

February 16, 2021

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 Robert Culver, Councilman Chris Barber, Councilman Brent "Oop" Johnson and Councilman Jason Peterson.

Also present were staff members: City Clerk Bernadette Coderniz, City Administrator Mike Williams, City Attorney Ted Larsen, Public Works Director Brian Ahrens, City Engineer Tyson Carpenter, Building Official Dave Richey, Wastewater Superintendent Gilbert Sanchez, IS Director Carlos Hernandez, IS Field Technician Andy Newbry, Finance Director Ross Hyatt, Accounting and Budget Manager Lori McCrae, Planning and Zoning Manager Ida Clark, Library Director Linda Mecham, Human Resources Manager Esmeralda Chavez, Fire Chief Mike Harrison and Police Chief Dan Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

INVOCATION:

An invocation was given by Rob Williams, the Jerome Idaho Stake Communications Specialist for the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 regular meeting
2. Approve payment to Idaho State Insurance Fund in the amount of \$133,372.00 for the annual Worker's Compensation premium
3. Monthly Department Reports
4. Approve Claims

20-20 Autoglass \$864.41, Accu Sales/Keller Kustoms \$48.00, Air St. Luke's \$4,275.00, All Wireless Communications \$1,070.50, Amazon Capital Services \$294.53, American Legal Publishing Corp. \$376.00, Analytical Laboratories Inc. \$15,871.94, Andrew S. Newbry \$11.96, Andy's Heating and A/C Inc. \$1,265.88, Applied Concepts Inc. \$3,685.00, Argo Company \$359.70, Arnold Machinery Company \$2,694.15, Assoc of Jerome City Firefighters \$135.00, Badger Meter \$495.73, Bennett's Truck Repair \$292.43, Boise Office Equipment \$330.92, Bonneville Blue Print Supply \$119.00, Bound Tree Medical \$434.64, Branom Instrument Company \$147.09, Brenntag Pacific Inc \$14,387.10, Builders Firstsource \$28.80, B-Z Plumbing \$413.55, C.H. Spencer LLC \$1,111.80, CDW Government Inc. \$1,318.32, Center Point Large Print \$88.08, Century Link \$1,568.98, Centurylink Business Services \$66.81, Chase Paymenttech \$1,892.05, Cintas Corporation \$60.46, City of Jerome \$501,466.99, Coeur D'Com Communications \$8,710.56, Consolidated Electrical Distri \$782.08, Crozier Coachworks \$1,500.00, D & B Supply \$1,186.51, D and J Diesel \$10,000.00, Daniel Hall \$30.66, Dept of Environmental Quality

\$678,315.55, Dewitt Diesel Inc \$602.50, Dig Line Inc \$135.36, Don's Irrigation LLC \$357.03, EHM Engineers Inc. \$490.65, Electric 1 West Inc. \$21,744.96, Electrical Contractors of Id \$230.00, ESRI Inc. \$5,100.00, Farmore of Idaho \$394.90, FC Restaurant Ventures LLC \$10,000.00, Ferguson Enterprises Inc. \$6,065.39, First Federal Bank \$3,553.06, Floyd Lilly Co \$252.49, Fred Kenyon Repair Inc. \$195.04, Freedom Mailing Services Inc \$2,024.98, Gem State Paper & Supply \$207.93, Gem State Welder's Supply \$80.60, Go-Fer It Express \$252.00, Greatamerica Financial Services \$290.00, Guillermo Garcia \$420.00, H.D.Fowler \$3,713.68, Hach Company \$906.68, Hanson Janitorial Supply Inc. \$55.00, Healthy Earth Enterprises LLC \$7.26, Holley Homes Inc. \$4,293.96, Hughes Fire Equipment Inc. \$407.34, Hydro Specialties Company \$6,654.54, ID Dept of Labor \$437.84, ID State Insurance Fund \$133,372.00, Idaho Construction Supply \$123.00, Idaho Controls and Automation \$475.00, Idaho Materials and Construction \$19,850.00, Idaho Power Co. \$67,101.62, Industrial Software Solutions I LLC \$7,610.00, Ingram Book Company \$1,181.23, Intermountain Gas Company \$6,269.11, Interstate Products Inc. \$2,989.52, Ivan Dias-Maldonado \$67.98, Jerome City Water Department \$259.08, Jerome County \$10,271.19, Jerome Little Tigers Preschool \$2,641.44, Jerome Printshop \$155.00, Jerome Recreation District \$300.00, J-U-B Engineers Inc. \$2,050.00, Kiyana Hauser \$12.32, Larene Morley \$120.00, Les Schwab Tire Centers Inc \$199.94, Lexisnexis Risk Solutions \$68.00, Lombard-Conrad Architects P.C. \$9,413.65, Magic Valley Electric LLC \$829.50, Magic Valley Labs \$27,292.75, Mason's Trophies & Gifts \$28.00, McHugh Bromley PLLC \$350.74, Michael L. Boeker \$580.00, Mid-Snake RC&D Council \$50.00, Mike's Repair \$609.21, Minert & Associates Inc. \$45.00, Mower Office Systems \$98.00, MSA Safety Sales LLC \$1,240.00, Munimetrix Systems Corp. \$179.96, MWI Veterinary Supply \$788.75, Napa Auto Parts \$644.05, National Band & Tag Co. \$84.85, Northside Canal Co. \$27,068.39, O'Reilly Auto Parts \$52.98, Pacificsource Administrators \$34,550.00, Pcn Strategies Inc \$14,567.72, People \$96.00, Pete or Maria Nelson \$21.83, Prevent Fire LLC S Corp \$276.50, Productivity Plus Account \$4,338.20, Pro-Flame Inc \$11.53, Project Mutual Telephone \$314.06, PSI Environmental Services Inc \$20,772.21, Rexel USA Inc \$298.95, Ridley's Food & Drug \$147.01, Roto-Rooter Sewer Service Co. Inc \$1,678.00, RSCI \$39,672.00, Saltus Technologies \$2,319.78, Sawtooth Veterinary Services \$218.94, Sherry Detwiler \$87.80, Signed Sealed & Delivered \$104.57, Skaggs Companies Inc. \$305.48, Something More \$94.32, Southern ID Water Quality Coalition \$1,000.00, Southern Idaho Solid Waste \$4,835.36, TFD Enterprises LLC \$10,212.35, Thatcher Company \$16,105.72, The Fire Store \$404.55, Thomas Mong \$250.00, TIAA Commercial Finance Inc. \$3,040.21, Times News \$201.14, T-Mobile \$286.22, Traffic Safety Supply Co Inc \$3,755.41, Treasure Valley Coffee Inc. \$168.75, Triple C Concrete \$626.00, Tri-State Tire Jerome \$21.90, Triton Training Group LLC \$400.00, U.S. Bank Equipment Finance \$2,669.51, Urgent Care of Jerome/Twin Falls \$90.00, US Bank Credit Card \$9,544.73, USABluebook \$1,073.66, Valley Office Systems \$78.51, Verizon Wireless \$4,284.22, Western States Equipment \$2,871.13, Western Waste Services \$685.04, Williams Meservy & Larsen LLP \$12,856.42, Xpress Bill Pay \$834.87, Zions Bank Public Financial Services \$56,209.53, Zions First National Bank \$386,781.17.

Upon inquiry by Councilman Culver, Ms. Chavez stated that the worker's compensation premium is higher than last year due to an increase in claims over the last few years. Ms. McCrae noted that the premium increased by approximately \$29,000 and the City's Experience Modification Premium rate went from .84% to 1.13%.

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

SOUTHERN IDAHO TOURISM:

Southern Idaho Tourism Executive Director Melissa Barry appeared before council to provide the annual update on the organization's activities. She noted that this is also a good

opportunity for staff to offer ideas or thoughts as the organization begins planning for the 2021 fiscal year. She stated that tourism in the region did well in 2020 despite the pandemic. The leisure travel market changed almost immediately which had a negative impact travel rates, however, areas with outdoor recreation activities still did well overall. Additionally, there were no hospitality business losses. The organization was able to provide resources during the COVID-19 shut-down to keep businesses opening or functional, and efforts were made to reopen businesses as quickly as possible. They partnered with the South Central Health District and local chambers to answer questions related to the requirements for reopening businesses.

In Jerome, there was approximately \$6 million in sales for 2020 despite a 3.8% decrease in Jerome County from last year. Ms. Barry expects an increase in travel to local destinations. She spoke of the Mermaid Cove in the 2021 Visitor Guide and stated that it has been popular with approximately 5,000 visitors. They sponsored the Taco Fest and found it to be successful despite the weather and lack of additional vendors. Ms. Barry spoke of travel blogs and searches on the website to assist and promote tourism in the area. She commented that the Broken Bridge grant is on hold along with other federal programs until further notice. White water access within that project will be developed on the south side of the canyon and is expected to bring enthusiasts to the area. She stated a “primitive” campground for the area would be beneficial.

Ms. Barry reported that the organization worked with Jerome 20/20 on several projects (i.e. video of different industries in Jerome) and resources (i.e. Jerome County Recreation map). They also spoke of potential development for recreational vehicles at the fairgrounds. She concluded by stating that there has been a push for outdoor activities post-pandemic although there have been issues with littering and graffiti; an education component to promote outdoor activities may be developed along with the “Keep Idaho Clean” app which promotes trash and graffiti clean up. The focus of the Seven Wonders and Hidden Gems campaigns is to make people aware of the area’s natural wonders. Ms. Barry noted that their outreach efforts have been successful: nearly 1 million people visited their website in 2020; approximately 11,000 emails were received; they had 21,600 Facebook “likes” and 12,000 followers on Instagram. She also stated that there has been interest from other states in what Idaho has to offer.

Mayor Davis commented on inquiries regarding the location of the Broken Bridge and questioned the Yingst Grade Park (Ms. Barry identified the area as the Snake River Canyon Park) and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Councilman Barber stated that there was a collective effort by a group of realtors from Keller Williams who received permission to clean up the area and work on the trail down to the bridge for pedestrians. Mayor Davis commented on authorization needed for renaming the park as the top portion of land belongs to Idaho Fish and Game and the some portions of the bottom belonging to the Bureau of Land Management. Ms. Barry spoke of the ribbon-cutting and stated that the renaming of the area will be researched. Regarding the process to rename the trail heading down towards the bridge, Ms. Barry stated the process would involve the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and providing letters of support from local officials and all involved property owners.

RESOLUTION NO. 04-21:

Mayor Davis commented that there are two vacancies on the Planning and Zoning Commission with recent resignations. Benjamin Reed and Shonna Fraser both expressed interest in the positions, were interviewed and appointed. Additionally, one vacancy on the Community Spirit Committee will be filled by Chris Barber by appointment. The resolution will ratify these appointments.

Resolution No. 04-21 was read in full as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 04-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO, APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE JEROME PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT COMMITTEE; 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 APPOINTMENT:

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:

Benjamin Reed	February 2021 – February 2027
Shonna Fraser	February 2021 – February 2027

SECTION 2. COMMUNITY SPIRIT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT:

The following individual is appointed as a member of the Community Spirit Committee to serve a term effective with the date below-written, in accordance with delineation thereof:

Chris Barber	February 2021 – February 2023
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SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE:

Resolution No. 04-21 shall be effective upon its passage as required by law.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL this 16th day of February, 2021.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR this 16th day of February, 2021.

By:

/s/ David M. Davis
David M. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Bernadette Coderniz
Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk

Councilman Culver made the motion to pass Resolution No. 04-21, a resolution by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jerome, Idaho, ratifying mayoral appointments to fill vacancies

on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Community Spirit Committee. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None. Councilman Barber recused himself.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-21:

Mr. Carpenter appeared before council and noted that council had authorized staff to apply for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp grants at previous council meetings. The program through the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) funds ramp improvements along the state highway system (SH25 aka Main Street). Three separate grants (one at \$59,950 and two at \$60,000 each) were awarded. Each grant will cover approximately 6-8 ramps that are currently not in compliance with ADA requirements. All are 100% fund by the state for construction costs; the design is not funded and will be done in-house. Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, Mr. Carpenter stated that if the curb lacks a required ramp, one will be installed. He also stated that most have ramps which are not ADA compliant. He explained the varying factors for compliance including truncated domes, flat turning spaces, storm drain and obstruction concerns which need to be addressed. The work will be contracted out with the intent to start construction in the summer. Upon inquiry by Councilman Johnson, Mr. Carpenter stated that many ramps are not in compliance with ADA standards but an exact number is not available at this time. The ramps are or will be located at the following intersections with Main Street: Date, Birch, Buchanan, Cleveland, Davis, Eisenhower, Fillmore and possibly Garfield.

Resolution No. 05-21 was read in full as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 05-21

WHEREAS, the Idaho Transportation Department, hereafter called the **STATE**, has submitted three Agreements stating obligations of the **STATE** and the **CITY OF JEROME**, hereafter called the **CITY**, for ADA improvements; and

WHEREAS, the three Agreements are identified as Cooperative Agreement Project No. A022(447) FY21 Jerome 10 ADA Ramps Jerome County Key No. 22447; Cooperative Agreement Project No. A022(966) FY21 Jerome 7 ADA Ramps PH 1 Jerome County Key No. 22966; and Cooperative Agreement Project No. A022(966) FY21 Jerome 7 ADA Ramps PH 2 Jerome County Key No. 22968 (collectively referred to hereinafter as the “Cooperative Agreements”)

WHEREAS, the **STATE** is responsible for obtaining compliance with laws, standards and procedural policies in the development, construction and maintenance of improvements made to the Federal-aid Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the **CITY** and the **STATE** are providing funds for the projects described in the three Cooperative Agreements identified herein; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the three Cooperative Agreements to construct ADA improvements within city limits are hereby approved.
2. That the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Cooperative Agreements on behalf of the **CITY**.

3. That duly certified copies of this Resolution shall be furnished to the Idaho Transportation Department.

By:

/s/ David M. Davis
David M. Davis, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution passed at a *regular, duly* called regular meeting of the City Council, City of Jerome, held on February 16, 2021.

(Seal) /s/ Bernadette Coderniz
City Clerk

Councilman Culver made the motion to pass Resolution No. 05-21, supporting three Cooperative Agreements for ADA curb ramp improvements on State Highway 25 within the City of Jerome with a combined maximum State funding amount of \$179,950. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Barber. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

IDAHO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT:

Mr. Carpenter stated that an application was submitted to the Idaho Department of Commerce (IDOC) for a Community Block Grant for Shepherd's Park. The majority of the work will be in the reconstruction of the tennis courts with other work including curb/gutter/sidewalk and irrigation work. Other improvements to the tennis courts will include new fencing, lighting and improved landscaping. The agreement is with the IDOC for the grant in the amount of \$225,000; \$25,000 will be for grant administration provided by Region IV Development Association (RIVDA). Staff would like to move forward with the reconstruction, and Mr. Carpenter reviewed the details of the agreement at length by section (i.e. Compliance Requirements, The Project, Environmental Standards, Special Conditions, Period of Performance, Project Budget and Payments, Contract Services, etc. A copy of the agreement can be viewed at City Hall). Specifics of the project were also reviewed and include construction scope of work, design professional and grant administration; equal access actions; national objective; state goal; and schedule. The schedule for completion of the project includes two items already completed (grant administration contract executed and environmental release). It also includes a second public hearing to give the public the opportunity to review progress of the project. Substantial completion of the tennis courts is anticipated to be in December 2021 with the final closeout in February 2022. Mr. Williams noted that Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Four Factor Analysis included in the schedule is a federal requirement to determine if it is necessary to develop a Language Access Plan.

Mr. Williams commended Mr. Carpenter on the extensive review of the agreement and noted that this agreement differs from most others because of the federal requirements to receive the grant. He spoke of the City partnerships with the Jerome School District, the Jerome Recreation District and the Jerome Urban Renewal Agency, which enhanced the application for

the grant. Legal counsel has reviewed the agreement at length and staff wishes to move forward with the project beginning with approval of the agreement.

Councilman Johnson made the motion to approve the agreement with Idaho Department of Commerce for an Idaho Community Development Block Grant for Shepherd's Park tennis courts for an amount of \$225,000. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Barber. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson, and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None. Councilman Culver recused himself due to RIVDA's involvement.

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021: 53:56

Sergeant Clark appeared before council and noted that this will be the third year in which staff is requesting the mini-grants. In previous years, mobilization grant funding slowly diminished so staff chose the option of applying for mini-grants. They include a 25% soft match which will be obtained by officers on regular duty patrol conducting specific traffic safety enforcement related to the grants. For FY 2021, the amount of the grant is \$30,000 with \$7,500 in a soft match (approximately 275 hours of traffic enforcement).

Councilman Johnson made the motion to approve the Jerome Police Department to seek a federal Traffic Safety Grant through the Idaho Department of Transportation Office of Highway Safety for FY2021, in the amount of \$30,000 with a 25% match by the Jerome Police Department in the form of personnel and logistical support. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Barber. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT FY2022:

Sergeant Clark stated that this grant differs slightly from the previous grant application request in that the Idaho Transportation Department refers to this as a "year long" grant. He spoke of agencies applying for mini-grants and using them for extended periods of time, and this is the intent of the Jerome Police Department as well. For FY2022, the amount of the grant is \$40,000 with a 25% soft match (approximately 370 hours of traffic enforcement) and applications must be submitted by February 26th, 2021. Sergeant Clark noted that from June 15th through September 30th of last year, staff saw an increase in seatbelt usage from 62% to 71%; there were approximately 520 citations issued with 257 citations specifically for seatbelt usage.

Councilman Culver made the motion to approve the Jerome Police Department to seek a federal Traffic Safety Grant through the Idaho Department of Transportation Office of Highway Safety for FY2022 in the amount of \$40,000 with a 25% match by the Jerome Police Department in the form of personnel and logistical support. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

Mr. Williams commended staff members for their efforts, time and research to apply for grants; the City has been very successful in getting grant funding over the last few years. Unlike other municipalities, the City of Jerome does not have a grant writer, and the efforts of staff members to submit applications is commendable.

IDAHO LEGISLATIVE SESSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. Williams spoke of Senate Bill(SB)1108, a proposed property tax bill which replaced SB1048, that it will be heard in the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee this week. The bill addresses city budgets and what is allowed annually for increased budget capacity. Currently, cities can take an annual 3% increase plus new construction, annexations and forgone amounts. The new bill states that taxing districts can increase their budget on an annual basis by 3% of the largest property tax levy of the previous three years. Local governments would also be limited to a percentage of new construction on an annual basis. New construction is the growth of a community, and the new bill limits taxing districts to up to 75% of the annual new construction budget. The new construction budget was put in place so that growth could pay for itself (i.e. new homes, business expansions resulting in levies against current tax rates and added to the budget). For example, the new construction was approximately \$30,000 added to the budget; under the new bill only \$22,500 would have been added. The remaining 25% would not be captured.

In theory, Mr. Williams stated the bill would provide property tax relief over a period of several years rather than immediately. However, without growth there will be little property tax relief to report. The inability to capture full growth will have a negative impact on the City of Jerome in terms of providing and maintaining streets, parks and essential services. Mr. Williams also spoke of the negative impact this bill will have on urban renewal districts. At this time, while an urban renewal district is active, there are no revenues received with new construction until the area closes. Under the proposed bill, when the district closes (Area 2 will be eligible to close in 2022 due to expedited debt payments made) the tax entities would only be able to capture 50% of the value. The successful area includes large industries (Scouler, Idaho Milk Products, etc.) and the taxable value is estimated to exceed \$120 million. Mr. Williams spoke of the decision to create the urban renewal district over ten years ago and its impact on the community with the understanding that once the area closed the funds would be available to maintain additional services and pay for growth. Limiting the budget to 50% of what would have normally been received, is problematic for the City considering the substantial impact the new industries will have on the roads and essential services required with population growth.

Regarding annexations, Mr. Williams stated that taxing districts will only be able to capture 75% of the taxable value on them. In terms of forgone dollars, he noted that council had chosen to take forgone dollars to start saving for a new police station several years ago; today the City has approximately \$2.5 million saved. With the proposed bill, if capturing the forgone exceeds a 4% budget increase, voter approval would be required to establish the permanent collection of forgone taxes (2/3 majority vote). Establishing a two-year collection would also require voter approval (50% plus one of the voter population). Mr. Williams reiterated the negative impact the proposed bill would have on the City and especially the Urban Renewal Agency closing of Area 2 with significant barriers to increasing budgets. He stated that council has the option of keeping the district open for the remaining eight years; it would seem that taxing districts are being penalized for making good decisions.

Mr. Williams requested of council feedback and possible solutions for property tax relief without supporting the proposed bill. Immediate tax relief could be provided in the form of indexing the homeowner's exemption and revising the Circuit Breaker program to provide relief for some individuals. He noted that the proposed bill will not provide immediate relief but will happen over time, and he would like to submit a letter on behalf of the City of Jerome to the

Local Government and Taxation Committee to express how the proposed bill will affect the City. He would like to see the ability to collect 75% of the taxable value rather than the proposed 50% when urban renewal areas close.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the proposed bill. Topics of the discussion include the position of local legislators and the belief that they oppose the bill; maintaining services and infrastructure while limiting the ability to capture the full value of growth; reaching out to legislators; rhetoric about increasing the homeowner's exemption; interest in how majority leaders will approach this; the amount of growth Idaho has seen in recent years; the appearance of an attempt to curb growth and the destructive impact on smaller communities; the State as being Conservative by nature and not wanting government control yet they are attempting to control local governments; changing the homeowner's exemption to provide immediate tax relief for many; the resistance to a tax shift from residential to industry and commercial entities; limiting government spending; changing the homeowner's exemption to provide relief for them; the bill represented as a "property tax bill" when its contents attack URA's and promote state micromanagement of local governments rather than allowing local elected officials to do their job; the fact that the bill does not address property tax issues; support of a letter to strongly disagree with the bill and allow local elected officials to make decisions; the legislature's hypocrisy with being against federal restrictions but then proposing legislature that will restrict local governments; and, the position of the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) and a possible strategy or coalition to oppose the bill. Mr. Williams commented that the AIC has released a series of opinion pieces on the subject that will be reviewed by local government entities (Mayors, Councils, Commissions, School Boards, etc.) for signatures and then released to local media affiliations statewide. He also noted that the local police organization had submitted a letter before the first bill was pulled with concerns about limited growth resulting in the defunding of police resources. Mr. Williams agreed that the proposed bill will take funding away from critical services. It is believed that the narrative pushing the proposed bill is that taxes are increasing because local government spending is out of control rather than because of rising property values. Councilman Peterson agreed that the letter should note the defunding of critical services with a limited budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this February 16, 2021 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 7:11 p.m.

By:

Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk