

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 2/28/2023

Mayor Sean Simmons  
6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members: Mike Gladhart, Jennifer Dunaway, Shannon Schrader, Josh Tilley and Doug Donner

Staff: Administrator-Ryan Smathers, Clerk Treasurer-Donna Wilson, Build Official Todd Perry, Public Works Supervisor-Shane Miller, Water/Wastewater Supervisor-Michael Martin, Fire Chief Bart Jones and Police Chief-Vincent Frazier

Absent: Councilmember Swayne

Guests: Kaye Weller, Chris McCune, LJ Reece, Alan Schumacher, Helen Clark, Shelly Donner, Loretta Stout and John Erbst

Media: Elizabeth Morgan and Nancy Butler

MINUTES

Councilmember Schrader made a MOTION to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written held on February 14, 2023. Councilmember Tilley seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

A copy of the Regular Planning & Zoning Commission of Orofino Meeting Minutes held on February 21, 2023 was submitted to the Council for review and information only.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Councilmember Tilley made a MOTION to approve the regular bills, the additional bills and the payroll dated February 25, 2023. Councilmember Schrader seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

PETITIONS, APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND COMMUNICATIONS

2023 Park Calendar – Final park calendar for 2023 was presented to the Council and is now open to the public to request reservations for park use.

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## DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Administrator-Administrator Smathers provided a project list status update from J-U-B Engineering. He reported that it gives some timelines as to where the projects are coming in. Smathers asked the council a fun little trivia question. He wanted to know if anyone on the council knew how old the Orofino Business Center is? Smathers had found a picture in the vault and the groundbreaking was January 23, 2003, so it has been 20 years. Smathers reported that the Mayor and himself met with the Congressional Reps for just a little over an hour. They just wanted to meet the Mayor and get a community update and build those relationships. Councilmember Gladhart stated that he spoke with Administrator Smathers about the grant funds. There are a number of projects and would like an update more often of the projects so he can understand better on where the money is coming from and where it is going. Councilmember Donner inquired on the Advisory Council. Smathers reported that we'll find out on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March if we were successful or not with the grant applications for the transportation plan.

Clerk Treasurer-Clerk Treasurer Wilson reported on looking at a change in the City's medical insurance from Regence BlueCross of Idaho to III-A. Wilson reported that there was an all employee meeting to hand out a questionnaire so that III-A can review and see what kind of premium rates that can be provided in hopes that it will be better than that of the City's current insurance premiums being paid, in order to help save money for both the City and the employees and receive better benefits including vision and dental. With the costs of premiums running between \$714.00 to \$2071.00 per month and with future increase on the horizon, we as a City need to look for possible better rates.

Building Official-Building Official Perry reported that there had been a lot of building permits for the month of February and is expecting just as many for March.

Public Works-Public Works Supervisor Miller reported that they have been working on the pressure relieving valve (cla-val) project on Pine Heights/Wixon Heights he will have pictures and an update on it next council meeting. This is the tank located up by State Hospital North. That line goes up Wixon Heights with a lot of elevation there. It is a 150,000 gallon tank with 220 psi, so it can't be sent to Pine Heights. Without that pressure valve there to control that to get lower pressure over to those houses. There is about half a mile of water line to drain, which is unfortunate because one valve would save that. They will have half a mile of air to get rid of to keep out of people's homes and keep from bursting pipes; that is a big concern. Still waiting for Avista & Concrete for the tennis courts.

Police-Police Chief Frazier reported productive week, but trying week as well. Tracking personnel that are moving forward in their cases. They did solve a recent storage burglary theft case that has been going on. A couple of dope cases and a lot of traffic enforcement. The department is progressing after the difficult previous week. Councilmember Donner inquired if we currently have a drug dog. Chief Frazier stated that we currently do not have one in the City's Police Department or in the County. He would like to have one in the future, but with the current new staff that is in place, he wants to make sure they are going to be here well in to the future, he

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believes that the investment of a drug dog right now is not wise. Chief Frazier stated that he has noticed that Idaho County is very active with their drug dogs. He is curious how they're managing it because a drug dog and some of the legislation out here the timeframe that you have to run a dog on a traffic stop is short. The days of sitting in a patrol car and wait for 30 minutes for a drug dog to arrive can no longer be done. It is definitely a joint effort between the City and County if we do get one to have that available. He does have some of the new officers that are eager and have shown that interest, but until they can be proficient in everything else he will probably not move forward with it, but it would be nice to have. It is an initial investment, but there is the availability of a lighter is Jason Davis who is a sheriff currently out of Lewis County who is a qualified drug dog trainer. He is who Idaho County relies on to train their dogs that are certified through the state and has offered that to the City. Even with POST standards they recommend an officer with at least five years' experience before moving into something like that, but it is something the department would like to have.

Water/Wastewater-Water/Wastewater Supervisor Martin reported operations as usual. The projects that they currently have are delayed due to weather to finish up. Councilmember Gladhart thanked Supervisor Martin for the tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and is looking forward to touring the Water Treatment Plant next.

Fire- Fire Chief Jones reported five fire calls & eight rescue calls for the month of February. Two new personnel on board. Fire Academy scheduled for March 17-19, 2023. Planning on surplus four of the fire vehicles, for approximately the following amounts. Engine 51 - \$33,000, Tender 58 - \$20,000, the old Rescue 33 - \$5000 and the old Brush Truck 59 - \$3,000. With the hopes that if the opportunity came up, they could use the funds this year to get a replacement for the secondary rescue truck. Administrator Smathers interjected that they will present to Council resolutions for surplus the vehicles next council meeting in March. There is some interest in some of those truck already from other departments in the area. There is one tanker currently being built that has already been purchased in this year's budget, but to replace the rescue truck, there isn't enough funds in the vehicle replacement fund to replace the broken down secondary rescue. In order to replace that sooner, this is what Chief Jones is hoping to do. Councilmember Schrader inquired if these will be sold on the public surplus? Administrator Smathers stated that we are not signed up on the surplus website yet. There is interest by other departments in the area, so we'd hope to sell to them first. Councilmember Donner inquired that with the current equipment that we have, are we top rated? Chief Jones stated that yes we are at the best we can get with not having a full time staff. We are currently at a four (4) rating. The secondary rescue truck, Rescue 33 that is located at Station 2 on Riverside is actually a brush truck that has been converted in to a brush/rescue truck. Councilmember Gladhart inquired that the idea was to get rid of the older trucks to be able to buy another rescue truck and leave the other one as a brush/rescue truck? Chief Jones reported that currently there are two that are out of service, the old rescue 33 and the old brush truck that have to go anyway and he is just fine tuning it and getting rid of some of the maintenance issues and that is the whole point of upgrading the equipment. They are doing fine with what they have, but if they see the opportunity to pick one up they would like to have the approval to be able to move forward.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Alan Schumacher stated that he thinks it is better to put the surplus vehicles on the public auction surplus website vs selling to another public agency. Building Supervisor Perry reported that he has worked for the City of Orofino for 27 years and has seen other agencies doing the same. This is being a good steward of other agencies and being good neighbors to help them out as others have done for the City.

Kay Weller thanked the Police Chief. The traffic has definitely slowed down on Brown Ave.

## COUNCIL COMMENT


Councilmember Gladhart inquired to Public Works Supervisor Miller if any of the signs on Brown Avenue has been installed yet? Miller reported that the signs on Brown have yet to be put up. Councilmember Gladhart also inquired if there have been any pluses or negative to the One Way signs on Railroad Road? Chief Frazier stated that they haven't heard any negative yet. They have been focused more on Brown Avenue. He hasn't tasked his people to go over to Railroad Road yet to educate. Next week he plans to have that area as part of their primary patrols. The only person that really grumbled about it was the gentleman that lives on the corner. He explained to him that if he turns in to the parking lot and comes around by the ball field he can drive right across to his parking area and that is not a violation. So it is just a matter of educating. The intention is not to be writing a bunch of tickets, but educate first.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 6:27 p.m., Councilmember Dunaway made a MOTION to adjourn. Councilmember Schrader seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

  
 Donna M Wilson, City Clerk Treasurer

  
 Sean Simmons, Mayor