

Regular Council Meeting
And Public Hearing
City Hall
January 9, 2018
6:30 PM

Mayor Clary called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken with Councilors Autumn Massender, Joy Porter, Chris Robinson, and Gary Ventress present. Roll call was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the regular December meeting were approved in a motion by Councilor Porter, second by Councilor Robinson and a vote of aye by all – motion passed.

The quarterly financial statement was reviewed by Council. Councilor Massender motioned to approve, second by Councilor Robinson, followed by a roll call vote with Councilors Massender, Porter, Robinson, and Ventress all voting aye – motion passed.

Accounts payable was reviewed by Council. Councilor Ventress motioned to approve, second by Councilor Porter, followed by a roll call vote with Councilors Massender, Porter, Robinson, and Ventress all voting aye – motion passed.

Mayor Clary left the Council table and Elected Mayor Renee Eastman was sworn in by City Clerk, Ann Clapper. The City Clerk then swore in re-elected Councilors Autumn Massender, Joy Porter and Chris Robinson. Mayor Eastman and Council took their seats at the Council table and the meeting was reconvened.

Councilor Robinson nominated Gary Ventress as Council President, second by Councilor Ventress. A roll call vote was taken with Councilors Massender and Porter voting no, Councilors Robinson and Ventress voting aye; Mayor Eastman broke the tie by voting aye – motion passed.

Councilor Massender motioned to enter the public hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance prohibiting new connections to the City's wastewater treatment system, second by Councilor Porter and a vote of aye by all – motion passed. Bobby Wilhelm, 923 W. Grange, Post Falls, ID 83854, bought houses in Spirit Lake, stated he would like all old homes to be able to hook up to the sewer as they wouldn't be able to finance. Bill Erickson, 5930 Madison, Spirit Lake, ID, stated he is in favor of the Ordinance, gave a history of the sewer issues from when he was on Council and suggested current Council and Mayor take 90 days and look at all options, not just the lagoons, to solve all the issues, and recommended Council approve the ordinance. Councilor Ventress motioned to close the public hearing, second by Councilor Massender and a vote of aye by all – motion passed.

Mayor Eastman read aloud the title paragraph of proposed Ordinance #576, prohibiting new connections to the wastewater treatment system. Councilor Porter motioned to waive the reading rules, second by Councilor Ventress, followed by a vote of aye by all – motion passed. Motion to adopt proposed Ordinance #576 made by Councilor Porter, second by Councilor Robinson, followed by a roll call vote with Councilors Massender, Porter, Robinson and Ventress all voting aye – motion passed. Councilor Massender motioned to publish Ordinance #576 by summary, second by Councilor Ventress, followed by a roll call vote with Councilors Massender, Porter, Robinson and Ventress all voting aye – motion passed.

Wally Jacobsen and Nancy Mabile, with Panhandle Area Council, did a presentation on the services they offer to help organizations fund projects through loans and grants, such as our water well #5 grant.

Althea Sondahl, on behalf of the Historical Preservation Commission requested permission to request funding from the (Spirit Lake) Urban Renewal Agency for the architectural work that needs to be done on the Woolen Brown Building as detailed in the proposal provided to Council (not to exceed \$15,000). Councilor Massender motioned to approve, second by Councilor Porter and a vote of aye by all – motion passed.

Bobby Wilhelm purchased a house at 32426 N. 5th Avenue in August that has a failed septic system. An agreement was created by the City attorney to allow the septic system to be repaired as the City has a sewer moratorium, but must connect to the sewer system within 7 years of signing the agreement. Discussion ensued. The agreement should have stated the signer must connect within 7 years of the moratorium being lifted, and will be corrected with the attorney. Mr. Wilhelm would like a credit toward the sewer connection fees for what he has to pay to repair the septic system. More discussion ensued, including where the 7 years came from and if DEQ has any requirements. Councilor Ventress motioned to table the request until the next meeting to look into the issues, correct the agreement wording and check with DEQ, second by Councilor Porter, and a vote of aye by all – motion passed.

Jim Ochenkoski bought the old house at 32732 N. 5th Avenue with the intention to build a facility suited for Priest River Ministries. Upon inspection with a septic service, found the system failed. Mr. Ochenkoski is requesting to install a septic tank and field to replace the existing cesspool, under whatever terms are worked out. Councilor Ventress motioned to table the request, second by Councilor Porter, and a vote of aye by all – motion passed.

Laura Zimmerman, Park & Recreation Director, asked to close Maine Street for Winterfest between 3rd and 4th Avenue on January 28th from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., or until the street is cleared, with open container from 11 a.m. to when the street is being cleared; motion to approve by Councilor Porter, second by Councilor Ventress and a vote of aye by all – motion passed.

Director Laura Zimmerman then presented the Park and Rec report.

Dennis Sanchez, Police Chief, presented the police report.

Mayor and Council reviewed the Public Works report.

Councilor Ventress motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Councilor Massender and a vote of aye by all – motion passed.

Renee Eastman, Mayor

Attest:

Ann Clapper, Clerk