RV application showed a scrap title that was in the process of being registered. Also, the RV was not permanently hooked to water and sewer. The Council denied the permit and stated that if the RV can be permanently connected to water and sewer and have a valid registration, they will review the application again.

City Hall Closures – Holiday Season

The Council reviewed dates for City Hall closures for the holiday season that included November 25th & 26th for Thanksgiving, December 24th for Christmas, and December 31st for New Year's.

- Council Member Parnett moved to approve City Hall closures; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Voice Vote indicated no opposition to the motion with all members signifying yes. Motion carried.

Booster Station Roof Bid – Tom Perkins

Mayor Good stated that the bid given by Tom Perkins included materials at cost.

- Council Member Ryker moved to approve the booster station roof bid of \$2750; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Voice Vote indicated no opposition to the motion with all members signifying yes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included paid & pending claims, September 2021 financials, and October 12, 2021 meeting minutes.

- Council Member Weber moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Voice Vote indicated no opposition to the motion with all members signifying yes. Motion carried.

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Future Meeting Topics

Future meeting topics included a local option tax, cat population, sheriff and prosecuting attorney contracts, water project bid, Veteran’s Memorial presentation, update on skate park, and a new city policy in regard to contracts.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Julie A. Good, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Kyla Gardner, City Clerk

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