

CITY OF PIERCE
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546
Monday, March 13, 2023
6:00 p.m. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Gerot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Greg Gerot, Eden Bowie, Kathy Wilson-Dill, Clay Hosley, John Stinson, Ron Fugate & Teresa Koepke

Guests: Brittany Rose, Colton Rose, Tyrel Shaw, Lily Hosley, Clare Brick, Daniel Vaughn, Mitch Jared, Dale Gilliam, Harry Stenzel, Cheryl Stenzel, and Diane Gerot

Eden Bowie made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the February 13, 2023 Work Session and Regular Council Meeting as well as the March accounts payable. Kathy Wilson-Dill seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizens Report & Request:

- A. Mitch Jared was present to request a variance to Pierce City Code 9-1-4 (D) and Ordinance No. 311 regarding time limit on RV parking for his property at 202 Highway St. The RV could be there for up to six months. Councilmember Stinson asked if Mitch didn't already have a trailer court by his shop. Stinson's concern was that the property at Highway St would turn into an RV park. Mitch replied that it would not be ongoing and if it were to last longer than six months, he would come in to request another variance. Mitch stated that he is paying for City services on the three lots on Highway St that he isn't utilizing. Eden Bowie made the motion to grant the variance up to six months. Kathy Wilson-Dill seconded the motion. Vote: 3 Ayes & 1 Nay Motion carried.

Community Comments/Questions/Concerns:

- A. Clare Brick from the Pierce GEM Community was present to ask if the City had received any more information regarding the countywide Community Cleanup Day, specifically the date and the dumpster and transfer station situation. Mayor Gerot stated he had been in contact with someone from the Clearwater County Commissioners office and they confirmed the date of April 29, 2023. Mayor Gerot has not heard anything back on whether the County would provide a dumpster or not. Councilmember Stinson stated he believed it should be up to the County to provide the dumpster. Ron Fugate mentioned that Dale Jackman has offered to let the City use his dump trailer if needed. Councilmember Bowie was going to find out about the dumpsters and report back to the Gem Committee at their next meeting. Daniel Vaughn asked if it was known whether the transfer station would take concrete. There was discussion amongst the councilmembers and guests that it didn't appear that concrete was accepted at the transfer station.
- B. Clare Brick asked when the City would like to have the City Employee Appreciation Day. The Pierce GEM Committee hosts and promotes the event for city employees and first responders. Last year the event was held on May 6th. After discussion it was decided that the event would take place on May 5th of this year.
- C. Teresa Koepke thanked Clay Hosley for the donation of the load of gravel that was placed in the City Hall parking lot. Several people had had issues driving through the large holes, so the gravel helped alleviate some of those issues.

Department Reports:

- A. Maintenance Report – Ron Fugate stated that the issue caused by the fiber optic fiber line being drilled through the sewer line was completed by JCA. The furnace is in and working good. The crew has been plowing and sanding. New brakes and rotors were installed on the one-ton pickup. Plows have been greased. Several meters have had to be dug up for potential leaks and non-payment of services. John Payne was able to finish up the WWTP permit. He has been working on back dated reports that had not been completed. There were some issues with the generators. One appeared to be a glitch from the power outage and/or cold weather. The thermostat was replaced. The generator at the Pines Booster Station had coolant in the oil. Kade Best from Western States Equipment was up to look at both generators. He is trying to inquire about parts to get a quote to the City for repairs. He has had a hard time getting the company that sells the parts to provide a quote. Ron Fugate said he would follow up with Western States to check the status of the quote.
- B. Fire Department Report – Chief Shaw reported that they had three calls for the month. Two were potential propane leaks and one was a potential chimney fire. They had one ambulance assist. The tanks for the SCBAs have been ordered. The IDYCA cadets have been assisting with shoveling hydrants. There are eight members of the PVFD attending the Spring Fire Academy. Chief Shaw was assisting with the pre-inspection of the fire suppression system at the IDYCA. There are a couple issues that need to be resolved before the final inspection can be completed. He is waiting for specifications for the new building at the IDYCA to review. Landlock Divers will be updating/refilling the tanks. Chief Shaw thought that was all covered under our current lease with Landlock Divers. The fire department received a check in the amount of \$716.24 from the Clearwater Valley Fire District Auxiliary to be put toward equipment purchases. Chief Shaw asked if the "red shirts" were going to be sweeping Main Street. The fire department would be available to wash the streets.
- C. Sheriff's Department Report – Deputy Shaw reported that the County spent 202 hours in Pierce for the month of February. The hours were broken down by 130 hours for Deputy Shaw and 72 hours from the other various officers. 18 calls were made including fire related, ambulance, animal bite, and a civil standby. Deputy Shaw is working on enforcing the stop signs and controlling speeds. Councilmember Wilson-Dill brought up that some of the trucks are still using their jake brakes coming into town. They seem to use them during the night and early morning hours. Deputy Shaw stated he would watch for trucks using their jake brakes. Deputy Shaw mentioned that there are several vacancies within the Clearwater County Sheriff's Department. If anyone knows of any qualified candidates to please refer them to him.
- D. City Clerk Report – Teresa Koepke reported that she put \$310,000 into 12-month CDs with ICCU at an APY of 5.00%. The monies came out of savings accounts that had not had any activity for the last several years. The FY19-20 & FY20-21 Annual Road Reports have been completed and filed so we should be receiving the funding that has been withheld. Teresa applied for two different grants for the PVFD for the purchase of the tanks. A check for ICRMP was received for the damaged lean-to. Teresa attempted to start the process of placing liens on four of the seriously delinquent accounts but was informed by the City's Attorney it was too late to file the liens and it appears the City Code currently reads to only allow liens on delinquent sewer bills. Teresa reported that she went through the WWTP Request for Reimbursements and invoices. It was discovered that one of the Request for Funds was never sent in and a few invoices for Mountain Waterworks have not been paid. Teresa is working on getting everything completed. More issues with payments to the IRS for payroll taxes have come up. The payroll taxes for July were double paid. Teresa is working with the IRS to get

the issue resolved. Postcards regarding the Dog License Notification will be sent out after Ordinance No. 321 is passed and published.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Gerot read Ordinance No. 321 that amends Pierce City Code 1-4-1(B) regarding General Penalties. Eden Bowie made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 321 with suspension of the rules. Clay Hosley seconded the motion. Roll Call: 4 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

Mayor Gerot read Ordinance No. 322 that amends Pierce City Code 9-3-2 regarding Subdivisions. Eden Bowie made the motion to pass Ordinance No. 322 with suspension to the rules. Clay Hosley seconded the motion. Roll Call: 4 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

- A. Kathy Wilson-Dill made a motion to accept the Business License applications that were presented. Eden Bowie seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- B. A Code Enforcement Complaint for Richard & Janelle Paul at 404 Pierce Ave was reviewed. Deputy Shaw went by the property after the complaint and stated that he deems it to be a nuisance. Ron Fugate said they have cleaned up a considerable amount but there is still a lot there. Councilmember Bowie stated that she goes by there every Sunday and feels like they are keeping it cleaned up. Daniel Vaughn stated that he will be installing 4 noxious smell monitors and will be downloading federal and state thresholds and regulations. Vaughn stated that he didn't feel the Pauls were ever going to be compliant because they are not taking responsibility for the situation. Deputy Shaw recommended the City deem it as a public nuisance. If found guilty, it would be their second offense and they would be required to bring the situation into compliance. Cheryl Stenzel stated that she is having issues with the home below hers having roosters again. The rooster(s) are crowing all day. Also, there are a lot of chickens, possibly 30, in a small space. It was mentioned that that Idaho State Statutes regulate how many poultry per square footage can be kept. Councilmember Bowie made a motion to send a Notice of City Code Violation to Richard & Janelle Paul requiring them to appear before City Council at the April 10, 2023 meeting. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- C. Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Koepke informed the council that the billing for March 2022 was not done. The meters were read, and the billing process was started but not completed and bills were not generated or mailed. Some residents did come forward to pay their bills even though they did not receive a bill. On those accounts an adjustment was entered for the previous month's bill amount and payment was entered. Generally the City bills approximately \$48,000 each month for water/sewer/garbage. An estimated \$25,000 was received for those that came forward to pay, leaving \$20,000+ not paid. The Accountant advised that we either need to bill for the missed month or refund the residents that came forward to pay. Councilmember Stinson made a motion to bill for March 2022 and provide residents with the option to pay the bill over a time period of up to four months. Kathy Wilson-Dill seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- D. Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Koepke requested to write off non-primary utility accounts that have been past due for quite some time and efforts to contact the customers have been unsuccessful. The charge offs total \$6,997.61 of which \$3,927.48 is one account that should have had liens placed on previously. Councilmember Hosley made a motion to write off the

non-primary accounts. Councilmember Bowie seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.


- E. Resolution No. 327 reaffirms the base rates for water services and establishes updated Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) for the businesses in town based upon average water usage over the last 12 months. Discussion was held that Mitch Jared's account at his shop, RV park, and two trailer houses should be set at 9 EDUs due to average water usage, however, the Council agreed to set his EDUs at 5 for the time being until he determines if he has a leak or if his water usage is actually that high.
- F. Resolution No. 328 reaffirms the base rates for sewer services and establishes updated Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) for the businesses in town based upon average water usage over the last 12 months. It was decided that sewer EDUs should match water EDUs. Discussion was held that the EDUs for Mitch Jared's account for his shop, RV park, and two trailer houses should be set at the agreed upon 5 EDUs for water, as all water and sewer EDUs should match. Councilmember Bowie made a motion to accept Resolution No. 327 & Resolution No. 328 establishing fees and EDUs for water and sewer services. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- G. Resolution No. 329 sets various fees charged/imposed by the City of Pierce. Councilmember Wilson-Dill made a motion to accept Resolution No. 329 setting the various fees of the City. Councilmember Bowie seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- H. Teresa Koepke was able to contact Sabrina Moyer, City Clerk/Treasurer for Troy, ID regarding setting up a website for the City of Pierce. Moyer stated that she could assist Koepke in getting the website set up for a fee of \$1,300. Councilmember Bowie made a motion that we accept Sabrina Moyer's proposal of \$1,300 to set up the City's website. Councilmember Wilson-Dill seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion carried.

Announcements: NONE

Councilmember Bowie made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) regarding employee performance. Councilmember Wilson-Dill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Bowie – Aye; Wilson-Dill – Aye; Hosley – Aye; Stinson – Aye.

Councilmember Bowie made a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All if favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Wilson-Dill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Councilmember Bowie seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.



Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Koepke
City Clerk/Treasurer