

MOSES LAKE CITY COUNCIL  
August 25, 2015

Council Present: Dick Deane, Bill Ecret, Karen Liebrecht, David Curnel, Todd Voth, Jason Avila, and Jon Lane

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Deane.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Ecret led the Council in the flag salute.

PRESENTATION AND AWARDS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jack Dodson, Randy Moore, Edgar Salazar, and Omar Ramirez were introduced to the Council and given the oath of office as a Police Officer.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes: The minutes of the August 11 meeting were presented for approval.

Approval of Claims, Prepaid Claims, Checks, and Payroll: Vouchers audited and certified by the Finance Director as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims, certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Council for approval and is retained for public inspection at the Civic Center. As of August 25, 2015 the Council does approve for payment claims in the amount of \$1,481,356.41; prepaid claims in the amounts of \$85,816.83, \$190,298.98, and \$100,796.11; claim checks in the amount of \$1,629,305.55; and payroll in the amount of \$338,103.58.

Moses Lake Industries Final Major Plat and Findings of Fact: Moses Lake Industries has submitted a final plat application for a one-lot plat of 86.946 acres at 8242 Randolph Road, the location of the existing plant. The site is zoned Heavy Industrial, which corresponds with the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designation of Industrial. There have been no significant changes from the preliminary plat. The Planning Commission recommended that the final plat be approved with conditions.

Resolution - Accept Easement - Russell Major Plat: A resolution was presented which accepts an access easement for the Russell Major Plat, Lot 2, Block 1, Commercial Bindings Site Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

Action Taken: Mr. Ecret moved that the Consent Agenda be approved, seconded by Mr. Avila, and passed unanimously.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS - None

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND QUOTES - None

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, OR PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE - AMEND ZONING MAP - 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

An ordinance was presented which changes the zoning of 190 parcels in the downtown area from C-2, General Commercial and Business, to C-1A, Transitional Commercial Zone.

The ordinance changing the official zoning map was read by title only.

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, gave the background on the proposed new zone and the reasons for the changes.

Action Taken: Mr. Lane moved that the first reading of the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Mrs. Liebrecht, and passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE AMEND 18.30 - COMMERCIAL ZONES - 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

An ordinance was presented which amends the Commercial Zones by including a new C-1A, Transitional Commercial, Zone.

The ordinance amending Chapter 18.30 of the Moses Lake Municipal Code entitled "Commercial Zones" was read by title only.

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, explained that the changes deal with the newly created C-1A Zone.

Action Taken: Mr. Ecret moved that the first reading of the ordinance be adopted, seconded by Mr. Voth, and passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE - GARBAGE RATES - SINGLE READING

An ordinance was presented which establishes new garbage collection rates. The rates take effect September 9 and reflect the increases in the contractor fee set forth by contract.

Bob Taylor, Finance Director, stated that the proposed increase in the garbage rates coincides with the increase in the rates charged by the garbage contractor. He pointed out that the rates charged by the garbage collectors to the City are automatically increased by the increase in the CPI and by adopting the new rates for the City's customers at this time, changes to the rates will only have to be made once.

Ryann Leonard, 905 Sand Dune, felt that the citizens should be notified and was concerned that the rates would be passed on a single reading.

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, pointed out that historically the public has not been notified of changes in the garbage rates.

Dr. Curnel was concerned that a financial situation is not an emergency with regard to the public health, safety, property, or peace.

Katherine Kenison, City Attorney, explained that there is no state law that requires the City to have two readings of an ordinance. The requirement for two readings of an ordinance was self imposed by the Council many years ago. The Council can determine if an emergency exists and adopt an ordinance on a single reading.

Action Taken: Mr. Ecret moved that an emergency be declared and the ordinance be adopted on a single reading, seconded by Mrs. Liebrecht, and passed with Dr. Curnel opposed.

Mr. Ecret directed staff to provide notification to the citizens of the increase on the utility bills and also direct them to the website where the increase can be explained.

RESOLUTION - NUISANCE ABATEMENT - 2603 TEXAS

A resolution was presented which provides for the abatement of nuisances at 2603 Texas, owned by Dorothy Hester.

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, stated that the lot is in the process of being cleaned up and recommended that the hearing be continued to the next Council meeting to give the property owner an opportunity to complete the clean up.

Action Taken: Mrs. Liebrecht moved that the hearing be continued to the next Council meeting, seconded by Dr. Curnel, and passed unanimously.

REQUEST TO CALL FOR BIDSMAE VALLEY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - REBID

Staff requested authorization to call for bids for the 2015 Mae Valley Sewer Improvement Project - Rebid. The project includes installing 1,850' of 12" force main through Blue Heron Park and 1,800' of 18" gravity sewer

main in Westshore Drive, decommissioning the existing Montana Sewer Lift Station, and constructing the new Blue Heron Lift Station.

Action Taken: Mrs. Liebrecht moved that staff be authorized to call for bids, seconded by Mr. Lane, and passed unanimously.

#### REFERRALS FROM COMMISSIONS - None

#### OTHER ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

#### DEVIATION REQUEST - PUD - UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

The Grant County PUD requested a deviation of the requirement to place new electrical distribution and transmission lines underground for fiber optic cable to connect the Rocky Ford substation with the Dover Substation Project and their Wheeler Tap to the Warden Substation Project. The PUD estimates the cost for the Rocky Ford line at \$570,000 to place the line overhead and \$2,780,000 to place the lines underground. The estimate for the Wheeler Tap is \$1,800,000 to place the lines overhead and \$8,000,000 to install the lines underground. The Council may approve a deviation if it is determined that the cost of the underground installation, when compared to overhead installation, is disproportionate in comparison to the benefit to be gained by the property and/or public.

Randy Kono, PUD Electrical Engineer, explained the difference in costs between placing the transmission lines overhead as opposed to underground.

Jeff Shupe, PUD Engineering Manager, explained that these projects are only partially in the City and explained that the high voltage transmission lines are very expensive to install underground as opposed to placing them overhead.

Anita Gruchalla, PUD Lands Specialist, explained that the PUD had public workshops on these projects and have talked to all the jurisdictions that would be impacted.

Action Taken: Dr. Curnel moved that the deviation request be granted, seconded by Mr. Lane, and passed unanimously.

Mr. Ecret requested that the ordinance requiring the undergrounding of utilities be reviewed by the Council in the near future.

#### REQUEST FOR SEWER - LOWLAND WASTEWATER COMPANY

Jill Goodrich, owner of Lowland Wastewater Company, requested to change the boundary of the area that she can serve with her private sewer system, which the City allows to be discharged into the City's force main under a contract signed in 2009. The property is located in the Pelican Pointe area adjacent to the lake.

Gary Harer, Municipal Services Director, gave the background on the contract with Lowland Wastewater Company and explained that a new contract would be drafted if the Council approves the request.

There was some discussion by the Council.

Action Taken: Mr. Voth moved that the request to expand the boundaries of the property to be served be granted, seconded by Mr. Avila, and passed unanimously.

#### NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

#### GRANT COUNTY EDC - RECON SHOW

Emily Braunwart, Grant County EDC, reported on the contacts made at the Recon Show in Las Vegas that is attended by the EDC and the City.

Debbie Doran-Martinez, Chamber of Commerce, explained that attendance by the EDC and City at this show helps to build relationships with retailers.

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, explained the work that goes into attending this show and the contacts that can be made.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE

Bill Foxley, 1026 S. Garden Drive, mentioned that the City is borrowing money between funds in order to keep the ambulance service solvent and suggested that perhaps the City should eliminate the public ambulance service and have a private ambulance service in the City. He felt that if the City is in need of funds, the funds saved from the ambulance service could be used in other departments of the City. He mentioned that Walla Walla and Portland have both gone to a private ambulance service as they could not afford a public one.

Mr. Ecret pointed out that the City is studying the ambulance service, what the Fire Department would look like if the City did not operate the ambulance service, and how the ambulance service report is being compiled.

### COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Ecret requested that the nuisance ordinance be reviewed to consider some changes such as eliminating the 10' buffer for sidewalk areas vs non-sidewalk areas, vegetation on vacant lots being a certain height, and a shorter period of time between the reporting of the violation and the conclusion of the case.

#### CHICKENS

Mr. Ecret requested that an ordinance be drafted that would allow chickens within the City limits to include a limit of 8 hens and no roosters and be similar to regulations in other cities and towns in Grant County.

Mr. Voth volunteered to coordinate a demonstration of how chickens are raised when the ordinance is before the Council.

### CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, stated that a contract has been drafted with American Medical Response (AMR) to cover non-emergent out-of-town transports and should be signed within the next couple of days. He mentioned that a meeting was held with Samaritan Hospital, AMR, and Protection-1 from Quincy in order to explain the ramifications of the contract between the City and AMR. He pointed out that staff is investigating the operation of the Fire Department without the ambulance service. A meeting was held with Mr. Ecret, the Interim City Manager, and the Finance Director to discuss the monthly ambulance report and determined that the coding of the time sheets needs to be refined to provide an accurate report.

Mr. Lane felt that the cost-of-service should include the Fire Department as well as the ambulance service.

Brett Bastian, Acting Fire Chief, stated that the out-of-town transports have been done by AMR since Wednesday, August 19. Not doing the out-of-town transports allowed the Fire Department to respond to a structure fire with a full crew and to respond to a cardiac arrest call with a full complement.

#### BUDGET

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, stated that the Grant County Assessor is working on the new construction that was not included in the City's assessed value. Three of the major projects were at least \$5.6 million that was not included and that shorted the City \$332,640. The Assessor is investigating ways to possibly recoup some of those funds

#### ICE RINK

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, stated that the Parks and Recreation staff worked out a cost breakdown for the use of the ice rink this coming season.

Spencer Grigg, Parks and Recreation Director, distributed a breakdown of the proposed fees for the use of the ice rink. He explained that the fees were based on the fees used at the Surf n' Slide Water Park.

There was some discussion by the Council.

Mr. Ecret felt that the admission and season passes should be the same for adult and youth.

Action Taken: Mr. Ecret moved that the admission fees for the ice rink be set as follows:

1. Daily admission without skate rental - \$3  
under 5 free
2. Skate Rental - \$5
3. Combined daily admission - with skate rental - \$6
4. 10 admission punch card - \$25
5. 10 admission punch card with skate rental - \$65
6. Individual season pass - \$45
7. Individual season pass with skate rental - \$75
8. Hockey ice rental  
Youth - \$100 per hour  
Adult - \$125 per hour  
Out of area teams - \$275 per hour
9. Private rink rental  
local organizations - \$125 per hour  
non-local organizations - \$200 per hour

seconded by Mr. Voth and failed with Mr. Ecret, Mr. Voth, and Mr. Avila, in favor and Mrs. Liebrecht, Mr. Lane, Dr. Curnel, and Mr. Deane opposed.

Action Taken: Mr. Deane moved that the rental rates as submitted be approved, seconded by Dr. Curnel, and passed with Mr. Deane, Mrs. Liebrecht, Mr. Lane, and Dr. Curnel in favor and Mr. Ecret, Mr. Voth, and Mr. Avila opposed.

### PROJECTS UPDATE

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, provided a list of the on-going projects in the City.

### INVESTMENT REPORT

The City received \$18,816.83 in investment income for July 2015.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The regular meeting was recessed at 9:05 p.m. and the Council met in a 10 minute executive session with the City Attorney to discuss labor relations and potential litigation. The executive session was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. and the regular meeting was reconvened.

### CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT

Gilbert Alvarado, Interim City Manager, stated that the Council is to meet with Greg Prothman, who was hired to recruit a new City Manager, on September 10 to review the applications. It was the consensus of the Council that 9 a.m. be set to meet with Mr. Prothman. He mentioned that Mr. Prothman also wishes to discuss with the Council how the potential elections would impact the review of the applications. Specifically, should the candidates be included in the process to select a new City Manager.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

ATTEST

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Dick Deane, Mayor

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W. Robert Taylor, Finance Director