

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 Chris Barber, Councilman Brent “Oop” Johnson and Councilman Jason Peterson. Councilman Robert Culver was excused.

Also present were staff members: City Clerk Bernadette Gomes, City Administrator Mike Williams, City Attorney Ted Larsen, Information Services Director Carlos Hernandez, Wastewater Superintendent Gilbert Sanchez, Library Director Linda Mecham, Public Works Director Brian Ahrens, City Engineer Tyson Carpenter, 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 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 Gary Terrell of the Freewill Baptist Church.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 regular meeting
2. Approve to pay 2020 O&M Assessment of 1082.74 shares at \$25 per share at a total cost of \$27,067.39

Councilman Barber 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 Johnson, Councilman Barber and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

ORDINANCE NO. 1184, BILL NO. 669 – 2ND READING:

The clerk read Bill No. 669 by title only to constitute the second reading as follows:

BILL NO. 669
ORDINANCE NO. 1184

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF JEROME, IDAHO, AMENDING JEROME MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 17.18.050.I TO INCLUDE A LIST OF PROHIBITED HOME OCCUPATIONS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES AND SETTING FORTH MORE SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR HOME OCCUPATIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 1185, BILL NO. 670 – INTRODUCTION:

The clerk read Bill No. 670 by title only to constitute the second reading as follows:

BILL NO. 670
ORDINANCE NO. 1185

Deyanira Escolana Trochez

February 2020 – February 2023

SECTION 4. URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY APPOINTMENT:

The following individual is appointed as a member of the Jerome Urban Renewal Agency to serve a term effective with the date below-written, in accordance with delineation thereof:

Shonna Fraser

February 2020 – February 2025

Jason Peterson

February 2020 – February 2025

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE:

Resolution No. 01-20 shall be effective upon its passage as required by law.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL this 4th day of February, 2020.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR this 4th day of February, 2020.

By:

/s/ David M. Davis

David M. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Bernadette Gomes

Bernadette Gomes, City Clerk

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve Resolution No. 01- a resolution by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jerome, Idaho, ratifying Mayoral Appointment to fill vacancies on various boards and committees officially recognized by the City of Jerome. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Barber and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-20:

The clerk read Resolution No. 02-20 in full as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-20

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, STATE OF IDAHO:

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to I.C. 50-1807, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Jerome, County of Jerome, Idaho on this 4th day of February, 2020, hereby estimate that \$185,495 are the necessary funds for the expense of maintaining, operating, improving, extending and enlarging the City Irrigation system for the current fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Treasurer is directed to immediately carry out the assessment roll and further to give notice that the Mayor and City Council shall meet the 17th day of March 2020 to correct the assessment roll.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL this 4th day of February, 2020.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR this 4th day of February, 2020.

By:
/s/ David M. Davis
David M. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:
/s/ Bernadette Gomes
Bernadette Gomes, City Clerk

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve Resolution No. 02-20 setting the 2020 irrigation assessments. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Barber and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

Mr. Hyatt appeared to request that the resolution be approved per staff recommendation. Mayor and Council are required to set an estimate for the 2020 irrigation assessments prior to the second Wednesday in February, and Mr. Hyatt stated that the estimate for this year is \$185,495 to offset costs of the irrigation system. He also reminded council that irrigation fees have not increased in the last three fiscal years and that the city will be billed for 1,082 water shares held in trust for the original town site of Jerome. The consent agenda includes a \$27,067.39 payment to Northside Canal Company for those shares. Upon inquiry by Councilman Johnson, Mr. Hyatt stated that irrigation users will be assessed for that amount and that the city has reserves in the irrigation fund to cover that amount as well. Assessments will be sent to users in February and council will meet in March as a Board of Corrections for any needed corrections to the assessment rolls.

GEOTERRA AERIAL MAPPING SERVICES:

Mr. Carpenter spoke of aerial imagery and multiple pictures taken and moved together with points on the ground for dimensional accuracy in the form of one complete photograph. He stated that staff uses the aerial images for a variety of tasks including planning, project estimates, potential developments and utility locates. Council was shown a map of the Geographic Information System (GIS) and explained that aerial imagery along with digital mapping helps staff to evaluate potential projects and development. The information from the imagery is used on a daily basis and, due to the large expense, staff has set funds aside for this service. Mr. Carpenter stated the last aerial photo was taken approximately four years ago, and any new development is not in the current photo. Upon inquiry by Councilman Johnson, Mr. Carpenter stated that the cost includes the photographs and the digital mapping work associated with developing one complete image. He further stated that surveying services will still be required for projects due to the level of accuracy needed for certain projects, and that the number of projects proposed is greater than the number of projects that come to fruition.

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve the purchase of aerial mapping services from GeoTerra in an amount not-to-exceed \$58,120. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Barber and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

ANIMAL CONTROL VEHICLE PURCHASE:

Chief Hall stated that the department budget allows for the replacement of two vehicles per year, and council recently approved one patrol vehicle purchase. The Animal Control vehicle is now in need of replacement due to excessive miles and age. Chief Hall stated staff is proposing to purchase a 2020 Dodge Ram with a specially designed animal insert for hauling dogs and other features including an amber lighting package and radio. The proposed cost is \$36,175 and is below the amount budgeted. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Chief Hall stated the cost will include: the vehicle, radio, animal transport insert, necessary vehicle equipment and lighting, markings and installation. It is also a 4-wheel drive vehicle, and the purchase is being made through the State of Idaho Purchasing Contract for Dodge vehicles. Mayor Davis inquired about the mileage on the existing animal control vehicle, and Chief Hall stated that it has approximately 90,000 miles. He further stated that a Chevy Impala at the shelter used to transport animals to/from the veterinarian is in poor condition and will be replaced by the van currently in use. Additionally, the existing vehicle for animal control was purchased for convenience rather than practicality; a stock van was purchased and simple cages were placed in the back whereas the proposed vehicle is purpose-built and the animal insert is intended for this type of work.

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve the Chief of Police to purchase a 2020 Dodge Ram Pickup for Animal Control and to purchase and install associated equipment for the vehicle at a cost of \$36,175. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Barber and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mayor Davis announced that Councilman Barber has been appointed to Community Spirit Committee as a City Council liaison, and Councilman Johnson to the Library Board as a City Council liaison.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Williams reported that the staff email domain has officially changed to “cityofjerome.org.” Business cards and stationery will be changed and incoming emails will not be affected. He further stated the new email domain now matches the city’s website address.

Mr. Williams stated the 10th Street sidewalk project will be advertised on February 5th and bid on February 26th. A Request for Proposals for sanitation services will be presented at the next council meeting for approval. Mr. Williams stated there may be bills proposed at the legislature which could affect property taxes and the ability to collect property taxes in the future. He stated one bill concerns the foregone monies and a resolution required for transparency purposes; other bills include a property tax freeze for one year and the other limits the budget increases for new construction. He further stated that staff will keep council informed on the progress of any of the new bills and that staff expects that there will be some changes that will affect municipalities.

Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Mr. Williams stated the TAP grant application was submitted and commended staff on submitting what he believes to be a strong application. Mr. Carpenter states a response to the application is anticipated by March 20th.

Mr. Larsen provided council with an update regarding issues affecting the water coalition. He stated an email was received from Chris Bromley, the attorney with McHugh and Bromley who helped the city work through the water surface calls. He stated three areas were addressed in

the email. The first was that all went well in the first year with Pocatello providing irrigation water to cities per the agreements in place and the cities doing their part. The second issue was regarding the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) groundwater management area. He stated there has been some opposition in the creation of the management area by some upper valley cities that do not want to be included. As part of the coalition of cities the City of Jerome withdrew its opposition to it as part of the settlement. Mr. Larsen stated there will be a hearing in mid-February to determine if upper valley cities are included in the management area.

Mr. Larsen stated the third and biggest issue pertains to Buckeye Farms. He stated an application was submitted to drill two new wells below the rim near Hagerman for up to ten cubic feet per second (cfs). He stated the drilling and pumping are going to occur in a moratorium area, and they will use mitigation credits that the Idaho Ground Water Association (IGWA) developed in providing this mitigation water. An agreement was made with IGWA to use their mitigation water which was unknown to anyone else. Staff at McHugh and Bromley came forth and asked if the city would support their efforts. Mr. Larsen stated that the issue is that Buckeye Farms will not put forth a plan besides measuring their water pumped on an annual basis; the concern is that the area where pumping is to occur, has the potential of affecting the Swan Falls settlement with Idaho Power where the pumping is measured on an average daily basis, a clear conflict with Buckeye Farms. Mr. Larsen continued by stating that if Buckeye Farms continues to be difficult to work with, McHugh and Bromley have asked about cost-sharing measures for potential action to be taken. The City of Pocatello's engineer would ask to share costs with other cities to provide an expert report and testimony with regards to the affects of the two new wells and average annual measurement versus average daily measurement. The estimated cost to the city would be approximately \$2,500 to have water engineer, Greg Sullivan, participate in a report and testimony. Mr. Larsen stated both he and Mr. Williams are in favor of this approach, and that if it works it provides a model for cities to follow in the future. Mr. Larsen also stated that if the Swan Fall agreement is breached and flows are below a certain level, Idaho Power can make a call on pumpers above Milner Dam and that would affect the cities. He reiterated that Swan Falls is measured on an average daily basis whereas Buckeye Farms wants to measure on an average annual basis. Mr. Larsen concluded that it is important that cities impose this and require that Buckeye Farms provide monthly reports at a minimum. Upon inquiry by Councilman Johnson, Mr. Larsen stated that he is unsure of the usage at Buckeye Farms considering the two wells are new and capable of up to ten cfs. Mayor Davis commented that the water is used to grow crops for the wildlife hunted in that area, and he is in support of the efforts to oppose the actions of Buckeye Farms; council members agreed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this February 4, 2020 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 6:04 p.m.

By:

Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

Bernadette Gomes, City Clerk