

February 1, 2022

This regular meeting of the Jerome City Council was called to order by Mayor Davis at 5:30 p.m. While council chambers were open to the public, the meeting was also held by teleconference and the public was encouraged to continue with social distancing. The video conference was conducted via Zoom and was made available to all members of the public in a format that allowed all participants to hear the meeting, including all deliberations by members of the Council and other speakers addressing the council, whether in person or via virtual connection, and to comment if so desired, all of which was noted in the agenda, email, and notices at council chambers and on the city's website.

Present: Mayor David M. Davis, Councilman Chris Barber, Councilman Jason Peterson, and Council Bryan Craig. Councilman Brent "Oop" Johnson was excused.

Also present were staff members: City Clerk Bernadette Coderniz, City Administrator Mike Williams, City Attorney Ted Larsen, City Engineer Tyson Carpenter, Public Works Director Brian Ahrens, Building Official Dave Richey, Wastewater Superintendent Gilbert Sanchez, Wastewater Operations Supervisor Brad Henry, IS Director Carlos Hernandez, Accounting and Budget Manager Lori McCrae, Library Director Linda Mecham, Human Resources Manager Esmeralda Chavez, Fire Chief Mike Harrison, Police Chief Dan Hall and Police Chief Duane Rubink.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Davis led the audience in recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION:

An invocation was given by Pastor Jason Gullidge with St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 regular meeting

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Craig, and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-22:

The clerk read Resolution No. 01-22 in full as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO, APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE ADVISORY COUNCIL, AND THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY; PROVIDING FOR TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Title 50-210 of the Idaho Code describes the appointment process and the procedures each municipal corporation is required to follow when considering an individual for an opening on officially recognized boards and commissions, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Jerome is organized under the Mayor/Council form of government and the Mayor serves as the City's Chief Executive Officer, and;

WHEREAS, the Mayor is required to make appointments to City-sponsored boards and commissions as terms end and vacancies are created, and;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jerome as follows:

SECTION 1 PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

The following individuals are appointed as members of the Planning and Zoning Commission to serve a term effective with the date below-written, in accordance with delineation thereof:

Jeff Schroeder February 2022 – February 2028

SECTION 2. INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The following individuals are appointed as members of the International Building Code Advisory Committee to serve a term effective with the date below-written, in accordance with delineation thereof:

Danny Johnson February 2022 – February 2025

Rick Young February 2022 – February 2025

SECTION 3. URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY:

The following individuals are appointed as members of the Jerome Urban Renewal Agency to serve a term effective with the date below-written, in accordance with delineation thereof:

Kathy Cone February 2022 – February 2027

Bryan Craig February 2022 – February 2027

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE:

Resolution No. 01-22 shall be effective upon its passage as required by law.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL this 1st day of February, 2022.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR this 1st day of February, 2022.

By:

/s/ David M. Davis

David M. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Bernadette Coderniz

Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Barber, and Mayor Davis. **NAYS:** None. Councilman Craig recused himself as he is on the URA Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-22:

Ms. McCrae stated that pursuant to Idaho Code 50-1807 the mayor and council shall, on or before the second Wednesday of February of each year, establish irrigation assessments by estimating the levy needed to continue to operate, maintain and expand the City's irrigation system. In the current fiscal year, the amount required is \$189,233; a portion of the cost stems from the assessments the City pays Northside Canal Company (NSCC) for the 1,089.74 water shares that the City holds in trust for the town site. NSCC has assessed \$25 per share and \$27,068.39 was paid. Properties are assessed based on lot size and have a tiered fee schedule. Lots measured at 6,250 square feet are assessed at .013371 per square foot, or \$83.57, which is the same as last year's assessment. The square footage that exceeds 6,250 on larger lots are levied at the much-reduced rate of .002165 per square foot. Lots included in the core part of the system but do not have irrigation access are billed a minimum base rate of \$11.42. Of the 2,260 assessed properties, 416 were billed the minimum base rate.

The clerk read Resolution No. 01-22 in full as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-22

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, STATE OF IDAHO:

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to I.C. 50-1807, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Jerome, County of Jerome, Idaho on this 1st day of February, 2022, hereby estimate that \$189,233 are the necessary funds for the expense of maintaining, operating, improving, extending and enlarging the City Irrigation system for the current fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Treasurer is directed to immediately carry out the assessment roll and further to give notice that the Mayor and City Council shall meet the 15th day of March 2022 to correct the assessment roll.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL this 1st day of February, 2022.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR this 1st day of February, 2022.

BY:

/s/ David M. Davis

David M. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Bernadette Coderniz

Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Craig, and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

EASTERN IDAHO RAILROAD-ITD-CITY OF JEROME AGREEMENT:

Mr. Carpenter stated the agreement is for the reconstruction of the railroad crossing on East Yakima. The project is federally funded through the State of Idaho but the City is party to the agreement because the railroad crosses a City road. The state will pay for actual construction costs, and the City's responsibilities are limited to providing liability insurance. Mr. Carpenter stated that Idaho Code specifies that the railroad is responsible for everything within two feet of the crossing including the crossing themselves; they provide advanced warning signs which are installed by the City. The timeline for the project is unknown at this time.

Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis regarding the liability insurance, Mr. Carpenter stated the City must carry liability insurance as required by law. Additionally, the City will not be working traffic control during the reconstruction project. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the projects, and topics of the discussion included: aging crossing signals and responsibility for replacing them; Idaho Code 62-306 addressing the railroad's responsibility for the crossing; why the federal grant pays for the crossing instead of the railroad; work on the railroad (replacing panels, widening the crossing, and putting in crossing signals); the heavy skew of an angle at the crossing to see an oncoming train; and, Idaho being the only state in the country which had stop signs at railroad crossings. Upon inquiry by Councilman Craig, Mr. Larsen explained the City's liability for defective workmanship in the installation of the signs. Mr. Carpenter stated there is one power line within approximately 100 feet of the crossing, and he stated that the City will install the advanced warning signs. Mr. Larsen confirmed the railroad crossing signals come with specific specifications (length, height, etc.) and will be installed by a professional company. He further stated the liability insurance will cover the City for any participation within this project.

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve a construction agreement between the Eastern Idaho Railroad, the Idaho Transportation Department and the City of Jerome for the E. Yakima/200 S railroad crossing construction project. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Craig, and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

WWTP PURCHASE:

Mr. Sanchez stated the request is to approve funds for the purchase of 60 RW400 membrane cassettes. The Wastewater Treatment Plant has had numerous issues with the existing membranes (plugging and fouling issues). He stated it is nearly impossible to remove and clean them within a specific timeframe and proposes that half of the membranes needed be purchased while the other half is cleaned. If ordered within the next few days they should arrive by March or April and be installed before the start of the irrigation season. Mr. Sanchez stated the cost of the membranes is \$1,740,000. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Mr. Williams stated that monies are set aside annually into the short-lived asset budget for membrane replacement along with other short-lived assets that outlive their usefulness. Although these membranes have not reached their useful life they need immediate replacement and cost recovery efforts will commence. Mr. Williams stated that there is a depreciation value to the membranes, and the industries who sent material to the plant which caused the plugging and fouling will also be held responsible for the damage.

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve the funds for the purchase of 60 RW400 membrane cassettes. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After

consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Craig, and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

JEROME CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MID-SUMMER FESTIVAL:

Ms. Lorelee McKee and Ms. Maria Heredia appeared on behalf of the Jerome Chamber of Commerce to discuss the use of Idaho Central Credit Union and Veteran's Memorial Parks for their fundraiser event this summer. Ms. McKee stated the event will be similar to the Freedom Fest in terms of community involvement but will be a fundraiser for the Chamber. They are requesting that Main Street be closed off to traffic for the event; a beer garden; to have a race involving plastic ducks being pushed with fire hoses; and, to waive fees. Upon inquiry by Councilman Peterson, Ms. McKee explained that rubber ducks would be pushed down the street with fire hose water or pushed in the skate park. She further stated the logistics of the activity have yet to be determined. Councilman Craig inquired about water removal from the skate park and Ms. McKee stated that would have to be considered as well.

Mayor Davis commented on the request to waive fees and that fundraisers typically do not get fees waived for their events (i.e. Taco Fest). Mr. Williams stated that the event must be charitable in nature (i.e. Christmas in the Park, Joe Mama's, etc.). Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Ms. McKee confirmed that the event is 100% fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Councilman Barber commented on a carnival or other activities which may not be allowed in the parks. Ms. Heredia stated that the fundraising activities would include games, bounce houses, choo-choo train rides, a cornhole tournament, and vendors. This event will be held two weeks after the Freedom Fest and will be similar but with more games with family participation. Some events will be free (i.e. 3-legged races, tug-of-war, etc.). Ms. McKee stated this event is replacing the annual golf scramble. Mayor Davis stated that they would have to communicate with the police department regarding the beer garden, and communicate with the public works department pertaining to park use and road closures. He noted that Council may approve the application with conditions. Councilman Craig requested that Ms. McKee and Ms. Heredia come back to Council with more details as there are so many unknowns at this time. Mr. Williams inquired if the Chamber Director reached out to Mr. Ahrens regarding access to power and park infrastructure, the need for trashcans and portable toilets, and recommended that the parks be tentatively reserved for July 16th. Councilman Peterson suggested that the park reservation be approved with specific conditions. This event is planned in between other major events at the park (Freedom Fest on June 25th, Joe Mama's on August 20th, etc.). Mayor Davis commented on needing more details for the event, and Councilman Craig commented on the excessive water for the duck races in the parks. Ms. Heredia noted that the initial plan was to hold those races in the street. Ms. Coderniz stated that the parks are reserved for the Chamber on July 16th, however, approval of the event must come from Council. Mayor Davis recommended to Ms. McKee and Ms. Heredia that they speak to various City departments and then return with detailed plans to Council at a future date.

JEROME SENIOR CENTER AND TRANSPORTATION:

Mayor Davis stated that the Jerome Senior Center was gifted a mini-bus for the purpose of transporting patrons to and from the facility for lunches, and they had one free year of liability insurance for the mini-bus. They have requested that the City provide assistance with the cost of fuel. Councilman Barber further stated that the generous donation is an 18-passenger bus that will be used for residents who cannot find or provide their own transportation to and from the

Senior Center. There can be between one and eighteen residents utilizing the bus. Mayor Davis stated that, in the past, the City has contributed to help offset the cost of the TransIV transportation system. The new bus will be transporting residents five days per week within a six-mile radius, and he estimated that a \$2,000 donation from the Council Discretionary Fund would give them approximately 50-70 miles per week of fuel. Mr. Larsen recommended a motion to officially approve the donation from the fund to the Senior Center. Mr. Williams stated public transportation is listed in Idaho Code Title 50 as a municipal power and therefore the donation is allowed.

Councilman Craig made the motion to approve the expenditure of \$2,000 to assist the Senior Center with transportation costs. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Craig, and Mayor Davis. **NAYS:** None. Councilman Barber recused himself as he is on the Jerome Senior Center Board.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Craig commended the Public Works crews for their snow removal efforts, and he asked if the snow could be removed from the parking spaces along East Main Street and North Adams. Mr. Ahrens stated that the snow can be removed once the exact location is known and he would look into it.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Williams stated that the consultants for the Comprehensive Plan will be interviewing the Mayor and Councilmen soon. The State of the City address will be held on February 9th; anyone wishing to attend should reach out to Ms. Coderniz for registration. Ms. Ervina Covcic will be starting on Monday as the new City Planner. Mr. Williams requested that Mr. Richey get quotes to update the Council Chambers décor. In the legislative session there is little to report although Mr. Williams did note a bill introduced that is expected to fix the problem with closing out Urban Renewal Area (URA) districts. Once URA Area 2 closes, the street budget will increase. Also, the URA is considering advanced funding to complete projects within the URA plans in Area 3 and Area 5. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Mr. Williams stated he does not anticipate issues (although perhaps a few challenges) with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) when revitalizing downtown. He will be meeting with ITD Regional Director Jesse Barrus next week to review projects and suggest collaboration between the City and ITD.

Mr. Richey stated he is still receiving housing plans (four received this week). He is also working on the Council Chambers and expects numbers for the new logo and flag along with repainting the room.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this February 1, 2022 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 6:21 p.m.

By:

Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk