

## NOTUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Regular Session: Monday, February 7th, 2022

7:00 pm @ Notus City Hall

375 Notus Road, Notus, ID 83656

### ***SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOL IN PLACE:***

#### **1. Meeting Called to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with the following results: Council President Steve Ahlborn; present, Councilwomen Michelle DeGiorgio and Bonnie Emly; present, Councilman Devin Krasowski; present. Tina Wilson joined by speaker phone. Mayor David Porterfield and City Attorney, Maren Erikson also present.

#### **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **4. Public Concerns/Comments, limited to 3 minutes each**

NONE

#### **5. Consent Agenda, ACTION ITEMS**

##### **5.1 Disbursement List**

Krasowski motioned to approve the disbursements as presented. Ahlborn seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Krasowski; yes, Ahlborn; yes, DeGiorgio; yes, Emly; yes. Motion carried.

##### **5.2 Council Meeting Minutes**

Ahlborn asked to have January 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes topic 7.4 reviewed for more detail and accuracy. Clerk will review audio and clarify.

##### **5.3 Committee Meeting Minutes: Library, Community Events**

Ahlborn motioned to accept the library meeting minutes from October 13, 2021, and December 8, 2021, into record. Krasowski seconded. DeGiorgio questioned minutes of 12-8-21. Mention of Larry Lewis conditions and of a gift. She didn't know of Mr. Marchbanks gift until this past Thursday. Mayor commented that information was presented to the library board, and they had started work on that, as meeting minutes reflect. Roll call was taken with the following results: Ahlborn; yes, Krasowski; yes, DeGiorgio; no, Emly; yes. Motion carried

#### **6. Business Items**

##### **6.1 Temporary RV Permit Extension Request, 318 Fargo Ave, ACTION ITEM**

Mr. Gentry from 318 Fargo requested and extension of his RV Permit. He has shown progress regarding the building permit and addition to the house. He has removed old concrete. Is pouring footings as weather allows. Installed plumbing pipes. His target date is June 2022. At which time he hopes to be far enough along to move in and remove the RV. Krasowski motioned to extend the RV permit for another 6 months. Emly seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Krasowski; yes, Emly; yes, Ahlborn; yes, DeGiorgio; yes. Motion carried.

##### **6.2 Water Facility Plan, ACTION ITEM**

Mayor asked Council if they have any questions. Mike from Mountain Waterworks has told him that the plan should be ready for the next meeting to review.

##### **6.3 West Valley Humane Society Charges, ACTION ITEM**

Mayor stated that West Valley Humane Society sent a letter stating their new policy and fees associated with animal control. He asked them to send over a contract for review as well. We did have a contract with Canyon County but they have changed their ordinances and will now longer support the City (animal control ordinances). We have approx. 6-8 animal intake, drop-offs per year. The trouble is when we must

pick up an animal after hours or on weekends. We have no way to provide shelter and care for them. Then we get complaints about liability for the animal. We will try to redo our animal ordinance and try to re-contract with Canyon County Animal Control. City will continue as it has been and will have to pay for the drop off, if and when they occur.

#### **6.4 Potential Sewer Rate Increase discussion, ACTION ITEM**

Mayor stated that the USDA requires our sewer rate to be at \$54.35 to adequately cover the bond payment and maintenance of the system. He reviews the revenue VS expenses of the wastewater system. Mayor's proposal to USDA would be to increase now by \$2.50 to see if they would be satisfied by that for now. Ahlborn asked about future development and how that will affect the fees. Response was that any proposed future development will not be here for at least 2.5 years, if at all. Mayor would like to have council decision so City can give notice to residents of the increase coming in March, if Council desires. Mayor reviewed LGIP balances reminding council that amount of one payment must always remain in the balance, as required. Topic will be brought back to the next meeting.

#### **6.5 Capital Improvements/Maintenance Projects Prioritization, Discussion**

Mayor is hoping to come up with a 5-year, 10-year plan to become part of the comprehensive plan. ARPA funds received of \$68,678.30 to be spent on infrastructure. We should be receiving another payment soon. Asks Council to look at the worksheet list presented of different needs of the City infrastructure and help prioritize it. There are street improvements listed in the 2016 transportation plan. The estimated costs of improvements to Notus Road, widening, curb, gutter, storm drain is estimated at 2 million. What other streets need to be improved? The storm drains on the 20-26 are meant to handle only the run off from the hwy. Street improvements are costly. Krasowski would prioritize Notus road, 1<sup>st</sup> Street, and Jasper. Then do one street every 3 years. Ahlborn would prioritize streets with the most (resident) safety concerns. Tina Wilson indicated that the next round of grant money will be available for FY 24-25. No applications available for the current year. Krasowski commented that the culvert on 1<sup>st</sup> Street seems to be a safety concern. Mayor stated that the sewer system perimeter gate and fence need improvements as well as the roadway for pond #4. There is need of a deck at Conway gulch for employee safety during outflow sample testing. On the water side, VFD's are needed and more. Preliminary numbers from Mike (Mountain Waterworks) are 1 million plus for upgrades and maintenance parts needed. Mayor reviewed water expense and revenue with council. Other items reviewed from list were structure. It was agreed that building of library and community center is important as well as a shop and garage. DeGiorgio stated that Mr. Marchbanks brought the topic to her about a money donation. Mayor stated that a donation of a library building has been brought to the library board as a proposal. The Library Board is a separate entity from the City although the funds are run through the City budget. Krasowski would like to have the donation from Mr. Marchbanks on the next agenda. Council would like to see prices from Tyler for tractor. Mayor stated that a valve exerciser is a priority. New and used tractor purchase on the next agenda. Mayor suggests Council keep reviewing the lists because there is a lot of work to be done.

#### **6.6 Council Code of Conduct Ordinance draft, ACTION ITEM**

Mayor stated he would've liked to see more detail in the ordinance. Discussion. Ahlborn motioned to approve Council Code of Conduct ordinance and waive the 3-reading rule and have the ordinance read once, by title only. Krasowski seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Ahlborn; yes, Krasowski; yes, DeGiorgio; no, Emly; yes. Motion carried. City Clerk read ordinance by title only. Ahlborn motioned to adopt Council Code of Conduct Ordinance and have a summary published. Krasowski seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Ahlborn; yes, Krasowski; yes, DeGiorgio; no, Emly; yes. Motion carried.

#### **7. Mayor & Council Comment**

DeGiorgio commented that Mr. Marchbanks gave/sent a letter to all 4 Council. She asked Mr. Marchbanks if it was... Ahlborn interrupts; this is already not true. I did not receive a letter from Mr. Marchbanks. DeGiorgio said, your right it was from (resident) Jack King. Mr. Marchbanks gave me these 4 letters because when he called me that Thursday and asked me if I knew anything and I told him no. He told me that seems odd and blah, blah, blah. Ahlborn said, you said before Michelle, that you didn't know why he came to you? DeGiorgio, I had no clue. Ahlborn said, so he doesn't know that you're on the Council. DeGiorgio, oh ya, he knows I'm on the Council and he also knows... Ahlborn, but you don't know why he came to you? DeGiorgio, no I don't. The only thing that he told me was that I was the only one that seemed to be asking questions in the Council meeting. Ahlborn, you didn't feel

comfortable coming to the council members to hand the document to us? Emly asked, or bring it over here (city hall) so they (staff) could put it in our boxes? DeGiorgio, umm... I did exactly what I felt I was supposed to do. Ahlborn said, you said earlier that he handed you the documents to give to Council but you didn't feel comfortable, so Jack King felt comfortable to give to us (Council). DeGiorgio, He called me first, I told him I didn't know what he really expected of me. He said that he was basically wanting to find out if the Mayor had taken it back to the Council because he had told him how important it was that he get word back so that he could tie these things up and he hadn't heard from him, not once. I don't know what to say about that. He (Marchbanks) said he thought it was just odd that he was supposed to meet with him (Mayor) at City Hall and He (Mayor) called the morning of the meeting and asked him (Marchbanks) to meet him at Shari's because he had business in Boise. Mayor commented, I think you have something mixed up there. There was no meeting scheduled.... DeGiorgio said, it's a he said, she said, I don't know. That's what I was told, and you'll have to ask Mr. Marchbanks. Mayor said, I met him at Shari's yes, there was nothing scheduled for a meeting at City Hall. Nothing scheduled. I initiated the call, I suggested meeting at Shari's. He said I can come to City Hall. I said no that is fine, if Shari's is a good location for you, let's do it. DeGiorgio said, the best thing I can do is try to get Mr. Marchbanks to come to a meeting. I hate the back and forth, he said, she said. All I know is that my reputation stands before me and behind me, I've always been forthright with this entire community and this entire city hall and my business and my life. Mayor asked, so why don't you tell us about your prior contact with Marchbanks that you mentioned to me before. DeGiorgio said, that I met him outside of my shop and he presented me a check to the Museum. Mayor said, no that wasn't it. DeGiorgio said, tell me then. Mayor said, you came to me after a council meeting one night and said Mr. Marchbanks talked to you. DeGiorgio, when was this? Mayor, I didn't write it down, but I would guess about the second meeting in October. DeGiorgio said, you would have to show me that. Mayor said, he talked to you about a library contribution. DeGiorgio said, no, sorry I don't recall that. Mayor said, OK. DeGiorgio said, but you know it's he said, said that's why I prefer talking in front of the person that another person is accusing of saying back and forth, it makes no sense. I know I don't lie, and I don't stretch the truth. I try to be as concise as I can because my memory is the only thing I can stand good with. And of course, all my notes. Mayor said, let me clarify one thing we need to touch on and then we will close out this meeting unless there is some other discussion on this matter that is necessary. It seems to me that if a member of the public brought you a letter for Council members, it would be your responsibility to give that to them directly or at least get it to City Hall, so that the Clerk could distribute the letter appropriately to them. It seems like something has been passed on in such a way, that it kind of complicates the communication bridges here. DeGiorgio said, oh those have been complicated and compromised and almost nonexistent with you Mr. Mayor but that's ... Mayor said, so then I guess its not appropriate for me to continue to describe the process that I have been going through to get this thing in place for Mr. Marchbanks. I think we all have an interest in seeing something like this thing happen if we possibly can, but I will leave that to another time and another place. In the meantime, let's remember that we have to work through this thing together. There are multiple groups that we are trying to work with and satisfy. We have to take those steps in proper order. Emly said, I know that Jack has left (this meeting) but I have a feeling he passed out more of those letters than just to the Council, and you can ask him. DeGiorgio said, and that was OK because Mr. Marchbanks said he could.... Emly said, it (the letter) states, "to the City Council". DeGiorgio; I know but Mr. Marchbanks said he could. Emly said, he said he could pass it out to everybody? And he will. Krasowski asked, what's your game? DeGiorgio, I don't have a game. Krasowski asked, why didn't you just bring it to us? The game was to make the Mayor look like he wasn't doing anything when he has been. That's it. There's no more to it. Ahlborn asked, why did Jack bring it? You know exactly where we are. We have a box right here (city Hall). DeGiorgio said because I felt you needed it before Monday and I was totally and completely undisposed for doing anything for this community, for anything around here. I had my family stuff that I was doing. Emly said, you could have called me. You have my number, and I would have done it. DeGiorgio said, what's the big deal? Ahlborn said, the deal is he is not a Council Member. Emly said he's not a council member. DeGiorgio said, you're right, you're right, I messed up. I should not have given it to Jack. I mean it blew my mind, that's the best defense I have. Emly said, I'm very excited that someone wants to give us money but I'm not happy with the way this went at all. Krasowski commented that since we all want the money to be spent well for the City, let's all move forward with that as our direction. All Council agreed.

## 8. Adjournment

Krasowski motioned to adjourn. DeGiorgio seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Loretta Vollmer, City Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by David Porterfield, Mayor \_\_\_\_\_