

CITY OF PIERCE
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546
Monday, January 8, 2024
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Gerot called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Greg Gerot, Kim Ward, Clay Hosley, John Stinson, Ron Fugate, and Teresa Koepke

Attendees: Kathy Dill, Stacy Hagele, Clare Brick, Matthew Hagele, Theresa Root, Dale Gilliam, Samantha Shaw, Tyrel Shaw, Chris Davis, Lily Hosley, Jerry Coles, Theresa Clark, Ronnie Anderson, Harry Stenzel, Cheryl Stenzel, Rob Harrell, Diane Gerot, and Harv Nelson

Councilmember Kim Ward made the motion to approve the consent agenda which includes the December 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and January's accounts payable. Councilmember John Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

City Clerk Teresa Koepke swore in Greg Gerot as Mayor.

City Clerk Teresa Koepke swore in Guy Bonner, Clay Hosley, Theresa Root, and John Stinson as councilmembers.

Councilmember Hosley made the motion to elect John Stinson as Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilmember Root seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Guy Bonner – Yes
Theresa Root – Yes
Clay Hosley – Yes
John Stinson – Yes

Councilmember Stinson was elected as Mayor Pro-Tem

Citizens Report & Request:

Clare Brick stated that there are a couple deep potholes on Main St near the Timber Inn. She asked if that was something the City could look at filling. Maintenance Supervisor Ron Fugate stated he would talk to the Matt Coon with ITD and see if the City could take care of those or if ITD would take care of them.

Mayor Gerot reported that the Pierce Winter Festival is planned for the weekend of February 2nd – 4th. He asked that the City's barriers be used to block the Main St as it will be closed from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. There are several events planned for the weekend.

Diane Gerot presented her idea that a community communication program be implemented within the City of Pierce for national emergencies. This would require someone with a short-wave radio that would receive notifications. That person would then relay the information to designated delegates, who would then serve as communication centers for the different neighborhoods. In order to best serve our community, approximately 14 delegates would be needed. Pink flags would be displayed at the delegate's homes to notify community members of notifications. Diane suggested that a flyer be provided in the welcome packet that Teresa Koepke is putting together for new residents. Feedback from those in attendance was very positive regarding this idea.

Department Reports:

Maintenance Supervisor Ron Fugate reported that the maintenance crew has plowed a couple times, replaced faded "No Parking" signs, completed some locates for Avista, marked meters for snowplowing, cleaned the sanitation truck, and replaced the brake line on the Case. Jack and Dalton have completed their classroom training for the CDLs and ready to take their final tests before obtaining their CDLs. Mike Martin was here and prepared a new Daily Operating Procedure for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Jack and Dalton have been working on repairing the jetter. Ron stated that he has had a lot of feedback and questioning on the issue with

cats. There seems to be a lot of free roaming cats that are creating a nuisance. The city code regarding cats was discussed. It was decided that maybe the topic needs to be reviewed at the next Council meeting as there is a lot to consider in regards to the City's responsibility and how to best handle the situation.

Matthew Haglee presented the Fire Department report. Fire Chief AJ Wells is out of town through the end of January. Chief Wells appointed Matthew Hagele as Assistant Fire Chief on December 18, 2023 and Assistant Fire Chief Hagele is covering in his absence. Chief Wells did notify Mayor Gerot before leaving and let him know Assistance Fire Chief Hagele would be acting in his absence. Training was held on December 3, 2023 to put chains on Engine 81 and go over operating the pumps on the engine. The Fire Department is requesting that the property inventory due by February be delay until May due to the cold conditions. Clare Brick reported that the SCBA pack/harness repair by MES is being funded by Clearwater County Emergency Management. The City will have to cover the cost of shipping the masks back. Clare estimated that would be \$30 - \$50 and she would also explore the option of picking them up from an MES representative if they were to be visiting the area.

Deputy Shaw reported that there were 33 calls of service for the City of Pierce last month. Those included traffic stops, domestic situations, and a burglary. 172 hours were recorded for the City of Pierce. 112 of those hours were Deputy Shaw. The remaining 60 hours were other various deputies. Deputy Shaw received his new patrol vehicle. Deputy Shaw reported that he successfully completed his POST training and is now state-certified.

City Clerk Teresa Koepke reported that the Annual Road and Street Report has been completed. The single audit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project has been completed and submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. The general audit is being finalized. Teresa has continued to work with Carmen Syed to figure out how to get away from the Google Suites commitment which costs the City \$1008 per year. Teresa will be working with Maintenance Supervisor on reviewing garbage EDUs for the commercial accounts. Sharon Barcus with Clearwater County Ambulance has asked the City of Pierce to help inform residents of the need to have their addresses clearly marked and visible should any emergency response personnel be needed. On a recent call for assistance the personnel responding were unable to quickly locate the residence.

Old Business:

The poultry at the McCutchen's residence have all been removed. Councilmember Hosley made the motion to send the McCutchen's a letter thanking them for their cooperation with the code violation. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

As of January 4, 2024 Ms. Schweitzer was still in possession of her geese and ducks. Councilmember Hosley made the motion to start the infraction schedule. Deputy Shaw would first issue a written warning and then if in 15 days Ms. Schweitzer has not complied, she would be subject to monetary fines starting at \$75. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

Councilmember Hosley made the motion to approve the appointment of Matthew Hagele as Assistant Fire Chief. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

City Clerk Teresa Koepke swore in Matthew Hagele as Assistance Fire Chief of the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department.

A request from Dale Gilliam for a reduction in his utility bills was reviewed. Mr. Gilliam stated that he had a new meter installed at his lower RV park and he is now paying to have the meter there but the site is seasonal so he does not have it rented. Councilmember Bonner stated he understands the situation but that the City of Pierce does not offer a seasonal rate for properties. Mr. Gilliam stated he would just have the meter pulled out. It was pointed out that there would still be a fee for sewer and garbage on the lot so the savings would only be \$48.71 per month. Councilmember Bonner made the motion to deny the request from Mr. Gilliam for a reduction in his utility bill. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. 3 Ayes 1 Nay. Motion carried.

Councilmember Stinson made the motion to approve the 2024 Business Licenses submitted for approval. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Business licenses approved were: Idaho Central Credit Union, Elk Snout Eatery & Mercantile, Dog Grooming by Sharon, McLaughlin Logging, Studio 205, McReynolds LLC (The Market at Pierce), Flame Bar, Pierce Mini Mart, and Timber Inn.

Paul Sifford who was acting as our Charge Operator through Idaho Rural Waterworks has agreed to continue as our Charge Operator. Paul has done a great job for us and has a good working relationship with our staff. Councilmember Stinson made the motion to approve Paul Sifford as our Charge Operator. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Further discussion was held that the current employees need to work on getting their certifications. Mayor Gerot stated he had been in contact with a representative from Idaho Rural Waterworks that will assist with preparing for the tests.

Councilmember Stinson made a motion to read Ordinance #326 requiring a survey be completed before a building permit for any new construction and/or additions be issued. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Upon discussion it was decided that further considerations needed to be made before reading and passing an ordinance. The ordinance was not read at this time and no vote was taken to pass the ordinance.

Councilmember Stinson made the motion to accept and sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Historical Society, the J. Howard Bradbury Museum, and City of Pierce. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion.

Roll call:

John Stinson – Yes
Guy Bonner – Yes
Theresa Root – Yes
Clay Hosley – Yes

Councilmember Hosley made the motion to approve US Army Corp of Engineer's Request for Advance or Reimbursement No. 17 in the amount of \$1,575.00. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Bonner made the motion to approve USDA-Rural Development Request for Funds #22 in the amount of \$525.00. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Stinson made the motion approve Mountain Waterworks Invoice #7574 in the amount of \$2,100.00. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Root made the motion to approve the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Report and Request Partial Payment Request No. 7 in the amount of \$4,960.50. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made the motion to approve Mountain Waterworks Invoice #7585 in the amount of \$9,921.00. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Bonner made the motion to enter into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b). Councilmember Hosley Seconded the motion.

Roll call:

John Stinson – Yes
Guy Bonner – Yes
Theresa Root – Yes
Clay Hosley – Yes

Executive session entered at 7:47 p.m.

Councilmember Stinson made the motion to exit executive session. Councilmember Root seconded the motion.

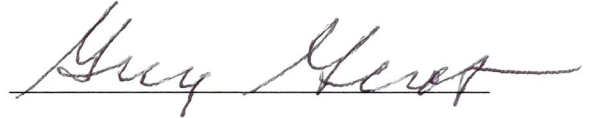
Roll call:

John Stinson – Yes
Guy Bonner – Yes
Theresa Root – Yes
Clay Hosley – Yes

Executive session exited at 8:15 p.m.

Councilmember Hosley made the motion to send AJ Wells his paycheck with a letter stating possible options to maintain employment with the City of Pierce in regards to required I-9 paperwork that has not been submitted. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Stinson made the motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Gerot", written over a horizontal line.

Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Teresa Koepke", written over a horizontal line.

Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer