

This special 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, City Engineer Rick Wuori, Fire Chief Jeremy Presnell and Deputy Fire Chief Mike Harrison.

Also in attendance were Jerome 20/20 Executive Director Larry Hall, Randy King and Times News staff.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

PUBLIC HEARING – GRANT APPLICATION:

This being the time published for the consideration of submitting a proposal to the Idaho Department of Commerce for a Rural Community Block Grant in the amount of \$300,000, the Chair opened this public hearing at 5:31 p.m. and briefly reviewed the procedures that will be followed.

Applicant Testimony:

Jerome 20/20 Executive Director Larry Hall stated he was asked to write a commerce grant for the Rural Community Development Block Grant; it is due on March 19th so time is limited. The project involves Rose Street and turns to S. Buchanan; an overlay is needed on these streets due to the condition of the road and increased traffic. The new project for Magic Valley Quality Milk Producers (MVQMP) involves a \$20 million investment in their plant to transition from milk marketing to the production of condensed milk and cream. This will add to the productivity of the area, and this grant application is in partnership with MVQMP. The grant application will be submitted on March 15th.

Mr. Hall provided documents which will be submitted with any changes recommended by council. The grant itself will be \$250,000 from the Department of Commerce plus a \$60,000 from the City of Jerome which will come through in-kind work. Mr. Williams stated this project includes overlay work plus reconstruction in certain areas due to heavy truck traffic. A portion of the work will be completed by public works staff and will count towards the in-kind income.

Mr. Hall stated that MVQMP is not part of the financial commitment of this grant as they are already spending \$20 million towards their expansion. An additional form to be completed and submitted is the Job Creation Agreement; this confirms the company’s commitment to add fifteen new jobs in addition to their expansion. The entire grant is approximately fifty pages with numerous questions and appendices.

Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, the cost of the total project is \$310,000. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Mr. Hall stated the Department of Commerce has a committee that grades applications and the turnaround should be fairly quickly. They are interested in the project and want to see success although this does not guarantee an award. Councilman Culver stated that, in the past, a small group made a presentation for the grant; Mr. Hall stated this will most likely be the case for this application and will include himself along with Mr. Williams, Mayor Davis

and a representative from MVQMP. Mayor Davis asked when the project would be started if the grant were approved, and Mr. Hall stated the schedule would have a start time of May or June, 2018 with completion by September or October, 2018. Mr. Williams stated, however, that the project would have to go out for public bid due to the amount; contractors' time and availability, responses received and figures presented could be a factor in determining when the project could begin. Mr. Wuori stated the project should take no more than sixty days to complete. The city will also have other projects in the works but this road project should be completed by the deadline. Mr. Hall further stated that the Department of Commerce is allowing Mr. Wuori to provide design and cost estimates.

There was no testimony in favor, neutral nor in opposition to the request. There being no further testimony to be heard, the Chair closed the hearing at 5:42 p.m.

RURAL COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION:

Councilman Culver made a motion to authorize Mayor Davis to sign and submit relevant application materials to the Idaho Department of Commerce for financial assistance to support an industrial infrastructure project that will benefit the residents of Jerome. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Barber. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Culver, Councilman Peterson and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

AWARD MINI-PUMPER CONTRACT:

Chief Presnell asked for approval to award the bid for the 2018 Mini-pumper to HME Inc. One bid was received; it had no exceptions, met all requirements and fell within the budget. The Mini-pumper will be American-made by a company located in Michigan; they have many service areas for reliable servicing needs. Upon inquiries by Councilman Culver and Councilman Barber, Chief Presnell stated the Mini-pumper will be delivered to the fire station within 270 days although he is hopeful it will be available by the end of the month.

Councilman Culver made a motion to approve the bid award to HME Inc. for a 2018 Mini-Pumper for a cost of \$200,000. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Culver, Councilman Peterson and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss, this March 13, 2018 special meeting of the Jerome City Council adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

By:

Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

Bernadette Gomes, City Clerk