

NOTUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA, AMENDED
Monday, December 14th, 2020 @ 7:00PM
at Notus City Hall, 375 Notus, ID, 83656
In Council Chambers

SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOL IN PLACE: Max of 10 people at a time in Council Chambers

1. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor, David Porterfield.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken with the following results: Council President Bonnie Emly and Councilwoman Michelle DeGiorgio, present. Councilmen, Steve Ahlborn, and Devin Krasowski, present. Mayor Porterfield, City Attorneys, Joe Borton and Stephanie Hanson, present. City Clerk, Loretta Vollmer and Public Works Supervisor, Tyler Martin, also present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Concerns, Comments

NONE

5. Amended Agenda Approval

Ahlborn motioned to approve the amended agenda by adding 8.1 and 8.8. Emly seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda, Action Items

6.1 Disbursement List

Emly motioned to approve the disbursement list for \$4033.29. Ahlborn seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Emly; yes, Ahlborn; yes, DeGiorgio; yes, Krasowski; yes. Motion carried.

6.2 Council Meeting Minutes

Ahlborn motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 30, 2020 with spelling correction of Hansen. Krasowski seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Ahlborn; yes, Krasowski; yes, Emly; yes, DeGiorgio; no. Motion carried.

6.3 Committee Meeting Minutes: Library, Community Events

NONE

7. Staff Reports

7.1 Treasurer

NONE

7.2 Public Works

Tyler stated that they worked on clearing snow off roads. While JC Wallace was improving road at lagoon, they uncovered a valve. They will issue a change order to raise the valve box to ground level. Tyler presented Council with his wish list of parts he wants to purchase to have on hand for emergency repairs when needed. He is seeking estimates for water tower maintenance.

8. Business

8.1 Wastewater Operator Changes, ACTION ITEM

Mayor reported that Mike Black of Blackwater, LLC has decided to quit. Mayor commented that in the past Mike's attitude and lack of communication as well as disregard of small requests made of him by the City seemed unimportant. Also, Mayor requests for a new contract with Blackwater have gone unanswered for a long time. We must have a licensed operator in charge of our wastewater system. He has been given more than adequate time to step up. Tyler suggested that he take over wastewater

system and become licensed. He suggested asking Mike to use his license attached to our system with Tyler doing the testing and monitoring, until he takes the wastewater operator test. If Mike does not agree then we could ask another City operator's help or use Idaho Rural Water. Wilder operator has offered help before. DeGiorgio motioned to have Tyler ask Mike Black to see if he is willing to allow use of his license, if not then seek out Wilder and then Idaho Rural Water and allow the Mayor to negotiate final terms to facilitate a solution. Emly seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: DeGiorgio; yes, Emly; yes, Ahlborn; yes, Krasowski; yes. Motion carried.

8.2 Proposed Utility Rate Fee Increase Resolution, ACTION ITEM

Mayor asked Council to review the rate fee comparison. Emly commented that she has asked about 15 different residents and received no negative comments about the proposed rate increase. DeGiorgio stated that she is being asked by residents why do they want to pay more for dirty water? She showed picture of dirty water in her bathtub. Tyler commented that if residents do not tell us, we don't know about it, we can't fix it. Krasowski commented that flushing of home water lines and hot water tank out can help. Low water heater temperature can contribute to colored water. Also, water from the ground is not always the purest, that's why we add chemicals to clean/disinfect the drinking water. Ahlborn commented that perhaps we put something on the City website for water conservation/ maintenance. Discussion. Mayor commented that discussion would be suspended for now and we can come back to this topic. **Move on to topic 8.3.**

CLERK NOTE: Returned to topic after 8.8

Ahlborn comments water raise of .92 cents seems reasonable. Raise of \$2.00 in sewer rate seems a good step towards the mandated rate \$54.35. Maybe encourage residents to conserve water. Krasowski motioned to approve the proposed increases of .92 cents raise in water base rate and \$2.00 on the sewer rate. Emly seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Krasowski; yes, Emly; yes, Ahlborn; yes. Motion carried. Krasowski motioned to approve Utility rate increase resolution #20-5 with an effective date of January 25, 2021. Emly seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Krasowski; yes, Emly; yes, Ahlborn; yes. Motion carried.

8.3 Liquor License Renewals, ACTION ITEM

City Clerk, Loretta Vollmer stated that Garage Café and Jackson's Food have returned completed liquor license renewals. DeGiorgio motioned to approve liquor license renewals for Garage Café and Jackson's Food. Krasowski seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: DeGiorgio; yes, Krasowski; yes, Emly; yes, Ahlborn; yes. Motion carried.

8.4 Employee Yearly Bonus, ACTION ITEM

DeGiorgio stated that she contacted the Financial Secretary of Caldwell and Nampa and they do not give bonuses. She does not feel it is a justified cost of City funds and believes it is unlawful. City Attorney, Joe Borton stated that it is not unlawful and the City is NOT prohibited from doing so. Ahlborn commented that part time employees deserve more of an appreciation since they don't receive other benefits. Ahlborn motioned to give \$100 bonus to all 5 City staff members. Krasowski seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Ahlborn; yes, Krasowski; yes, DeGiorgio; yes, Emly; yes. Motion passed.

8.5 Library Board Request for Affirmation of Computer Tech, ACTION ITEM

Library Board sent a letter requesting Council approval for hiring Linda Ahlborn to be the IT person for them. Councilman Steve Ahlborn is directly related to this person and will recuse himself from any decisions concerning this person. DeGiorgio motioned to approve the hiring of Linda Ahlborn for the Library IT person. Emly seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: DeGiorgio; yes, Emly; yes, Ahlborn; abstain, Krasowski; yes. Motion carried.

CLERK NOTE DeGiorgio leaves meeting at 8:35 pm.**

8.6 Goals and Philosophy of Street Improvements, Discussion

Mayor stated that in a 2015 Transportation Study every street in Notus was identified as "in stress". It was suggested that chip seal would help buy us time. Which we did do some streets. The water drainage is a problem. Water puddles and undercuts the street surface. Then we have freezing and heaving that affect them. We have received two (100%) engineering grants for preliminary design of Notus road and 1st Street. We have applied for a third to look at the remaining streets. Notus road proposed improvements

are curbs, sidewalks on one side, and storm drains for an estimated cost of \$2 million. Relating to a resident's negative comment about street improvements, Mayor asked Council if they have objection to City funds being spent on street improvements, since they may increase and enhance personal property values. Emly liked the improvement to one of our most used intersection at Fargo and 1st Street, with the post office being right there. Ahlborn commented he does not see a problem spending city money on improving our roadways. Streets are our most basic infrastructure.

8.7 Growth and Development: Engagement of Professionals, ACTION ITEM

Mayor stated that 38.5 acres adjacent to City limits has sold and a Developer has contacted the City seeking information on potential city services and annexation. We will need to have a facility plan completed to get DEQ approval to provide water to a new subdivision. The same with the Wastewater. We will need to engage professionals like Kate Dahl, City Attorney, Tina Wilson, and City Engineers to be able to get answers to all the upcoming questions. Tina Wilson comments that the City needs to be proactive and not forced to be reactive. Any cost incurred by the City can be passed onto the Developer. As long as we have it in the Comp plan and Zoning ordinances. These set the parameters of a development. Krasowski stated professionals are necessary. City Attorney, Joe reminded Council that once an annexation/development agreement application is submitted to the City, Council is off limits to any outside discussion concerning the topic. Council agreed to seeking professional's advice moving forward.

8.8 New Water Facility Plan Application, ACTION ITEM

Mayor stated that we need to have a drinking water facility plan done to be able to accommodate developers. There is a DEQ 50/50 grant available for this. City Engineer, Stuart from Mountain Water Works will be the engineer. Krasowski asked when can we ask a developer to help pay for things. City Attorney, Joe commented that is part of the development agreement process. Emly motioned to move forward on the new drinking water facility plan grant application. Ahlborn seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Emly; yes, Ahlborn; yes, Krasowski; yes. Motion carried.

CLERK NOTEBack to topic 8.2**

9. Mayor & Council Comment

NONE

10. Adjournment

Ahlborn motioned to adjourn at 9:35 pm. Emly seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted by Loretta Vollmer, City Clerk _____

Approved by David Porterfield, Mayor _____