

## NOTUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Regular Session: **Monday, April 6, 2020**

7:00 pm @ Notus City Hall

375 Notus Road, Notus, ID 83656

Clerk Note: This meeting is being held using GoToMeeting application to encourage social distancing during the COVID19 health threat as per the suggestions from Idaho Governor. Everyone was encouraged to attend the meeting using their computer, table, smart phone, or landline telephone. Council chambers was open to a limited number of visitors.

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

Meeting was called to order by Mayor, David Porterfield.

### **2. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with the following results: Councilwomen, Michelle DeGiorgio and Bonnie Emly attended by telephone. Councilmen Nathan Wells and Steve Ahlborn attended by computer. City Attorney, Todd Lakey, Mayor, David Porterfield, City Clerk, Loretta Vollmer, Public Works Supervisor, Tyler Martin attended by computer. Visitor Tina Wilson of Western Alliance was present in Council chambers.

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

### **4. Public Concerns, Comments**

NONE

### **5. Consent Agenda**

#### **5.1 Disbursement List**

DeGiorgio questioned Attorney bill. DeGiorgio motioned to pay the disbursement list as presented. Wells seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: DeGiorgio; yes, Wells; yes, Emly; yes, Ahlborn; yes. Motion was passed.

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

Wells motioned to approve council meeting minutes from March 16, 2020. Emly seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Wells; yes, Emly; yes, DeGiorgio; yes, Ahlborn; yes. Motion passed.

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

NONE

### **6. Professional's Reports**

#### **6.1 Wastewater, Blackwater, LLC**

NONE

#### **6.2 Engineer, Mountain Waterworks**

NONE

### **7. Staff Reports**

#### **7.1 Treasurer Report**

NONE

## **7.2 Public Works**

Tyler Martin reported that things are slow due to COVID19. People are slow getting back to him with quotes and information. The water sample he took from the back up well came back clean. He is slowly draining the water tank level to be able to fix the leak.

They will start weed/grass control on the alley's and sides of roadways. There is a tree down along Conway road in the Kremmwood planting area. The agreement with the HOA was that the City would take care of the tree's once they bought and planted them. Tyler will take care of the down tree.

## **8. Business, ACTION ITEMS**

### **8.1 COVID19 Update and Measures Taken**

Mayor stated that the County and state regulations of social distancing and stay at home are being followed. He commented that Loretta has done a great job staying ahead of issues as well as figuring out ways for people to pay their bills. We now have online payment options on our website. Mayor has sent and made available to the public, letters for local business to follow the governor's request to close or modify hours to limit contact.

### **8.2 Wages During COVID19**

Mayor asked Council what their thoughts are, since there is conflicting information concerning employees' hours. If an employee works from home, is that beneficial to the City? Mayor has cut hours (from 24-28) to 16 a week for Clerk and Treasurer. When employees miss work due to the social separation proclamations and demands, do they get their full (normal, average) pay?

There are provisions for someone caring for those affected by the virus, and other things. Mayor asked the question of do they get full wages if they're paid hourly but hasn't worked those hours. Wells commented that we should not create financial hardships to our employees. Ahlborn agrees, if people are mandatorily made to go home, they should have compensation for that time. If they are told to go home, but it's not on their own decision, they need to be compensated for that. If it's their own decision, then no.

Mayor stated that the part time maintenance has been staying home to cut down on the contact. One on doctor's advice. Mayor questions how the Council will feel about responding to the public about employee's being paid full wages when not working those hours? Wells commented he would be ok with that. DeGiorgio asked what the Federal government would be kicking in to cover this. Mayor responded that it is his understanding that political entities are exempt from any coverage of that type of thing, so we won't receive anything in regard to this. City Attorney, Todd confirmed is for small businesses and the private sector. Ahlborn commented that he agrees with Wells. He would hope that people would see that the city is trying to compensate people that work for our City, doing our part. If we are in a time when they can't (work), then we're still going to try to help compensate and I would hope that people would feel encouraged by that.

Attorney, Todd suggested a motion to set the boundaries since Council is on the economic side. Something like, work from home to the extent they can but to not have a negative impact on employees, we support their average compensation while this (COVID19) restrictions are in place. Subject to further changes in the future. Wells stated "I so motion". Emly seconded. Ahlborn said this is like at a point where a worker can't go to work or at a point where they say, "Hey, everybody else is staying home and I don't feel like its good for me to go in, so I'm staying home too, or someone is infected in the office, now everyone has to stay home and it's mandatory?.. I feel I could stand behind this if it was necessary.

Attorney, Todd stated that there are federal regulations that if somebody actually does have the virus or a family member does, the city's required to provide paid leave. He feels the Mayor is trying his best to try to abide by the directives from the Governor and the proclamations from the city in schedules and you stay home, the directions coming from the city, then those folks should be compensated for the time that they miss. But, if it's somebody saying hey, I just want to stay home today, and it's not a directive from the city specifically, then that's different. That's what he is hearing (from Council discussion), correct? Wells, yes.

Todd stated the federal law talked about quarantine, self-quarantine or have the virus and I don't think we have anybody in that situation, and if we did, we'd be wise not to talk about that in a public record. But I don't think we have anybody that fits a medical direction specifically, but there are some sensitivity with some of our staff and aging and special risk groups, that kind of thing that the Mayor has managed and alternated schedules. That's part of what you want to be covered under their normal compensation. Todd will help the Mayor draft the language based on this discussion.

Ahlborn stated to clarify, City would be compensating the difference in the time they're not working, but its also still possible that the may be working some of those hours, just not up to the regular amount of hours, so we compensate the difference. Mayor stated yes.

Roll call was taken with the following results: Wells; yes, Eml; yes, DeGiorgio; yes, Ahlborn; yes. Motion passed.

### **8.3 Residents Utility Bill Payment Options**

Mayor stated that City Clerk, Loretta has been very proactive and quick to make adjustments in this regard. She has actually been making a plan and was prepared to carry it out days before the directive from the state.

Loretta stated that last month, after a discussion with the Mayor, there were no late fees assessed or shut offs and people with an overdue balance were sent a notice reflecting that and suggesting payment options. She read a letter she prepared last month in preparation for residents that may become behind in their payments due to the CIVID19 mandates. *Notice to our residents... The City of Notus recognizes the potential financial strain the current economic situation may have on you, our city residents and business owners. In an attempt to relieve some worries and help our valued residents and business owners in this unprecedented time, all late fees for unpaid water/sewer balances will be waived until the Governor declares that we are in the clear. If you cannot pay your water/sewer bill in full, please contact the City to set up a payment plan. There will be no disconnection of city services due to non-payment of your water/sewer bill during this time, but utility users are encouraged to pay what they are able. This helps the City continue to provide water/sewer services to our community. Even though City Hall is not open regular hours, you can still drop your check or money order payment in the City Hall drop box or mail them to PO Box 257, Notus, ID 83656. Credit card payments can be made over the phone with City staff or via the City's website [notusidaho.org](http://notusidaho.org) Processing convenience fees do apply.*

*If you need to do business with us or come into City Hall, call to make an appointment. Contact City Hall if you have any questions at 208-459-6212 or [notuscityclerk@gmail.com](mailto:notuscityclerk@gmail.com)*

She commented that she wanted Council to discuss this since it is going against current City code.

DeGiorgio commented that we could forgive their bill if they verify a hardship. Ahlborn stated that his concerns were that the City has bills to pay as well. Wells suggested that we look at each individually, case by case.

Mayor summarized discussion stating that we will deal with it, case by case and with compassion, keeping in mind their ability to pay.

#### **8.4 Streets Priorities/Comp Plan**

Mayor stated that with the COMPASS grant the City received for the engineering, City needs to discuss the street rebuild priority. Primarily the map show Notus Rd, 1st Street and 2nd Street. Improvements could be widening, storm drains, sidewalk with ADA ramps on the east side of Notus Rd. What does Council want the streets to look like? Ahlborn would like to see walking/bike paths. Nathan would like to stay away from sharp corner curbs around the current day care (home). He would also like to see sidewalks on both sides of the roads in our future 20-year plan. DeGiorgio would like to see places for Tiny Houses in town. Good for the elderly to live in on their children's property. Attorney, Todd suggested mixed use in the commercial zone. Council agrees that Notus, 1st, 2nd are the streets to concentrate on right now.

#### **8.5 Vehicle Purchase for Public Works**

Emly stated that the City needs to get a new vehicle for Tyler to use. DeGiorgio suggested that we get rid of some of the other older vehicles first.

Mayor stated that these will need to be declared as surplus first. Wells commented that he should investigate leasing. That way we wouldn't end up with another "bone yard". DeGiorgio stated that it should be a new, bare bones truck. Ahlborn commented that he is nervous about a lease. We could get a good quality used truck.

Mayor commented that funds available are about \$14000.00

Tyler will look at options available and bring back to Council.

#### **8.6 Memo of Understanding/Policy – Use of Firearms**

Mayor stated that we have a rodent problem at the lagoons. This memo of understanding would allow Tyler to use a firearm or traps for rodent control, as he sees fit. Wells commented that he would check with Don Calkins because he is a licensed trapper and has traps that perhaps we could use.

Wells motioned to approve the Temporary Memo of Understanding – Use of Firearms so we can move forward with this problem. Ahlborn seconded. DeGiorgio commented that he must dispose of the carcasses properly.

Roll call was taken with the following results: Wells; yes, Ahlborn; yes. DeGiorgio; yes, Emly; yes. Motion passed.

#### **9. Mayor and Council Comments**

Next meeting will be April 20, 2020.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Wells motioned to adjourn. Ahlborn seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectively submitted by Loretta Vollmer, City Clerk 

Approved by David Porterfield, Mayor 