

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2024

Mayor Rebecca Vipperman called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 6:32 PM. Council members present were Council President BJ Marshall; Councilman Shaun Spencer; and Councilman Juan Gonzales. City Attorney Tim Stover was also present. Councilman Donald Dunn was not present and notified the council and the City Clerk's office in advance of his absence.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Spencer made a motion to approve the February 1, 2024 regular council meeting minutes as presented. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, and Councilman Gonzales- Aye**; motion passed.

BILLS

Councilman Spencer made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$24,323.74. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, and Councilman Gonzales- Aye**; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(Public Works/Clerk-Treasurer/Fire/Police/Library/Ordinance)

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Q1 FY23-24 Treasurer's Report

City Clerk Karri French presented the 1st Quarter Treasurer's Report for fiscal year 2023-2024 to the city council. After discussion, it was decided that the report can be presented with the clerk's department report since it is not required to appear on the agenda. **Councilman Spencer** made a motion to accept the Q1 FY23-24 Treasurer's Report as presented. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer-**

Aye, and **Councilman Gonzales-** Aye; motion passed.

Consideration of Quote for Lawn Care 2024-City Hall/City Park/Hub City Park

City Clerk Karri French presented the council with a quote from our current provider, Pro Lawn Care, for City Hall, City Park, and Hub City Park. **City Clerk Karri French** stated that she did ask several companies for quotes but received none. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to accept the quote from Pro Lawn Care for 2024 in the amount of \$19,380. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer-** Aye, and **Councilman Gonzales-** Aye; motion passed.

Consideration of Hydrant Buddy Purchase Quote

Public Works Director Steve Devereaux and **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** presented the council with a purchase quote for a hydrant buddy. This device will allow Public Works to easily open fire hydrants for annual testing and can also be used on residential water meters. The current process is labor intensive, and this device will make it much easier. This will also give Public Works time needed for general maintenance by reducing the time it takes to conduct the testing. **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** also stated that he had found the hydrant buddy available from other providers and would like to purchase from a company with a lesser cost. After discussion, **Councilman Spencer** made a motion to authorize Public Works to purchase a hydrant buddy, not to exceed \$6000. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer-** Aye, and **Councilman Gonzales-** Aye; motion passed.

Consideration of Wendell Seepage Test Lagoon #1

Tabled for legal review. This will come back before the council on March 7, 2024.

Public Works- Inspection- Well Pumps

Fire Chief Bob Bailey presented a quote to the council for pumps that will allow the city to properly conduct seepage testing. **Tracy Ahrens** representing the Department of Environmental Quality, stated that under DEQ requirements, testing results better represent the existing conditions if the water is moving. Four pumps are more than the DEQ requires but **Tracy Ahrens** agreed with **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** that the added pumps would greatly benefit the testing. After discussion, **Councilman Spencer** made a motion to accept the quote to purchase the pumps from Steve's Pump service in the amount of \$9834.44. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer-** Aye, and **Councilman Gonzales-** Aye; motion passed.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law- Tvrdy Variance

Mayor Vipperman stated that the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law regarding the Tvrdy's Variance Application approved at the February 1, 2024 meeting was the next item on the agenda. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that he had reviewed it with **Code Enforcement**

Officer Nathan Lewis, and it was ready for the council. After a brief discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law for the approved Tvrdy's Variance application. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilman Spencer-Aye**, and **Councilman Gonzales-Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Ditch Rider Contract- Adrian Aguilar

Mayor Vipperman recommended that the council renew Adrian Aguilar's contract as the Ditch Rider for the 2024 irrigation season. The council briefly discussed whether or not they wanted to renew the Ditch Rider contract with Adrian Aguilar or advertise the Ditch Rider contract. The general consensus was in favor of Adrian and that it would best serve Wendell's citizens to continue with Adrian Aguilar as Wendell's Ditch Rider for another year. **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to renew the 2024 Irrigation Ditch Rider contract with Adrian Aguilar. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilman Spencer-Aye**, and **Councilman Gonzales-Aye**; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

GSCO Resource Officer

On January 18, 2024, the city council asked for more information on this. **Gooding County Sheriff's Sergeant Eric Swanson** gave a brief recap of the need for a Resource Officer and the funding issues facing placement of a Resource Officer at the Wendell Schools. He also stated that the city council had a lot of questions regarding duties and responsibilities of a Resource Officer. He stated that a school Resource Officer will patrol, participate in investigations, work with school staff, work with other agencies, assess & identify threats to schools/kids, and teach NOVA. Currently, the middle school seems to have the greatest need. The Gooding County Sheriff's Office would like to see NOVA become standard in all Wendell Schools. The primary concern for placing a Resource Officer is funding. **Councilman Gonzales** stated that he has concerns about funding. He also stated that he sees the GSCO officers around town frequently and appreciates their presence and hard work. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that the city already spends nearly all the tax revenue that goes into the general fund to pay for our current contract with the Gooding County Sheriff's Office. There are no funds available to help place a Resource Officer at the schools in Wendell. She stated that she was glad to see so many citizens present at the meeting because it gives them the opportunity to learn what things like Law Enforcement cost for the city. She also asked if there were grants available. **Gooding County Sheriff's Sergeant Eric Swanson** stated that the money spent by Wendell not only allows for the current coverage but also helps pay for specialized training that will benefit Wendell directly. He also stated that **GSCO Larry Green** can assist with grant writing. No motion needed.

Appoint Library Board Empty Seat

At the last meeting, the Library Board members present at the City Council meeting stated that they were not aware that a seat was up for appointment/reappointment. They

asked for this to come back before the council at the next meeting. **Mayor Vipperman** recommended the council réappoint Bob Schwendiman to the Library Board. After a brief discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to réappoint Bob Schwendiman to the Library Board. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, and Councilman Gonzales- Aye;** motion passed.

Public Works Vehicle Purchase

Public Works Director Steve Devereaux and **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** were present to find out more information from the city council on purchasing options for much needed equipment for Public Works. **Mayor Vipperman** asked **City Attorney Tim Stover** where we were on the information he had received so far. He stated that he is working with attorneys representing some local financial institutions. Tabled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wendell Citizen Stacy Stroud was present and stated that he is willing to be available to help Adrian in his second year as the Ditch Rider with the particulars of the irrigation system in town. He previously worked for the city for several years, as well as doing the ditch rider job in the past and is very familiar with the system.

Council Executive Session- Idaho Code Title 74-206 (1) A & (1) B

Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:39 PM pursuant to Idaho Code Title 74-206 (1) A & (1) B. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, and Councilman Gonzales- Aye;** motion passed.

Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:11 PM. stating that no decisions were made. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, and Councilman Gonzales- Aye;** motion passed.

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall stated that she knew that quadrant 1 on **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis's** report was residential but asked what quadrant 2 was zoned. **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** stated that quadrant 2 was mostly zoned commercial and industrial. **Councilwoman Marshall** also stated that the new Valley Wide Cooperative was getting closer to opening and that they have installed a 100-foot sign at that location in the county.

Councilman Spencer stated that he and **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** have been working on details that will impact the current food truck requirements. He anticipates

bringing this to the council as soon as the next meeting.

MAYOR

Mayor Vipperman stated that she put up a post on the City of Wendell Facebook page with photos of old City of Wendell Christmas decorations asking citizens for information on the original colors in an effort to restore as many of the old decorations as possible. She stated that the hallway has been painted at city hall and pictures are going back up on the walls. There are also plans for a stand to be placed in the hallway for **City of Wendell** t-shirts that will be on sale (cost + 10%) in the near future. She also stated that even though she says it at every meeting, she still feels that the city staff is doing an amazing job.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 8:18 PM. Motion passed.


Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer


Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor