

CITY OF PIERCE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING & WORK SESSION MINUTES

404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546

Tuesday, September 21, 2023

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Guests: Clare Brick, Lily Hosley, Rodney Hickman, Walter Culpepper, Kathy Wilson-Dill, Eden Bowie, Gabrielle Casey, Albert Wells, Chris Davis, Matthew Hagele, Jerry Coles, Harv Nelson, and Clara Bentley

Mayor Gerot welcomed members of the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) and thanked them for attending the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to have direct conversation between the PVFD, Mayor Gerot, and the Councilmembers to put to rest any rumors or misinformation that may be circulating regarding the fire department as well as discuss ways in which the Council could help with the department's goals. Members of the PVFD stated they heard that they were going to be merged with the Weippe Fire Department. Councilmember Hosley stated that he had proposed the idea of having Tony Christopherson, Fire Chief for Weippe, take an interim role with the PVFD to provide some stability while a new Fire Chief is sought for Pierce. The idea of doing some joint training was discussed, but there was no talk of combining the two departments. Eden Bowie brought up that she thought there may be an ordinance that requires the PVFD Fire Chief live in Pierce. A.J. Wells, Lieutenant of the PVFD, is acting as Fire Chief. He stated that they are continuing to work on their agenda items, including chimney sweeping, which they have completed 10 so far. He stated that one of the concerns they have is recruiting people with experience. A.J. mentioned that not many people are familiar with the equipment and pumps. He is working on different areas of focus to train people on, which may help with obtaining grants. Councilmember Stinson stated we should focus on training on the equipment we currently have in Pierce. A.J. stated he is wanting to cross-train. Clare Brick stated they had many people on the roster but a lot of them don't show up. They are talking about implementing an attendance requirement and set standards for members to adhere to. Harv Nelson suggested to do some training at each meeting so people feel like the meetings are worth coming to. A.J. mentioned the Fire Academy had extraction training and equipment he is looking into. He is also working on building in-house training that would not cost anything. A.J. stated some of the concerns he has is creating leadership within the department. He also stated a concern was that the maintenance crew is using the tender and is not keeping the tender full and some water tools were missing. Councilmember Ward stated that communication between all the departments is key as to not create a division. Harv Nelson mentioned that leadership is very important. It needs to be well understood who the Chief and/or Assistant Chief is. It would be expected that the Chief have experience and wisdom. Everyone should know who is in charge. We currently have no one in as Chief or Assistant Chief. A.J. is the captain and said he would volunteer his services to be the Fire Chief. Harv stated that A.J. has the confidence of his peers. A chain of command is needed. Eden Bowie mentioned that a representative would be contacting Mayor Gerot regarding the closure of gates in the woods that creates an issue when assistance is needed behind the gates. Mayor Gerot thanked everyone for their input.

The proposed Poultry Ordinance was reviewed. In light of the recent complaints, it was discussed that all poultry, other than hen chickens, would not be allowed within city limits. The hen chickens allowed would need to be in the rear yard. Teresa Koepke will submit the proposed ordinance to the Attorney for his review so that the ordinance could be read with suspension of the rules at the next regular council meeting.

Councilmember Ward made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.


Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer