

**CITY OF PIERCE**  
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546  
Tuesday, October 15, 2024 6:00 p.m.  
**PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Mayor Gerot, Councilmembers: John Stinson, Theresa Root, Clay Hosley and Guy Bonner (via telephone).

Staff: Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer and Jack Koepke, Maintenance

Councilmember Root made a motion to approve the consent agenda which includes the approval of September 5, 2024 Special Meeting minutes, September 9, 2024 Public Meeting and Regular City Council Meeting minutes, September 23, 2024 Special Meeting minutes and October's Accounts Payable. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to modify the order of the agenda to accommodate Councilmember Bonner's attendance via telephone. Order of agenda to be: Public Hearing, Agenda Items D-I, Department Reports, Agenda Items A-C and J-O, Citizen Comments, and Announcements. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Gerot opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m. regarding the FY2025 Proposed Fee Schedule/Increases. There were no verbal comments received in favor or against the FY2025 Proposed Fee Schedule/Increase. There was one written comment received by the City Clerk just prior to the commencement of the meeting by a resident opposed to the fee increase. The resident was not able to attend the meeting in person. The Councilmembers acknowledged the receipt of the letter. Public hearing was closed at 6:10 p.m.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to read Ordinance #328. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Upon discussion, Councilmember Hosley amended his motion to suspend the reading of Ordinance #328 on three different occasions and to read Ordinance #328 once by title only. Councilmember Root seconded the amended motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Gerot read Ordinance #328 Amending Pierce City Code, Title 4, Chapter 2, titled Garbage and Refuse by title only.

Councilmember Root made a motion to adopt Ordinance #328 pertaining to changes to the garbage and refuse code under suspension of the rules. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. Roll call: Stinson – Yes, Bonner – Yes, Root – Yes, and Hosley – Yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 339 as it pertains to establishing water rates for the City of Pierce. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. 3 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 340 as it pertains to establishing sewer rates for the City of Pierce. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. 3 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 341 as it pertains to establishing sanitation rates for the City of Pierce. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. 3 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 342 as it pertains to adopting a city-wide fee schedule. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Jack Koepke reported that the lift axle has been installed on the garbage truck. The axle is a steerable one as originally planned. The registration still needs to be completed at the Port of Entry, which will hopefully be done



on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. The additional axle has weight rating of 13,500 pounds which will help accomplish the goal of taking the sanitation truck to Orofino once per week instead of twice per week. The maintenance crew has been working on the fire hydrants. The hydrant near the Lutheran Church that was believed to be inoperable is actually in good working condition. The maintenance crew dug down by hand and couldn't find anything wrong with the hydrant. Upon researching how fire hydrants operate, Jack was able to determine the hydrant has not been used properly. The hydrant needs to be totally opened or totally closed. The hydrant near Olives was reported to have a bad barrel but upon inspection it was determined that the hydrant was missing 7 of 8 bolts so when turned on water would come out where bolts were missing. The hydrant on Cedar Dr near Jackie Cram's is broken inside. The crew is working on getting the hydrant apart for repairs. They will need to fabricate a tool to be able to get the hydrant apart. The hydrant on Clearwater Avenue apparently froze in cold weather quite some time ago and is broken. The hydrant will need to be replaced. All other hydrants have been tested and repaired as needed. 15 of the hydrants leaked around the top gaskets. Two were froze up and needed taken apart and greased. Most of the hydrants have been painted over several times throughout the years and were difficult to get apart for repair. Jack commended Ronnie and Dalton on the task of getting the hydrants repaired. The Lead & Copper reporting has been submitted and approved by DEQ. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, the testing requirements for lead will increase to ten homes every three months. The current testing schedule is ten bottles every three years. The roads were recently graded. The road to the Forest Service repeater was graded as well. The city has received funds from the Forest Service for the maintenance of the road. The plan is to have gravel spread next spring. Fire Chief Hagele asked Jack about the hydrant signs getting put up. Jack stated that it was his understanding that the maintenance crew was going to work on the hydrants and the fire department would work on the signs.

Fire Chief Matthew Hagele thanked the maintenance crew for their work on the fire hydrants. Chief Hagele provided the following report: The department was dispatched to an explosion and fire at Cardiff on Sept. 11th. Ten regular fire fighters and one reserve fire fighter responded. Chimney cleaning is done for the year, the department cleaned 25 chimneys. The department was dispatched on Sept. 29th to rescue a seven-year-old male who had his arm stuck in a chicken coop. Two fire fighters responded. Two members have resigned and one person has joined the fire department. There are two more new people signing up soon to be fire fighters. The department is taking on one young man to train as a cadet fire fighter. Since he is under 18 years old, he will not be actively fighting fire but will be in a support role. Seven Fire Fighters successfully completed Basic Life Support training on October 12th. The fire department held their Fire Prevention and Fund Raiser Event on October 12th. \$300 was made from the dinner and donations in the amount \$896 were received. One of the donations was \$500 from John Miller Investigations out of Linden, California. He came to Pierce as part of his investigation into the Cardiff Fire and talked to the Fire Chief. He heard about our Fire Prevention and Fund Raiser Event but was unable to stay and attend but wanted to make a donation for the event. The fire department will have a new Facebook page created soon. Rob Fleming questioned Chief Hagele about the insurance/liability of the minor being part of the department, even in a supporting role. It was discussed that ICRMP should probably be consulted. City Clerk Teresa Koepke advised Chief Hagele that a Facebook page would need to follow social media guidelines. Any posts and/or comments on the page could be considered public record. Teresa stated that ICRMP has a training on social media and that he may want to have members complete the training before publishing the page.

Sheriff Goetz was present but did not present a Sheriff's Department Report.

City Clerk Teresa Koepke reported that she attended the Association of Idaho Cities Clerks Conference in September. She found the conference very beneficial. BMS Pay is now live. Teresa stated she is very excited about the payment portal. There were a couple kinks to work out at first but the system should be very beneficial to the city and residents alike. Susan Jacobson with Clearwater County Economic Development is in the process of getting members from AmeriCorps to do some volunteer work some time from January 2025 – April 2025. She has asked the City of Pierce to put together a list of potential projects. Teresa reported that the employees had wellness checks done through iii-A. These checks are done annually at no cost to the city or the employees. Teresa is still working on the grant for siding city hall. The requirements for BABA are now waived for projects under \$250,000. This should help the contractor with procurement of materials needed for the project. We have been awarded the Child Pedestrian Safety grant in the amount of \$214,443. This will provide for a sidewalk down Carle from Main Street to the Play Park as well as radar speed signs on Main St and Canal St.



LHTAC has assigned consultants to assist smaller cities with the process. Teresa has a conference call scheduled with LHTAC and the consultant later this month.

#### New Business:

Scott Widner who owns property at 205 Canal St. addressed the council regarding repairs to his sewer line this last summer. Mr. Widner stated that he had hired a contractor and was granted permission by Jack Koepke to go into the road (Canal St.) if needed to make the necessary repairs. Mr. Widner stated that Mayor Gerot later came to the site and told him that he was not allowed to go into the street. Mayor Gerot indicated that he did not tell Mr. Widner that he could not go into the street. Jack Koepke said that Mr. Widner and the contractor were both told that the original locate requested only went from the edge of the property line to the house and did not extend into the street. If they wanted to call in a new locate, the city would come cut the pavement and help dig since the location of the city water lines are not exactly known in that area. Mr. Widner was told at that time if it were just the small area that needed cut, the city will take care of repairing that small section, but if they had to cut across Canal St. for the repairs, Mr. Widner would be responsible for the cost to repair the street. Jack said he stopped by several times over the next few days and was told by the contractor that they got the sewer line to drain and put in a clean-out so there was no need for another locate or to cut into the street. Mr. Widner's sewer line is still not functioning correctly so he proposed to the city that he would pay for the work done to the sewer line if the city would take care of the street repairs. Mr. Widner was informed that he would be responsible for any street repairs necessary from the work on his sewer line. Mr. Widner's stated his second concern was regarding the installation of a new water line to his property when the meters were installed. Mr. Widner alleged that the contractor installing the water meters replaced the water line from the meter to his house and put the new line in the sewer trench. Mr. Widner was told by the council that the city and/or city contractor would have only installed lines from the water main to the meter. No work would have been done on the customer's side of the meter. Mr. Widner's third concern was that there is a city culvert behind his house that is a storm water drain that he is concerned with erosion on his property. Jack stated that he would look into that and assess the situation.

Sheriff Goetz with the Clearwater County Sheriff's Office was in attendance to present the new contract between the CCSO and the City of Pierce. The most recent contract is expired. The terms of the new contract would remain the same as the most recent contract and would be effective October 15, 2024. Sheriff Goetz stated that the pay and benefits for one deputy is around \$85,000 per year. Pay, benefits, and equipment are estimated at closer to \$100,000 per year. The contract provides for 171 hours of service per month for the City of Pierce for a cost of \$34,775 per year. When asked what the City of Pierce receives for their \$34,775 per year since residents already pay taxes for the sheriff's services, Sheriff Goetz stated that by having a resident deputy, the residents of the City of Pierce receive a higher level of service and faster response times and enforcement of city codes. Discussion was held that the City of Pierce has not been provided with 171 hours of service for quite some time and that when a resident deputy was assigned to Pierce, that deputy was often times called out to cover other area of the county because the department is short staffed and was not available to respond to the city's needs in a timely manner. When asked if there was a deputy available to be the City of Pierce's resident deputy, Sheriff Goetz said he did not have a deputy available at this time but could try to get one. He stated that one of the obstacles in getting a resident deputy for Pierce is housing. It was discussed that the City of Pierce is not opposed to having a resident deputy and/or signing a contract, but the terms as presented are not favorable. Discussion was held that maybe the City of Pierce and the City of Weippe work together to have a joint Resident Deputy. Councilmember Bonner made a motion to not approve the contract as presented and to revisit at a later time. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. Roll call: Stinson – Yes, Bonner – Yes, Root – Yes, and Hosley – Yes. Motion carried.

A code violation complaint for parking on Third Avenue was reviewed. This has been an ongoing issue and multiple complaints have been received recently. The complaints are that the Culpeppers continue to have vehicles parked on Third Avenue that make it difficult for vehicles to pass, especially emergency vehicles if needed. Mr. Culpepper was granted a business license for mobile oil changes and bolt-on parts with conditions, including no parking of vehicles other than in the shop. A code complaint was reviewed in May at which time the council voted to send Mr. Culpepper a letter reminding him of the conditions of his business license. Councilmember Hosley made a motion to send Mr. Culpepper another letter reminding him of the conditions of

his business license and that if the problem persists, his business license could be revoked. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Root made a motion to approve the LHTAC Leading Idaho Bridge Application regarding Bridge KN29076. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. Roll call: Stinson – Yes, Root – Yes, Hosley – Yes, Bonner – No vote as he has left the meeting by this time. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Report and Request No. 15 for Reimbursement for Planning Grant Programs in the amount of \$187.50. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Root made a motion to approve Merrick & Co. Invoice #8003 in the amount of \$375.00. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Stinson made a motion to approve USDA Request for Reimbursement #30 in the amount of \$3,020.00. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

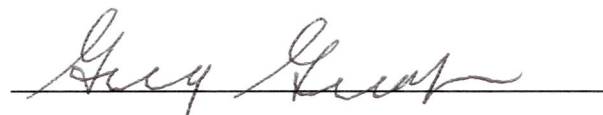
Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve Merrick & Company Invoice #8031 in the amount of \$3,020.00. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Root made a motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Change Order #7 in the amount of \$3,376.24. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: None

Announcements: Teresa Koepke thanked Councilmember Root for stepping up and volunteering to help facilitate the drop off of the sanitation truck to have the additional axle installed. Jack Koepke mentioned that the new blower is still not installed as a variable speed drive is needed for the blower. Terrence Stevenson is working on getting a bid for the VSD.

Councilmember Stinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer