

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 and Councilman Jason Peterson. Councilman Brent “Oop” Johnson is excused.

Also present were staff members: City Clerk Bernadette Gomes, City Attorney J.B. Lothspeich, City Administrator Mike Williams, Information Services Director Carlos Hernandez, Finance Director Ross Hyatt, Assistant Finance Director Michelle Frostenson, Building Official Dave Richey, City Engineer Rick Wuori, Human Resources Director Ida Clark, Library Director Linda Mecham, Fire Chief Jeremy Presnell, Deputy 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:**

Invocation was given by Pastor Kurt Hopper with First Presbyterian Church.

**AMENDMENT TO ADD PRESENTATION:**

Councilman Culver made a motion to approve an amendment to the agenda for the Jerome County presentation. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Barber. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Culver. **NAYS:** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the February 20, 2018 regular meeting

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

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mrs. Brown with the Jerome Middle School introduced members of the Gifted and Talented class; she stated they try to use their gifts and talents to serve their community through a problem solving class.

Kelsey Santini stated her class is working on a project to help refurbish downtown and add foot traffic. With many businesses moving south, the downtown area is not as vibrant as in the past. She briefly mentioned other downtown areas that included farmer’s markets, shops and places to hang out and that she would like to see in Jerome.

Jaycee Yost stated arts and culture can “break traditional barriers” and bring communities together. The group would like to plan a “chalk walk” competition whereby anyone can draw a family-friendly design on a square of sidewalk. The event is planned for August 18, 2018 to coincide with Joe Mama’s car show to attract more attendees; they will charge \$5.00 per square foot.

Quincy Brown spoke of another town that raised money with their event, and the group’s intention is to make Jerome’s chalk walk an annual event and donate monies to Operation Facelift. They believe the event will bring the community together.

Ellen Ladwig spoke of her own experience with a chalk walk; sidewalks were covered with rainbows of artwork and kids were smiling. Friends worked together while participating, and the event created family fun.

Mireya Soto stated the event has the potential to provide benefits to businesses in the downtown area by gaining more exposure and popularity, and hopefully attract more business to downtown. She stated the event hopes to give community members an exciting event to look forward to, to create community pride and spirit and to showcase artwork while giving businesses advertising opportunities.

Ms. Brown also stated, because of their inexperience, they have been working with staff at St. Luke’s Magic Valley for implementation and fundraising assistance, and with Latinos in Action at the middle school to reach out to the spanish-speaking community. The group wants to host the event on both sides of Lincoln and Main Streets to showcase all businesses, and they believe the event has the potential to bring the community together and raise funds for Operation Facelift.

Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, the group has been in contact with city staff. Mr. Williams stated he was invited to their class recently and ideas were presented. The traffic issue and blocking of roadways can be addressed with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). Mayor Davis asked that Mrs. Brown continue to work with city staff as well as ITD to get a plan in place. Mr. Williams added that permission from the adjacent business owners will be needed to decorate the sidewalk. One business owner present at the meeting already approved.

Council commended and thanked the group for their presentation.

Jerome County Commissioner Charles Howell presented a check for \$20,000 to Chief Presnell on behalf of the county commissioners. There is an ambulance district throughout county which covers ambulance services within the county; the check is in response to a presentation made to the commissioners by Mayor Davis and Fire Chief Presnell regarding the Jerome City Fire Department services provided to the city which lies within Jerome County. It will help defray costs of the Quick Response Units (QRU) of the department.

### **PROCLAMATION – GIRL SCOUT WEEK:**

The clerk read the following proclamation in full:

#### **Girl Scout Week Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, March 12, 2018, marks the 106th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia; and,

**WHEREAS**, throughout its long and distinguished history, Girl Scouting has inspired millions of girls and women with the highest ideals of character, conduct, and patriotism; and,

**WHEREAS**, through Girl Scouting, girls gain courage, confidence and character who make their local communities and the world a better place; and,

**WHEREAS**, more than 2.6 million current Girl Scout members nationwide will be celebrating 106 years of this American tradition, with nearly 60 million women who are former Girl Scouts and living proof of the impact of this amazing Movement;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I David M. Davis, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Jerome, do hereby applaud the commitment Girl Scouting has made to America's girls and proudly proclaim the week of March 11-17, 2018 as Girl Scout Week.

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018,

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

Girl Scout Troup #21 members Callie Coelho, Cassie Coelho, and Cammie Coelho and Troup #437 members Nayeli Morales and Emma Weir were in attendance and had cookies to share!

Council signified unanimous support of the proclamation by all "ayes."

#### **RESOLUTION 05-18**

The clerk read resolution No. 05-18 as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION NO 05-18**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT TERM SHEET IN RESPONSE TO THE SURFACE WATER COALITION WATER DELIVERY CALL AND THE DESIGNATION OF THE EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

**WHEREAS** since 2005, the City of Jerome, Idaho ("City") has been identified as one of the water users affected by the ongoing Surface Water Coalition ("SWC") conjunctive administration water delivery call affecting the City's water rights; and

**WHEREAS** since 2016, the City has been identified by the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("IDWR") as falling within the boundaries of the designated Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer ("ESPA") Ground Water Management Area ("GWMA"); and

**WHEREAS** the City finds it necessary to protect, defend, and preserve its water rights in response to the SWC delivery call at IDWR's designation of the ESPA GWMA; and

**WHEREAS** the cities of Bliss, Burley, Carey, Declo, Dietrich, Gooding, Hazelton, Heyburn, Jerome, Paul, Richfield, Rupert, Shoshone, and Wendell ("Local Cities") have appeared in the SWC and ESPA GWMA proceedings through the law firms of Williams, Meservey, & Lothspeich, LLP ("WML LLP"), and McHugh Bromley, PLLC ("MB PLLC");

**WHEREAS** the Local Cities desire to work together to achieve their legal objectives in the SWC and ESPA GWMA proceedings; and

**WHEREAS** a settlement framework agreement ("Term Sheet") has been negotiated by WML LLP and MB PLLC on behalf of the Local Cities in the SWC and ESPA GWMA matters; and

**WHEREAS** the Term Sheet will serve as a vehicle from which the Local Cities will negotiate a binding settlement agreement in response to the SWC and ESPA GWMA proceedings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council and Mayor of the City of Jerome:

The City agrees the Term Sheet contains acceptable terms from which to negotiate a binding settlement agreement in response to the SWC and ESPA GWMA proceedings. The City agrees to allow WML LLP and MB PLLC to negotiate the terms of a binding settlement

agreement on its behalf. Any settlement agreement that is ultimately reached must then be presented to the City for approval.

DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018

PASSED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018

By:

/s/ David M. Davis

David M. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Bernadette Gomes

Bernadette Gomes, City Clerk

Candace McHugh and Chris Bromley with McHugh Bromley, PLLC, recommend that the resolution be passed for the agreement of how to resolve the surface water coalition water delivery call. Discussions have been ongoing since 2005, and this agreement will benefit the Magic Valley cities listed with a guarantee of water for 35 years or up to 120,000 acre feet of pumping, whichever occurs first. This will provide Jerome certainty of growth and available water, and will allow all parties to move forward with a binding settlement agreement and finally put the issue to rest. There has been good leadership from everyone involved, and they hope to return with the binding settlement agreement within approximately six months for approval.

Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, Mr. Bromley stated the cities which are not part of the agreement and in the Snake River Aquifer Plain will be allowed to come into this agreement if they choose. There will be a window of opportunity for cities to make the decision to be part of the agreement or continue to mitigate although the amount of time allowed is currently unknown but will be limited. The opportunity to grow as a city is to join some sort of plan; a big point in the negotiations was for the agreement to allow for growth as water is needed for a variety of community activities. Ms. McHugh also stated the negotiated number and years of the term sheet will allow other cities to join in the agreement without compromising the agreement's numbers. An engineering analysis was done to allow other cities to join without negatively impacting the cities that have already been participating up to this point.

Councilman Culver made a motion to approve Resolution No. 05-18, a resolution of the City of Jerome, Idaho, authorizing negotiation of a settlement agreement term sheet in response to the surface water coalition water delivery call, and the designation of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Groundwater Management Area. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Culver. **NAYS:** None.

Mayor Davis Ms. McHugh and Mr. Bromley for their work; Mr. Bromley also thanked the Williams, Meservey, & Lothspeich, LLP team for their efforts

### **FIREFIGHTER GEAR PURCHASE:**

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Harrison is requesting approval for nine (9) sets of structural firefighting gear not to exceed the cost of \$20,000 which has been budgeted. He stated the useful life cycle of the gear is approximately ten years and many sets are due for replacement. The plan is to rotate sets in a five year cycle.

Councilman Culver made a motion to approve the purchase of nine (9) sets of structural firefighting gear from L.N. Curtis and Sons Inc. for a total cost not to exceed \$20,000. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Culver. . **NAYS:** None.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilman Barber thanked Mayor Davis and Mr. Williams for initiating the downtown beautification process. The committee has had three meetings so far with nine members and many ideas. He also thanked Mrs. Brown and her students for the presentation; he is excited about the event and commended the students on their presentation.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Mr. Williams reminded council of a special meeting scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Staff would like to apply for a Rural Community Block Grant in the amount of \$300,000 for road improvements on Rose Street. This is in conjunction with the Magic Valley Quality Milk Producers project, a \$20 million expansion which will increase activity on that road for them; it also serves other industrial customers in the immediate area. Their investment will include fifteen new jobs, and the road will hopefully undergo the Cement Recycling Asphalt Base Stabilization (CRABS) process or an overlay process. A public hearing is required to apply for the grant; the notice was published today. Additionally, one bid response was received for the fire department's mini-pumper request and this will also be on the special meeting agenda.

Mayor Davis thanked everyone for their presentations and attendance.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being nothing further to discuss, this March 6, 2018 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

By:

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Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

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Bernadette Gomes, City Clerk