

CITY OF PIERCE
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546
Monday, February 12, 2024
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Greg Gerot, John Stinson, Guy Bonner, Theresa Root, Clay Hosley, and Teresa Koepke

Guests: Charlie Ball, Lily Hosley, Theresa Clark, Ronnie Anderson, Matthew Hagele, Clare Brick, Diane Gerot, and Deputy Salisbury.

Councilmember Stinson made the motion to approve the consent agenda which includes the January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes and February Accounts Payable. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments & Request:

Charles Ball was present to discuss the City of Pierce's ordinance in regards to residential structure setback requirements. Mr. Ball stated that approximately 12 years ago his neighbor placed a building on the property line between him and his neighbor. He wants to know why the City of Pierce has not enforced the setback requirements and make the neighbor move the shed. Mr. Ball was advised that disputes between property owners is a civil matter that he would need to take up with his neighbor and/or a court of law. When asked why it is now an issue if the building was placed there 12 years ago, Mr. Ball replied that the issue has been resolved and his question to the council is whether they enforce city codes. Mr. Ball was again informed that the matter would be civil in nature and would need to be resolved between the property owners.

Clare Brick of the Pierce GEM Community reported that this year's Community Cleanup Day will be held Saturday, April 27th to coincide with Clearwater County's free day at the County's transfer stations/dumps. Pierce's Community Cleanup Day has been jointly sponsored by the City of Pierce and the Pierce GEM Team. The event is centered around the kiosk with activities from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. In the past the City of Pierce has provided the garbage truck and a maintenance person at the kiosk to collect garbage. It was discussed that now the garbage truck has to be emptied at the Orofino Transfer Station, if a better option would be to get several trailers and make runs to the Timberline dump instead. Volunteers will be needed to pick up garbage from elderly and/or disabled people that are not able to bring their items to the kiosk or dump. The Pierce GEM Community will provide trash bags as well as bottled water and food for the volunteers. Last year the City of Pierce sent out postcards and the GEM team put up flyers to increase participation. Teresa said she would mail out the postcards again this year. Clare asked if the City of Pierce could decide by the March 11th council meeting as to whether the City could provide the garbage truck and/or trailers this year along with someone from the maintenance crew. Clare stated there will be another free transfer station/dump day on October 20th of this year.

Each year the Pierce GEM Community sponsors a City Appreciation Day as a way to say thank you to the city employees and volunteers. It is usually held the first Friday in May. Clare asked if that would work again this year. It was decided that Friday, May 3rd would work for City Appreciation Day.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Teresa Koepke reported that the maintenance crew has been filling in some potholes with gravel. The jetter repair is almost done. Dalton and Jack have passed all their tests for their CDLs. TWE has contacted the City of Pierce to schedule the annual maintenance on the generators. The cost last year for the maintenance was \$3,501.76. Jack feels the maintenance crew could do all of the maintenance except for the load bank testing. Mayor Gerot stated that he spoke with Nolan Cochrell and was able to get the contact information of a local person that could do the work. Mayor Gerot has contacted that person and he plans to be in Pierce to look at the generators this week in order to provide an estimate for service. Jack has been working on cleaning the new sewer tank to keep the algae and buildup cleaned off the tank. Jack said there is no fresh water supply near the new tank to perform the cleanup. He thought there are a lot of different pipes located where a fresh line would

be put in, so we may need to call someone like Clearwater Construction in to install a new water line. Jack is pumping waste over from the new tank to the old tank so that he can press. This has to be done as there is no digester tank with the new wastewater treatment plant. It is unclear whether a digester for the new tank is still in the scope of work or if it has been cut from the project. Jack has moved the lines for the turbidity meters down which allows for a better flow and reading on the meters. He has also calibrated the turbidity meters which better ensures we are within legal limits.

Assistant Fire Chief Matthew Hagele presented the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department report. The fire department will be receiving a \$1,000 donation from the Clearwater Valley Fire District Auxiliary (CVFDA) from funds raised during the First Responders Appreciation Dinner and Auction. Clare Brick plans to attend the next CVFDA meeting in April. The fire department had one of the engines in the Pierce Winter Festival lighted parade. Two chimney fires were reported to fire department personnel. The fires were handled by the homeowners so no action was needed from the fire department. The 2024 Clearwater Fire Academy will be held March 15th - 17th. So far three members of the PVFD plan on attending the academy but they are trying to get more volunteers to attend. The cost is \$75 per person. The inventory process has started and is in progress but the key to access the equipment in the jail cell cannot be found. The IDYCA cadets have cleared the snow from several hydrants around town. Councilmember Root inquired as to how often the hydrants were flushed and when it was last done. Teresa Koepke reported that she had spoken to former Fire Chief Tyrel Shaw and that the hydrants are flushed once per year, usually in the spring. The hydrants were flushed in the Spring of 2023. Tyrel said the fire department needs to coordinate with the maintenance crew before flushing the hydrants as to not effect water levels. He also mentioned there is a diffuser to use to help reduce the water pressure and amount of water used. Councilmember Root said the research she had done indicates that the hydrants should be flushed twice per year. Assistant Fire Chief Hagele said he would look into that and report back. Tyrel also mentioned that there is a fire hydrant map located in City Hall as well as the fire department office. There are several hydrants that need to be looked at for repair or replacement. It was decided that the fire department would inspect all the hydrants and then work with the maintenance crew on those that need repaired or replaced. Teresa said that she had already contacted Susan Jacobson with Clearwater Economic Development and there may be grant money available for the hydrants. Tyrel may also have a lead on some used hydrants. On behalf of Pierce Winter Festival, Mayor Gerot presented a \$520 check to the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department. The funds were the proceeds from the Saturday breakfast sponsored by Chubby's Pizza.

Deputy Salisbury was present and provided a written report of calls for service for the City of Pierce for the month of January. Deputy Salisbury was asked if, or when, the City of Pierce would have a resident deputy as Deputy Shaw is on administrative leave. Deputy Salisbury replied that he lives on the hilltop and until he heads out to the backcountry in late spring, he is able to respond to any calls we may have.

City Clerk Teresa Koepke reported that the \$6,344 reimbursement from FatBeam for damages done to the sewer line was received. Teresa submitted an application to the Idaho Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. If awarded, the grant would cover not only the installation of new metal siding on City Hall, it would also cover sheeting and wrapping the building and installing insulation in the building and attic. The amount requested was \$43,026.51. It was discussed that if the grant request was not approved, the City of Pierce may want to hold off on redoing the siding until the budget would allow for insulation and sheeting. Teresa thought the grant applications would be reviewed some time in March. A proposal from iiiA was received for medical insurance. The premiums are higher than the current premiums with BlueCross because iiiA would require all employees to participate and currently not all employees are enrolled with BlueCross. Notices for non-collection of garbage were printed and the maintenance crew is handing them out to residents whose garbage is in violation of the city code. Teresa was asked to share with the community that a Fit & Fall Proof™ class will be starting in Pierce the first Monday in March. The classes will be held at the Lutheran Church from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Teresa thanked Mayor Gerot for all his hard work on the Pierce Winter Festival. It was a very successful event.

Old Business:

Shannon Schweitzer was issued a written warning on January 12, 2024 for violating Ordinance No. 325 by keeping waterfowl within city limits. A citation was then issued to Ms. Schweitzer on January 25, 2024 with a court appearance date of February 12, 2024. Mayor Gerot called the Clearwater County Court Clerk and was informed that Ms. Schweitzer was not present for her court appearance nor had she paid the fine as of February

12th. The Court Clerk did tell Mayor Gerot that the court did not have a copy of the ordinance in order to take action. A copy of the ordinance was then emailed to the court. It was requested that Deputy Salisbury make additional contact with Ms. Schweitzer to see if she is still keeping water fowl within the city limits and if so, issue the next citation in the infraction schedule laid out by Ordinance No. 321.

Mayor Gerot proposed an updated version of proposed Ordinance No. 326 which deals with the requirement for a survey prior to issuing new building permits. The updated version would change the verbiage from a survey being required to the City of Pierce reserves the right to require an up-to-date survey or written statement from a licensed surveyor. The councilmembers thought the updated verbiage was a much better option. The new ordinance will be put on the agenda for the March meeting.

New Business:

Mayor Gerot reported he was notified by Clearwater County Waste Management that effective immediately the City of Pierce would need to bring its compacted garbage to the Orofino transfer station. The Timberline dump is not permitted as a transfer station. Due to weight loads allowed with the garbage truck, the garbage will need to be taken to Orofino at least twice per week. This will add extra costs to the sanitation operations that will need to be passed along to residents. Mayor Gerot and city staff members met with Robert Simmons from Simmons Sanitation to explore the option of having Simmons Sanitation provide sanitation services to the City of Pierce. Sanitation account information was provided to Simmons and they will provide a bid if they are interested in handling our sanitation service. Robert did say even if he was not interested in handling our sanitation service, he would assist us in streamlining our service so that it can be done in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. Some topics of discussion were to purchase standard 95-gallon cans for residents and businesses not using dumpsters and add a device to the existing garbage track that would lift the cans to dump. Options were also discussed that would allow for one trip per week to Orofino instead of two. More information should be available to present at the March 11th council meeting.

Teresa Koepke made the recommendation to move \$400,000 from the checking account at Idaho Central Credit to a savings account that would earn higher interest than the checking. The funds would be liquid so could easily be transferred back to the checking if needed. Councilmember Hosley made a motion to open new savings at Idaho Central Credit Union and transfer \$400,000 from the checking. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The certificates of deposit held at Idaho Central Credit Union are maturing on February 16, 2024. At maturity the CDs should be around \$325,000. Councilmember Stinson made a motion to renew the CDs for a 12-month period at 4.80% APY. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Root made a motion to authorize Assistant Fire Chief Matthew Hagele to sign the Idaho Department of Lands Cooperative Agreement on behalf of the City of Pierce. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. Roll Call: John Stinson – Yes, Guy Bonner – Yes, Theresa Root – Yes, Clay Hosley – Yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Bonner made a motion to accept the LHTAC/Local Agreement for the new bridge. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Discussion was held that the LHTAC and/or the engineer need to be made aware that a city water main runs along the bridge. Teresa stated she would inform the representative at LHTAC about the water main when she sends the signed agreement back. Roll Call: John Stinson – Yes, Guy Bonner – Yes, Theresa Root – Yes, Clay Hosley – Yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve the Merrick & Company Contract Assignment. Mountain Waterworks has merged with Merrick & Co. The agreement assigns the contracts previously assigned to Mountain Waterworks over to Merrick & Co. Those contracts are for the wastewater improvement and the drinking water facility plan. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. Roll Call: John Stinson – Yes, Guy Bonner – Yes, Theresa Root – Yes, Clay Hosley – Yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Bonner made a motion to approve the 2024 Business Licenses submitted. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Business licenses issued to: Jeter's RV Park and Pierce Pioneer LLC/Chubby's Pizza. Beer and Wine license issued to Pierce Pioneer LLC/Chubby's Pizza.

Councilmember Stinson made a motion to approve US Army Corp of Engineer's Request for Advance or Reimbursement No. 18 in the amount of \$1,843.37. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve USDA-Rural Development Request for Funds #23 in the amount of \$614.46. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Root made a motion approve Merrick & Co. Invoice #7613 in the amount of \$2,457.83. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Bonner made a motion to approve the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Report and Request Partial Payment Request No. 8 in the amount of \$15,472.50. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.


Councilmember Stinson made a motion to approve Merrick & Co Invoice #7629 in the amount of \$30,945.00. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Bonner made a 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 8:05 p.m.

Councilmember Stinson made a motion to exit executive session. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. Roll Call: John Stinson – Yes, Guy Bonner – Yes, Theresa Root – Yes, Clay Hosley – Yes. Executive session exited at 8:28 p.m.

Councilmember Bonner made a motion that due to lack of response from AJ Wells requiring the proper paperwork for the I-9 that AJ be terminated from his position as Fire Chief of the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. Roll Call: John Stinson – Yes, Guy Bonner – Yes, Theresa Root – Yes, Clay Hosley – Yes.

Councilmember Stinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:32 p.m.


Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer