

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WALLACE, IDAHO
February 15, 2024

Mayor Mogensen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the council chamber.

Roll Call: Council members present: Rich Matrisciano, Elmer Mattila, Cindy Lien, Rick Shaffer, Michele Bisconer and Dean Cooper.

Flag Salute

Consent Agenda

Council member Shaffer made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting, accounts payable for January in the amount of \$66,755.97, transfers and the advanced payroll for February. Seconded by council member Bisconer. All in favor. Carried.

Reports

Mayor:

The Mayor stated that the 6th St. bridge project should begin in March. The city is looking into additional funding for this project. Council member Bisconer stated she attended a meeting at South Fork Sewer District regarding a coop with other cities for storm drain cleaning equipment. There will be an update next month on moving forward with this coop.

Sheriff:

Council member Shaffer read the Sheriff's report submitted by Sheriff Lindsey stating that during the month of February 2024 the Shoshone County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to 81 calls for service within the city of Wallace. A report was attached. Council member Mattila made the motion to approve the Sheriff's report as submitted and read. Seconded by Council member Lien. All in favor. Carried.

Fire:

Council member Cooper read the Fire report submitted by Fire Chief John Miller stating that Shoshone County Fire District One personnel responded 11 times for medical emergencies and 2 fire response in Wallace February 2024. Council member Shaffer made the motion to approve the Fire report as submitted and read. Seconded by Council member Bisconer. All in favor. Carried.

Street:

Council member Shaffer stated the streets crew is doing a good job keeping the streets clear.

Finance:

Council member Matrisciano read the Finance report submitted stating that the General fund has \$1,364,748.06; Street \$21,682.39; Library \$-9,163.49; Parks & Rec. \$14,257.97; Insurance \$-13,427.38; Sewer \$225,819.73; USDA \$50.00 for a total of \$1,603,967.28. Savings \$34,174.38, Mt. West CD \$200,000, Wallace Inn UDAG CD \$195,143.46 Council member Mattila made a motion to approve the Finance report as submitted and read. Seconded by Council member Lien. All in favor. Carried.

Library:

Council member Mattila read a report submitted by librarian, Annette Kologi. Three hundred and five patrons came to the library. The heat tape finally came down. Discussion held on replacing the heat tape.

Parks and Recreation:

Council member Bisconer is setting up a meeting with the new pool manager, Moanna.

Housing :

Council member Lien stated she has been familiarizing herself with all the info related to housing left by former council member Branstetter.

Business:

Consider grant through USDA – Paige Olsen, SVEDC/Siobhan Curet (*Action Item*) – Paige Olsen addressed the council. The grant she would like to apply for is the Rural Business Development Grant and is geared toward helping small businesses in any capacity. She is asking the city to be the sponsor to purchase a PA and lighting system for events in Wallace. Mayor Mogensen asked who the equipment would belong to. Ms. Olsen responded it would belong to the city. The city could gift it, or rent it out. Ms. Curet put together a proposal and received a bid for a sound system. Discussion held on who would store the equipment, cost to city, what to do if the equipment is damaged, etc. Council member Cooper made a motion to support the grant submission. Seconded by council member Bisconer. Roll Call Vote. Matrisciano Aye; Mattila Aye; Lien Aye, Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye and Cooper Aye. Carried.

Consider updating lights at visitor center to LED – K.O. Electric (*Action Item*) – Austin George, co-owner of K.O. Electric addressed the council. K.O. Electric was offered this trade ally program with Avista to update fluorescent lights to LED at no cost to small businesses and cities. They have done upgrades at a church in Pinehurst and Eureka Sally's in Wallace. Mr. George went over the Lighting Upgrade Summary provided to the council. There is no cost to the city and this program can be extended to all city buildings. Mr. George said he could be done with the upgrade at the visitor center within a day. Council member Mattila made a motion to update the lights at the visitor center with K.O. Electric. Seconded by council member Matrisciano. Roll Call Vote. Matrisciano Aye; Mattila Aye; Lien Aye, Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye and Cooper Aye. Carried.

Consider street closure request for East Egg Hunt at Stardust Motel/March 30th – KimBerly Keyton (*Action Item*) – Ms. Keyton addressed the council. This will be the Stardust's 3rd annual Easter egg hunt. The closure request is for the corner of 4th to the end of the Stardust lot. Discussion held blocking off the street with signs and cones. Ms. Keyton said they have bathrooms, trash and insurance covered. Council member Bisconer made a motion to approve the street closure for the Stardust Motel for Saturday March 30th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Pine St. from 4th St. to a half block up with the stipulation that there is a noticeable street closure. Seconded by council member Shaffer. Roll Call Vote. Matrisciano Aye; Mattila Aye; Lien Aye, Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye and Cooper Aye. Carried.

Consider street closure request for Ursidae Cornhole/July 21st - Kris Morrison (*Action Item*) – Mr. Morrison addressed the council. The event last year was a success. They would like to set up in front of the Elks this year. Mayor Mogensen stated this may be a problem with mail trucks going in and out at the post office and blocking access to 1910 coffee shop. Further discussion held on location, toilets, insurance, etc. Council member Lien asked that they contact the residents that live in that area. Council member Shaffer stated so many people use that portion of Cedar St. to access Moon Pass, so if this closure is approved, there needs to be signage letting people know the street is closed. Council member Cooper suggested they get these issues figured out and come back to council next month and made a motion to table this item. Seconded by council member Bisconer. Roll Call Vote. Matrisciano Aye; Mattila Aye; Lien Aye, Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye and Cooper Aye. Carried.

Discuss the agenda for Blues Fest - (Action Item) – Mayor Mogensen stated Mr. Cook was asked to come back to council to clarify some changes to the event. Mr. Cook explained the main stage has been moved from the high school to under the freeway across from Harvest Foods. Mayor Mogensen stated that Mr. Cook needs to contact ITD and the Parks Department if he is going to have the main stage in that location. Council member Bisconer went over what Mr. Cook had presented to the council at past meetings and what was actually approved. She stated the council approved July 12th – 14th and he is advertising July 10th – 14th. He should have come back to council with his new plan before he began advertising. Mr. Cook confirmed he does not have a permit from Park and Rec to use the trail. Further discussion held on advertising, contacting the proper departments, such as ITD, Parks and Rec and Union Pacific Railroad, security plan and why the main stage is being moved. Sheriff Lindsey asked for clarification on where the stages will be set up. Mr. Cook stated they would be under the freeway across from Harvest and they are still looking for a location for the beer garden. Further discussion about changes to the event without contacting the city. Carlton Ahern, treasurer of Wallace Arts Council, asked to address the council. He stated Alex is not trying to work against the city. He has worked closely with Alex and can reassure the council this is not the case. He suggested in the future the city assign a liaison to work with the organization that is putting on an event. Further discussion held about advertising for something that was not approved. Council member Lien stated the festival does not need to be for 6,000 people. It needs to fit Wallace. Further discussion. Council member Mattila thinks people that have come in years past will be disappointed if the footprint is not the same. This was echoed by council member Shaffer, along with his support for the event. Alex gave some background on past Blues Fests. Council member Lien encouraged the group to keep the same footprint as last year, and improve the event. She also stated she would like to see a complete application. Council member Matrisciano suggested the group work off of the road closure that was already approved. Sheriff Lindsey spoke and her concerns with the safety and security policy are as follows: the sheriff's office will not remove people that do not follow the Blues Fest rules, a five-day event is too long during the month of July, the jail is already to capacity and a five-day event will “eat up the overtime budget”. She also stated that having the event at two locations is dangerous because the officers have to worry about how to evacuate people from multiple locations if something were to happen. Further discussion regarding security. Mr. Cook suggested coming back with an updated plan. Council member Cooper made a motion to table. Seconded by council member Matrisciano. All in favor.


Consider appointment of Heather Bernhart to P&Z - (Action Item) – Mayor Mogensen put forth Ms. Bernhart for the open position on Planning and Zoning. Council member Shaffer stated he thinks she would be a great fit. Moved by council member Shaffer. Seconded by council member Mattila. Roll Call Vote. Matrisciano Aye; Mattila Aye; Lien Aye, Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye and Cooper Aye. Carried.

Discuss draft of the Short Term Rental Ordinance (Action Item) – Council member Shaffer suggested council review the updated draft and send changes to the clerk. Council member Mattila agreed that council should review and discuss next month. Discussion of house bill 506. Attorney Jacobs stated the current draft of the STR ordinance does not violate any part of this bill. Council member Bisconer made a motion to table the short term rental ordinance until March. Seconded by council member Lien. Roll Call Vote. Matrisciano Aye; Mattila Aye; Lien Aye, Shaffer Aye; Bisconer Aye and Cooper Aye. Carried.

Council member Cooper made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by council member Matrisciano All in Favor. Carried.


Lynn Mogensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kristina Larson
City Clerk/Treasurer