

CITY OF PIERCE
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546
Monday, September 11, 2023
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Absent: Eden Bowie.

Guests: Harry Stenzel, Rachel Rasband, Lily Hosley, Theresa Clark, Diane Gerot, Clare Brick, and Cheryl Stenzel.

Councilmember Kim Ward made a motion to accept the August 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and August 23, 2023 Budget Hearing minutes, as well as September's accounts payable. Councilmember Clay Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizens Report & Request: Theresa Clark reported that the goose at 410 Cedar Dr is still disturbing the peace in the neighborhood. Ms. Clark stated she called Clearwater County Sheriff's Office two weeks ago and a deputy responded and spoke with Ms. Schweitzer, but the Deputy was unable to make any progress with the situation. The birds have now been moved to the backyard and a pond has been created for the birds. Ms. Clark reported that it smells like a cesspool. She shared parts of a recording she took of the goose squawking. The recording was 1 hour 26 minutes long and the noise was constant. The City had been advised by a Sheriff's Deputy to issue a Disturbing the Peace citation since we do not currently have a poultry ordinance in place that will cover this. Deputy Rose pointed out that issuing a Disturbing the Peace ticket is not valid in this case since it is not "malicious" as referenced in the Disturbing the Peace code. Mayor Gerot commented that complaints like these are the reason we need to get a poultry ordinance in place. It was decided a workshop to finalize a poultry ordinance would be held prior to the next regular council meeting.

Community Comments/Questions/Concerns:

Department Reports:

Terrance Stevenson, Engineer from Mountain Waterworks, was present to provide an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Terrance reported that the project is basically done. The start-up was done but it is not instantaneous. The new tank needs to be seeded from the old tank and they are using micro-seed since the flows into the WWTP are low. The old tank needs to have the sludge and garbage removed and then pumped into the new tank. The PH levels are currently being worked on. Terrance reported he was on a call with RD and USACE to see about getting more money to see the new wastewater plant all the way through. Funds are needed for new blowers, a building extension, and some repairs. There may be some block grants available, but the City would need to look to residents to increase rates. For every \$100,000 needed for the City's contribution, it would raise sewer bills by approximately \$1.05.

Maintenance Supervisor Ron Fugate reported that Jack Koepke has been working with Cary Houchins from Smith & Loveless on getting the new wastewater tank onboard. Jack continues to work on pressing the old tank out. Ron & Jack have been working at the water plant and are finding things that can be done more efficiently than previously done, one item being the way the backwashes are being done. The DMR reports have been completed. The crew continues to try to locate the meter for Alvard's on 1st Ave. The Judgetown meter was repaired. There were three leaks on 3rd Ave that were repaired. The culvert on Canal near McCutchen's is plugged and being worked on.

No one was present to present the Fire Department report. Clare Brick did mention that there are approximately 25 people that have signed up to have their chimneys swept.

Sheriff's Deputy Rose was present but stated he had not been provided with a report from the Sheriff's office. He said that he personally responded to 8-10 calls within Pierce during the month of August. He is considered a general deputy, so he covers all of Clearwater County. Councilmember Hosley asked if Deputy Rose had been given any guidance on how much time to spend in Pierce. He replied that he had not. Deputy Rose said he would provide Mayor Gerot with a report from Clearwater County Sheriff's Office once he receives it.

City Clerk Teresa Koepke reported that the L-2 has been submitted. Candidacy forms for the Mayor and Councilmember seats have been submitted. Teresa will be working on splitting the utility accounts between the Pines and Downtown so that water usage can be better tracked to help identify leaks. Teresa and Mayor Gerot had a conference call with Susan Jacobson from Clearwater County Economic Development and a representative from LEAP to discuss potential housing developments within Pierce. The City would donate land for LEAP to then build single family and/or multi-family housing for low-income individuals and families. The housing could be rentals, that are managed by LEAP, or properties built for purchase. During the recent Community Development Forum that Susan hosted, housing, specifically rentals, was a major need identified within the City of Pierce. Teresa advised that there are community input posters at various businesses around Pierce, including City Hall. The posters allow residents to vote on ways to strengthen the community. Teresa will be attending the ICCTFOA Annual Institute next week in Boise. City Hall will be closed Tuesday – Thursday in Teresa's absence.

Old Business:

Councilmember Ward made the motion to vacate the City Code Violation against the Karn's. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Ward made the motion to issue Harris a citation for the continued code violation of the vehicle parked in the front yard. Councilmember Holsley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Ward made the motion to send Schweitzer a Notice of Code Violation regarding the odor coming from the pond for the geese and ducks on her property. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. It was discussed that Ms. Schweitzer also be informed that the Council is in the process of implementing a poultry ordinance that she would be in violation of as her situation now stands. There have been multiple complaints from residents regarding the continued noise. Some of the complaints are from residents over on Ponderosa Court. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

A city code violation was filed against the City of Pierce regarding trees in the roadway at the intersection of 3rd Ave and Pierce Ave. Said trees allegedly make it unsafe to proceed forward from the stop sign on 3rd Ave. Photos were provided and the council members did not feel that the trees were blocking the view. Deputy Rose stated he had been over to assess the situation and he agreed that the trees were not blocking the view. Furthermore, residents Harry and Cheryl Stenzel were asked if they had any concerns, being that they live on Pierce Ave and travel through that intersection. They both responded that they did not see a problem with it. Councilmember Ward made the motion to have the maintenance crew move the stop sign further towards Pierce Ave. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

A city code violation for Colin and Sarah McCutchen at 212 Canal St was reviewed. McCutchen's have a large number of various poultry on their property that are causing an extremely foul odor. Also, there is a creek that runs through the property where the poultry are kept. The poultry are causing erosion into the creek which is causing not only the culvert to clog up, but the foul water is pooling up on a neighboring property across the street causing an odor issue there. The manner in which the poultry are

being kept is also attracting a lot of insects. Councilmember Ward made the motion to send a Code Violation letter to McCutchen's. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. It was discussed that McCutchen's should also be informed that the Council is implementing a poultry ordinance that they would be in violation of. All in favor. Motion carried.

The most current Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) study was reviewed with updated usage as of August 2023. Councilmember Ward made the motion to set the various accounts at the target EDU shown with the exception of account #29 to be set at 7 instead of the targeted 9.75 and that account #114 be treated as a single-family residence since there is no longer a business in operation at this address. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Memorandum of Agreement with Idaho Department of Lands was reviewed. Councilmember Stinson made a motion to sign the Agreement once a Fire Chief has been appointed. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The bid from Hanson Garage for a new vehicle was reviewed. The vehicle, a 2024 Dodge 2500 Tradesman would replace the Ford F550. The Ford has had some mechanical issues that are well known for this year, make, and model. We have been advised not to put money into it as the problems will be recurrent. A dependable vehicle is needed, especially to haul bio-solids to Lewiston. The bid price for the new vehicle is \$48,000. \$20,000 was budgeted for the 23-24 fiscal year, which would more than cover payments for the year on a new vehicle. Councilmember Ward made the motion to approve the purchase of the new vehicle for \$48,000. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. Roll call: Councilmember Stinson – Yes, Councilmember Hosley – Yes, Councilmember Ward – Yes. Motion carried.

Teresa Koepke reported that HUB is no longer an authorized Agent for ICRMP. We have the option to choose another agent that is approved with ICRMP or deal directly with ICRMP. By dealing with ICRMP directly we should save at least \$1400 per year. Councilmember Ward made the motion to deal directly with ICRMP and cut out the agent. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

A request has been made to the City to have a Dead-End sign put up on Juniper Court. Councilmember Hosley made the motion to install a Dead-End sign on Juniper Court. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

A request to revise the traffic on 1st Ave from one-way to two-way was requested. With the street a one-way street, traffic has to go through the Credit Union parking lot. Councilmember Ward made the motion to return 1st Ave to a two-way street. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Idaho Gem Grant Application Resolution was tabled for the time being. The resolution was regarding obtaining an Idaho Gem Grant to have pickleball courts installed. The proposed site was City property over on Highway Street. More information, including bids for the entire project as well as funding for the 20% match from the City is needed before being able to move forward with the grant application.

Councilmember Ward made the motion to approve USDA Request for Funds #19 in the amount of \$33,287.62. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Ward made the motion to approve USACE Request for Reimbursement #14 for \$99,862.85. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Ward made the motion to approve Mountain Waterworks Invoice #7420 in the amount of \$14,608.60. Councilmember Stinson approved the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Ward made the motion to approve the Clearwater Construction Contractor's Pay Request #13 in the amount of \$118,541.87. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Stinson made a motion to pay State Insurance Fund for the Idaho Workers' Compensation when the bill comes due. The estimated first half of the premium will be \$5,821. Councilmember Ward seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

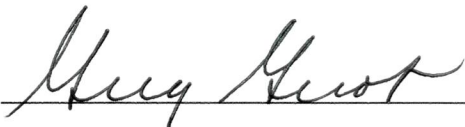
Announcements – Councilmember Stinson reported he visited Western States to inquire about renting snow plowing equipment. They have a 950 with a 12' blade in Missoula they thought they could get for the City of Pierce. They are supposed to follow up once they have the information, including the rental cost.

Councilmember Ward made the motion to enter into Executive Session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b). Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilmember Stinson – Yes, Councilmember Hosley – Yes, Councilmember Ward – Yes. Motion carried. Executive session was entered at 8:05 p.m.

Councilmember Stinson made the motion to exit executive session at 8:55 p.m. Councilmember Ward seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilmember Stinson – Yes, Councilmember Hosley – Yes, Councilmember Ward – Yes. Motion carried. Executive session was exited at 8:55 p.m.

No action was necessary regarding the vote on the termination of Fire Chief as Gabrielle Casey submitted her resignation to Mayor Gerot as of September 9, 2023.

Councilmember Stinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Ward seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer