

This regular meeting of the Jerome City Council was called to order by Mayor Davis at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor David M. Davis, Councilman Robert Culver, Councilman Chris Barber, Councilman Brent “Oop” Johnson and Councilman Jason Peterson.

Also present were staff members: City Clerk Bernadette Gomes, Acting City Attorney Brian Williams, City Administrator Mike Williams, Information Services Director Carlos Hernandez, Wastewater Superintendent Gilbert Sanchez, Library Director Linda Mecham, Public Works Director Brian Ahrens, Building Official Dave Richey, Planning and Zoning Manager Ida Clark, Human Resources Manager Esmeralda Chavez, Finance Director Ross Hyatt, Accounting and Budget Manager Lori McCrae, Fire Chief Mike Harrison, Deputy Fire Chief Lane Sickles and Police Chief Dan Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Davis led the audience in recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION:

An invocation was given by Pastor Tim Knutson of the Jerome Bible Baptist Church.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019 regular meeting

Councilman Culver made the motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

INSTALLATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Judge John B. Lothspeich administered the Oath of Office of Councilor to Christopher Barber and Brent “Oop” Johnson.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mayor Davis appointed Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson to serve on the finance committee for a term of one year. The intent is to rotate in one year.

CITIZEN ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

H.L. Pringle, 601 E Main Street, Jerome, appeared before council with traffic and beautification concerns along Main Street. He stated that he sees high school traffic speeding along Main Street with youth racing two vehicles in one lane. Additionally, he has noticed an increase in diesel-operated vehicles along Main Street and feels changes need to be made. Mr. Pringle commented on the garbage cans left on Main Street in the winter months; he spoke of issues with those turned over and thus creating a mess with trash spilled out. Upon inquiry by

Mayor Davis, Mr. Pringle explained that the garbage cans must be placed along Main Street in the winter months for trash pickup, and many residents leave them out there year-round unnecessarily. In response to Councilman Peterson's inquiry, Mr. Williams stated that the contract with PSI Environmental Services requires that garbage receptacles not be placed in alleys during winter months to due excessive snow and mud conditions. Councilman Barber stated that these concerns are not unique to the council and that the administration is working on these issues as much as possible. He further stated the police department is working to control speeding issues along Main Street and the other residential streets near the high school, and that council appreciates Mr. Pringle addressing the concerns. Upon further inquiry by Mayor Davis, Mr. Pringle stated that the afternoon hours have heavy traffic with high school traffic heading east to west but that the issue with speeding is not just with the youth. He also stated that he has witnessed two vehicles racing in one lane and that semi trucks are not keeping with the speed limits either (35 mph to 25 mph). Mayor Davis thanked Mr. Pringle for bringing these concerns to the council's attention and that they will be addressed with staff.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Councilman Johnson nominated Councilman Culver as Council President. No other nominations were presented. Councilman Barber made the motion to close nominations for Council President and second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

Councilman Barber made the motion to elect Councilman Culver as Council President. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

POLICE PURSUIT VEHICLE PURCHASE:

Chief Hall appeared before council to request the purchase of a 2020 Dodge Durango as part of the department's ongoing vehicle rotation and noted that it is the second year in which the department is purchasing a Durango. He stated when the department began utilizing All Wheel Drive vehicles, Ford Explorers were purchased; however, a significant increase in the cost of those vehicles forced staff to seek alternatives. He further stated that there is no cost increase from last year's vehicle purchase and equipment installation. Chief Hall plans to return to council at a later date with a request to purchase an animal control vehicle. Upon inquiry by Councilman Culver, Chief Hall stated the purchase is under the state contract through a dealer in Burley. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Chief Hall stated that the future of the department's fleet will depend on prices and models, and he stated the Durango is comparable to the Ford model in terms of space and capability.

Councilman Culver made the motion to approve the Chief of Police to purchase a 2020 Dodge Durango AWD patrol vehicle and to purchase and install associated equipment for the vehicle at a cost of \$51,600. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION:

Ms. Clark appeared before council to speak about a potential landscape ordinance. She stated a draft landscape ordinance was brought before council in 2015 and direction was given to consider a simple, attractive and enforceable code. At this time the city does not have a landscape ordinance. However, there are design review guidelines for businesses to follow which encourage landscapes but they are not mandatory. Ms. Clark stated that the city's strategic plan is to beautify and clean up the city. A Landscape Committee was formed and members including Planning and Zoning members, city councilmen and city staff have reviewed the last ordinance proposed.

Ms. Clark stated that the ordinance focuses on new commercial, industrial or multi-family construction including any current commercial or industry expansions of greater than 50%. Within the ordinance is an alternative compliance section for those properties unable to meet the requirements; it encourages zeroscapes, addresses maintenance and refers back to the current nuisance code. Ms. Clark stated that surrounding cities have similar ordinances, and asked for council's direction on whether to proceed with an ordinance hearing to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, Ms. Clark stated the ordinance would focus on the business districts and areas with multi-family construction. Councilman Barber commented on the importance of continuing with the beautification process in Jerome, and Councilman Culver agreed that staff should move forward. Upon inquiry by Councilman Peterson regarding concerns over residential development, Ms. Clark stated that staff would have to discuss restrictions placed upon multi-family construction (contiguous fencing, green space, minimum plant sizes, tree sizes, etc.) and that the primary focus was on commercial development. Ms. Clark also stated that, in addition to city staff, committee members include those with extensive backgrounds in landscaping, some are business owners invested in the community and others are licensed arborists. The Landscape Committee meetings are open to the public, and Ms. Clark stated that a local developer may be invited to discuss residential development. Upon inquiry by Councilman Peterson, Ms. Clark stated that the committee reviewed the proposed ordinance from previous discussions and sought input from committee members along with reviewing other city codes for guidance in order to develop the ordinance. She further stated that, upon council's approval, the next step would be a public hearing at the Planning and Zoning Commission. All council members were in agreement that staff should move forward with the proposed ordinance.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Williams stated the 2020 legislative session has begun; an interim committee met over the break, and staff anticipates discussions on property taxes. He stated that the general fund is heavily supported by property taxes and staff will be paying close attention to discussions and may need to provide information at the legislative level. The Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) will be providing updates, and staff should be prepared to provide information or support as needed as changes could affect the ability to maintain services. Mr. Williams reminded the Mayor and council regarding the City Officials Day at the Capitol on January 23rd. He stated there will be an opportunity to meet with legislators and to listen to the AIC and what they project for the upcoming session.

The sanitation contract expires on October 1, 2020 and Mr. Williams stated that staff plans to present a Request for Proposals (RFP) at the next council meeting. Regarding project updates, Mr. Williams stated that crews should begin work on the Jerome Estates Sewer Bypass project; staff anticipates little interruption to traffic. The sidewalk project will go out to bid soon,

and staff is submitting an application to the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) for the curb/gutter/sidewalk project to connect Jerome High School to Main Street with a sidewalk on E. Main. Mr. Williams stated that pedestrian traffic on E. Main walk along side the street and close to traffic. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber regarding the TAP grant application for E. Main, Mr. Williams stated that staff is hopeful to hear back from ITD within a few months of submitting the application, and he will follow up with engineering staff.

Brief discussion ensued regarding beautification along the 700-900 blocks of E. Main and what can be done until results of the application are received. Topics of the discussion include the council's ability to impose parking restrictions; local residents parking outside of the right-of-way; high school students walking around those parked vehicles and into the street; contacting ITD regarding the right-of-way; the unattractiveness of having cars parked, and where they would park once the curb/gutter/sidewalk are installed; requesting that ITD restrict the area to "no parking" for pedestrian safety; cost estimates for the grant application and request for the full \$500,000; the option of installing curb/gutter/sidewalk without grant funds if project is made a priority; the issue of the developer not installing curb/gutter/sidewalk when apartments were built; the council's discretion of mandating a sidewalk be installed by the property owner; and, the option of creating a Local Improvement District. Mr. Williams stated that he feels the city has a strong application for the grant.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this January 7, 2020 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 6:09 p.m.

By:

Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

Bernadette Gomes, City Clerk