

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WALLACE, IDAHO
May 13, 2020

Mayor Mogensen called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The meeting was held telephonically due to the Governor's stay-at-home order.

Roll Call: Council members present: David DeRoos; Elmer Mattila; Heather Branstetter; Rick Shaffer; Michele Bisconer and Dean Cooper.

Consent Agenda:

Council member DeRoos made the motion to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the April 8, 2020 regular meeting, minutes from the April 30, 2020 special meeting, accounts payable in the amount of \$135,281.13 and the advance payroll for May. Seconded by Council member Branstetter. All Ayes. Carried.

Reports:

Mayor:

Mayor Mogensen stated all the meetings she had this month were related to issues involving COVID-19.

Sheriff:

Council member DeRoos read the Sheriff's report submitted by Sheriff Gunderson stating that during the month of April 2020 the Shoshone County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to 112 calls for service within the city of Wallace. A report was attached. Council member Shaffer made the motion to approve the Sheriff's report as submitted and read. Seconded by Council member Mattila. All Ayes. Carried.

Fire:

Council member Shaffer read the Fire report submitted by Fire Chief Aaron Cagle stating that Shoshone County Fire District One personnel responded 8 times for medical emergencies and 2 fire responses in Wallace for April 2020. Council member DeRoos made the motion to approve the Fire report as submitted and read. Seconded by Council member Bisconer. All Ayes. Carried.

Street:

Council member Bisconer stated the Public Works Department worked on the following items in April: installed pedestrian sign by the Elks, replaced broken bridge curbs and fencing on the south side of River Street, purged boiler at City Hall, fertilized parks, meet with owners at 104 Elm regarding removing trees on the City's easement, cleaned gravel from Buena Vista and inspected Placer Creek.

Finance:

Council member Cooper read the Finance report submitted stating that the General fund has \$650,762.57; Street \$-52,335.29; Library \$43,308.51; Parks & Rec. \$135,377.01; Insurance \$46,924.13; Sewer \$85,281.84; USDA \$19,873.77 for a total of \$929,192.54. Wells Fargo Savings \$353,105.13 and Wallace Inn UDAG \$194,996.37. Council member DeRoos made a motion to approve the Finance report as submitted and read. Seconded by Council member Shaffer. All Ayes. Carried.

Library:

Council member Mattila stated since the library has been closed, the staff has used this time to clean and organize. They have had help from Janet and Pat Kinsey, Mike and Terrie Dexter and Jenniffer and Dan Carrico. Last month there was an earthquake in the area and it may have caused damage to the library's foundation. The Foundation board is going to discuss this at their next meeting. The library would like to re-open on June 1st. When the library does re-open, they will only allow six people at a time, the bathrooms will remain closed, people will not have access to the computers and no children's programs will be offered.

Parks and Recreation:

Gary Patterson, from Panhandle Health, will be in Wallace June 22nd and 23rd regarding the parks use survey and walkability workshop. He will be attending the June council meeting to talk with city council about the survey. Only 20 people completed the survey, so Council member Branstetter suggested the survey be shared some more on social media. Council member Branstetter asked if the City was going to relax the virtual meetings by next month. Mayor Mogensen said she could not answer that at this time. Council member Branstetter stated she was contacted by Amy Lynn who was wondering if the City could divide up the pool bid and begin work on some of the project. Discussion held. Mayor Mogensen

suggested council member Branstetter contact Jim Roletto. NW Vernacular has produced a draft of the historic plan. The next step is to put it on the City's website and distribute copies and solicit feedback from the public. David Sherman would like to hold a public hearing on June 3rd at the high school. The community garden is open. People can reserve their spots at city hall. Council member Cooper stated Depot Days was held virtually and had about 100 registrants. The Depot would like to reopen this summer and will submit a plan to the City before reopening.

Business:

Review Animal Control Agreement with City of Osburn – (Action Item) – Mayor Mogensen stated the differences to the contract include a statement that the City of Osburn is a “no kill” shelter and they will only house the dogs for three days before they are sent to Pet Rescue. Discussion held. Council member Branstetter stated the contract looked good to her. Council member DeRoos stated three days is long enough. Council member DeRoos made a motion to accept the Animal Control Agreement with the City of Osburn. Seconded by council member Bisconer. Roll Call Vote. DeRoos Aye; Mattila Aye; Branstetter Aye; Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye; and Cooper Aye. Carried.

Beer & Wine License for Muchacho's Tacos - (Action Item) – Luanne Wuerfel spoke on behalf of Muchacho's Tacos. She stated they provided the City copies of the State and County license and also paid their application fee. Council member DeRoos made a motion to approve Muchacho's Tacos application for beer and wine. Seconded by council member Bisconer. Roll Call Vote. DeRoos Aye; Mattila Aye; Branstetter Aye; Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye; and Cooper Aye. Carried.

Opening bathrooms at the Visitor's Center - (Action Item) – Starting May 17th the Visitor's Center is prepared to re-open their bathrooms. The bathrooms would be cleaned daily, and they would like the City to help cover this cost. The approximate cost to the City would be \$600. Discussion held regarding reopening bathrooms versus keeping the port-a-potties that are currently there. Council member Shaffer stated he doesn't think port-a-potties are the type of presentation the City want to maintain. Council member Branstetter agreed with Mr. Copelan that having restrooms instead of port-a-potties allows for less contamination. Council member Cooper made a motion to accept the proposal. Seconded by council member Shaffer. Roll Call Vote. DeRoos Aye; Mattila Aye; Branstetter Aye; Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye; and Cooper Aye. Carried.


Events in Wallace for 2020 – Dick Caron - (Action Item) – Dick Caron addressed the council. Mr. Caron is concerned about festivals in Wallace, and believes the City should err on the side of caution. He doesn't see how social distancing can be done in a festival atmosphere. Mr. Caron said this is an impossible question of health vs. economy and he believes that the City has to err on the side of caution and put the citizens of Wallace above everything else. He stated that we should think of this as “the summer that wasn't...”. Mayor Mogensen stated she agrees and feels the City needs to protect the health, safety and well being of our citizens and our visitors as well. Discussion held. Mr. Caron stated he would like to think the City is progressive and thoughtful enough that we think about the citizens in this community and the people that come into the community. Council member Branstetter asked for clarification on the Blues Festival Street Closure. Mayor Mogensen stated Marcy Hayman asked to be removed from the agenda. Council member Branstetter stated she received emails and comments about not having Blues Festival, but she would support a “see how things go” approach, but could be persuaded to not have any events at all. Council member Mattila said he hears negative comments about having festivals. Discussion held on what events are still scheduled this year. Council member DeRoos stated the City cannot cancel Blues Festival, but they can tell them they cannot do it on the streets of Wallace. DeRoos feels the City should inform the Blues Festival of the concerns brought forward by the people of Wallace. Discussion held on what the “action item” is. Mr. Caron said he would like to see having no festivals this summer put to a vote. Council member Bisconer feels it is irresponsible to invite hundreds and thousands of people from all over the place this early in the summer. She would like to take street closures month by month. Discussion held on letters the City received regarding Blues Festival and festivals in general. Council member DeRoos stated some action needs to be taken. He feels it would not be fair to the festivals that are coming up, that have put a lot of work into their event, to then be denied. Council member Shaffer said he did an informal, anonymous survey between 30-50 people and 69% of people want festivals. Shaffer feels doing a blanket vote is “heavy handed” and he would like to take the “wait and see” approach. Further discussion held. It was stated that the owners of the Red Light, Metals, and Silver Corner do not support having festivals. Council member Cooper made a motion that the council release a statement discouraging people from requesting street closures this summer. Seconded by council member DeRoos. Roll Call Vote. DeRoos Aye; Mattila Aye; Branstetter Aye; Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye; and Cooper Aye. Carried. Discussion held on what “discourage” means. Council member Bisconer asked how the City would release this statement. Council member Cooper said it would be placed on our website and if anyone came to the office, the clerk could inform them of the policy. Council member Branstetter stated these events need insurance and obtaining insurance may be difficult right now.

Discussion held regarding not approving events without insurance.

Street Closure for Wallace Blues Festival – Marcy Hayman/July 10-12 (Action Item) – Ms. Hayman notified the City that she wanted to be removed from the agenda. Item not addressed.


General Discussion – Keith Dary asked the council to “not close the door yet” on festivals. Lizzie Keitel stated she wrote a letter and she doesn’t mind if her letter is shared with the public. Ryder Gauteraux owns a parcel located on the east side of city limits and the property has three dwelling on it. Mr. Gauteraux stated the public works supervisor was directed to put barriers blocking the right-of-way and did this without contacting ITD or himself. He would like an explanation from the City as to what is going on. Mayor Mogensen stated the barriers that were placed there are City barriers. She said the concern is people driving through the river and damage to a tunnel, which is down stream. Mr. Gauteraux said he agrees with those points, but that is the main access to the property and he was never notified. Mr. Gauteraux would like a meeting set up within 10 days. He then asked what council members had knowledge regarding placement of the barriers. Mayor Mogensen and Council Bisconer will go up and look at the property. Discussion held on sharing the letters received by the City. Council member DeRoos asked if Jim See’s letter was being addressed.

There being no further business to come before the council, Council member Branstetter made the motion to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Seconded by Council member Bisconer. All Ayes. Carried.



Lynn Mogensen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristina Larson
City Clerk/Treasurer