

This regular meeting of the Jerome City Council was called to order by Mayor Davis at 5:30 p.m. Due to Governor Little's Stay-at-Home order, the meeting was held by teleconference. Council Chambers were closed to the public; the video conference was conducted via Zoom and was made available to all members of the public in a format that allowed all participants to hear the meeting, including all deliberations by members of the Council and other speakers addressing the council, whether in person or via virtual connection, and to comment if so desired, all of which was noted in the agenda, email, and notices at council chambers and on the city's website.

Present: Mayor David M. Davis, Councilman Robert Culver, Councilman Brent "Oop" Johnson and Councilman Jason Peterson. Councilman Chris Barber joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

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

Mayor Davis announced who was in attendance for the meeting both at council chambers and through video. He also announced that a full quorum was present and asked that if a staff member wishes to speak Mr. Hernandez will enable them to do so throughout the video conference.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**INVOCATION:**

An invocation was given by Allen Levitt with the Jerome Stake High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the April 7, 2020 regular meeting
2. Monthly Department Reports
3. Approve Claims

Accu Sales \$1,660.00, A-Core Of Idaho \$1,030.00, Advanced Collection Technology \$150.00, Aerzen Usa Corporation \$28,227.80, Aflac \$329.80, Alexander Clark Printing \$326.32, All Wireless Communications \$925.36, Amazon Capital Services \$513.34, Arnold Machinery Company \$1,500.00, Assoc Of Jerome City Firefighters \$144.00, Associated Business Forms, Llc \$919.73, Badger Meter \$282.13, Barnes, Tyson \$4.17, Blue Cross \$97,151.50, Boise Office Equipment \$340.29, Bonneville Blue Print Supply \$675.26, Bound To Stay Bound Books Inc \$12.82, Bound Tree Medical \$215.89, Bpa Health \$321.55, Brodart Co. \$387.78, Bullock Automation And Electric \$400.00, B-Z Plumbing \$144.60, Cdw

Government, Inc. \$4,794.60, Century Link \$1,899.20, Centurylink Business Services \$53.41, Chase Paymenttech \$2,315.30, Cintas Corporation \$270.66, City Of Jerome \$379,649.64, Civil Science, Inc \$4,514.13, Clear Edge Filtration, Inc \$1,895.51, Colonial Life & Accident Insur \$2,281.99, Columbine Control Company \$249.45, Con Paulos Inc. \$258.66, Consumer Reports \$30.74, Culligan Soft Water Service \$132.70, D & B Supply \$1,074.39, Dell \$2,322.70, Design & Construction Resources \$95.70, Dewitt Diesel Inc \$3,717.15, Dig Line Inc \$140.82, Don's Irrigation Llc \$481.80, Ehm Engineers, Inc. \$170.00, Electrical Contractors Of Id \$247.76, Elliott, Katie \$11.64, Environmental Resource Assoc. \$313.52, Evident, Inc \$126.00, Farmore Of Idaho \$8,889.75, Fastenal Company \$81.54, Feeney, Kylie M \$67.15, Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. \$3,772.71, Floyd Lilly Co \$140.66, Fred Kenyon Repair Inc. \$4,558.72, Freedom Electric Inc. \$1,669.91, Freedom Mailing Services, Inc \$1,993.95, Gem State Paper & Supply \$394.70, Gem State Welder's Supply \$72.54, Go-Fer It Express \$270.00, Gov't Finance Officer Assn \$150.00, Greatamerica Financial Services \$271.00, H.D.Fowler \$13,505.94, Hach Company \$2,571.19, Hall, Daniel \$10.99, High Output Construction Inc \$64,582.90, Hub City Building Inc \$637.80, Hydro Specialties Company \$12,072.74, Id Child Support Receipting \$4,504.14, Id Instrument \$40.00, Id State Tax Commission \$11,444.84, Idaho Materials And Construction \$297,803.95, Idaho Power Co. \$67,914.29, Idaho State Police \$1,718.75, Ingram Book Company \$1,148.41, Integrated Technologies, Inc. \$154.36, Intermountain Fabrication Llc \$85.00, Intermountain Gas Company \$4,311.41, Interstate Battery System Id \$214.90, Jerome City Water Department \$813.63, Jerome County \$10,746.87, Jerome County Sheriff \$528.60, Jerome Ff Local Union 4589 \$600.00, Jerome Printshop \$112.00, J-U-B Engineers Inc. \$5,479.50, Keller Associates Inc \$2,265.00, Lee, Kelly \$10.60, Les Schwab Tire Centers Inc \$1,280.23, Lexisnexis Risk Solutions \$211.50, Magic Valley Electric Llc \$504.00, Magic Valley Labs \$12,897.55, Malwarebytes \$3,253.00, Mason's Trophies & Gifts \$24.20, Mchugh Bromley, Pllc \$214.50, Metroquip, Inc. \$1,233.56, Mike's Repair \$257.07, Minert & Associates, Inc. \$45.00, Mony Life Insurance Company Of America \$3,962.13, Mountain View Spraying Inc \$211.00, Mower Office Systems \$84.00, Munimetrix Systems Corp. \$89.98, Mwi Veterinary Supply \$14.75, Napa Auto Parts \$714.25, National Band & Tag Co. \$160.23, Ncpers Group Life Ins C356 \$224.00, New Tech Security, Inc. \$210.00, Nutrien Ag Solutions \$960.00, O'reilly Auto Parts \$59.20, People \$50.00, Pinnacle Technologies \$869.99, Productivity Plus Account \$2,660.21, Pro-Flame, Inc \$145.56, Project Mutual Telephone \$304.54, Psi Environmental Services Inc \$22,622.12, Quadiant Leasing Usa, Inc \$916.68, Quadiant, Inc \$306.23, Radar Shop, The \$1,068.50, Rexel Usa Inc \$322.17, Rexroat, Harberd & Assoc, P.A. \$16,100.00, Riverside Hotel, The \$2,052.00, Rush Truck Centers Of Idaho, Inc. \$175.00, Sawtooth Inn \$75.99, Sawtooth Veterinary Services \$415.00, Scott Hall Welding Llc \$170.00, Silver Creek \$5,922.51, Skm, Inc. \$3,270.55, Southern Idaho Solid Waste \$9,093.76, Sweet's Septic & Backhoe, Inc. \$487.50, Symbolarts Llc \$967.00, Tfd Enterprises, Llc \$10,212.35, Thatcher Company \$14,444.09, Tiaa Commercial Finance, Inc. \$1,797.24, Times News \$582.14, Tlc Rental \$112.50, T-Mobile \$188.40, Tore Up \$60.00, Traffic Safety Supply Co Inc \$3,892.43, Treasure Valley Coffee, Inc. \$119.95, U S Bank Of Idaho \$3,590.55, U.S. Bank Equipment Finance \$288.49, Urgent Care Of Jerome/Twin Falls \$73.26, Us Bank Credit Card \$12,505.93, Valley Wide Cooperative \$19,032.64, Verizon Wireless \$3,311.01, Watts Hydraulic And Steam Store \$511.93, Westech \$1,058.56, Western States Equipment \$1,077.31, Western Waste Services \$1,573.14, Williams Meservy & Larsen Llp \$12,856.42, Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. \$2,209.38, Wright Physical Therapy \$120.00, Xpress Bill Pay \$825.96.

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

### **ZION'S BANK PRESENTATION:**

Christian Anderson with Zion's Public Finance appeared before council to present information on the 2008A General Obligation Bond issued in 2008 for the Jerome Senior Center. The bond was originally issued in the amount of \$800,000 in 2008 with a final maturity in 2028. Issued through the Idaho Bond Bank Authority (IBBA), Mr. Anderson stated the bond bank pulls various issuers together, provides a credit enhancement, gets the issuers a AA1 credit rating on their bonds and pulls some of the issuance costs. Some bonds are callable with varying interest rates; this particular bond was callable in 2018 but due to costs it would not have been feasible to refinance at that time. At this moment in time, a refinance option is now available. Mr. Anderson provided a chart which demonstrated historical tax-exempt muni rates since 2012, and he stated that rates have moved significantly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The IBBA is looking to do larger refinancing of loans with potentially between 10-15 participants. Costs are shared amongst all participants on a prorated basis, and Jerome's cost could increase as other participants drop out of the program, plus he said rates could rise between now and the fall when the refinance is complete. He provided to council a refunding analysis which includes: the callable par amount of \$440,000; callable maturities of 2020-2028; the weighted average coupon rate of 4.98% and a call date of 9/15/18. He reviewed estimated costs including the new rate of 2.14% (underwriting, bond counsel, etc.) and cash flow savings of approximately \$50,000; the callable amount will be less than \$440,000 because another payment will have been made by the time the financing is complete. Mr. Anderson stated rates could rise in the coming months and with the little amount of savings expected he emphasized the need to be sure that the benefits of proceeding outweighed the costs of staff time and resources.

Mr. Anderson reviewed bond bank versus bank placement information and he spoke of bids from banks, cash flow savings, issuance costs and the city contribution cost at closing. He stated that, under Idaho law, the principle amount of the new bond cannot exceed the principle amount of the old bond; however, to pay off the old bond the city must pay the \$440,000 principle plus the accrued interest up to the date refinancing is complete along issuance costs. With the IBBA scenario, this can be financed through premiums; under the bank placement scenario the city would have to make a contribution at closing to cover those amounts which exceed the \$440,000 (or, approximately \$23,300). A Direct Purchase/bank purchase option assumes that city would contribute accrued interest on the 2008 bonds as well as funds to pay issuance costs at closing. Interest rates have fluctuated and settled at a low point due to the impact of COVID-19, but rates could move in the coming weeks. Mr. Anderson spoke of another option of deferring the savings by keeping payments where they are now and capture the savings in the end. He stated the savings may be higher with the bond bank option but the process to sell bonds is longer which allows for time for rates to change. He recommends the bank placement option and that staff should pursue Direct Purchase financing through a simple Request for Proposals process to minimize staff time. He briefly spoke of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the narrow window to solicit bids without having to complete with bankers working with the PPP. He stated an RFP can be prepared to solicit bids by next week and ask for bids to be due by mid-May to allow for time to apply to a bond bank if needed. Brief discussion ensued regarding the PPP and the availability of bankers, and keeping the bid process simple to minimize costs. Mayor Davis stated it would be prudent to pursue Direct Purchase financing, and Councilman Peterson agreed.

Councilman Culver made the motion to direct staff to pursue a direct finance purchase through a simple RFP process in order to refinance \$440,000 principal outstanding of the 2008A General Obligation Bond. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After

consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver, Councilman Johnson and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Mr. Hyatt briefly reviewed the treasurer’s report and provided detailed information to council. He provided an overview of each fund with comparisons to last year’s figures, and he commented that expenditures are slightly lower than last year as some transfers were not done in the quarter. Overall he stated the General Fund is trending nicely compared to prior years. Regarding the Street Fund, Mr. Hyatt stated that revenues are at 90%, a significantly higher figure than in year’s past, due to the receipt of \$1.2 million in state grant funds related to street projects received after year end. Additionally, expenditures are only at 26% due to unexpended capital items which will most likely take place later in the year. In the Library fund, Mr. Hyatt stated revenues are trending nicely at 53% and there is a surplus of approximately \$38,000. Park fund revenues are at 54% compared to an average of 57% and are as expected this time of the year. The irrigation fund is slightly higher at 98% in revenues due to the payment of delinquent bills. However, operating expenses are also higher and must be monitored closely. The sanitation fund has a \$38,000 surplus with higher revenues due to interest income that is, unfortunately, expected to end. Mr. Hyatt spoke of the water fund and stated that collections are slightly higher than in the past three years with expenditures lower at 23%. In the wastewater fund, revenues are higher than expected at 66% due to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) grant funds received. Additionally, the debt service at 34% is higher than in previous years, and over \$500,000 was paid on the new DEQ loans for the wastewater treatment plant bonds. Overall, Mr. Hyatt stated the budget is where staff wants it to be, staff is closely monitoring state sales tax and how changes will impact cities. Additionally, decreased flows from industries will also be monitored.

Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, Mr. Hyatt stated that delinquent property tax payments will be reflected in the general fund and taken into consideration when preparing the next fiscal year’s budget. In regard to delinquent water accounts, Mr. Williams stated that the delinquent utility account list for March was similar to previous months with more expected in April due to the existing circumstances with increased unemployment. He stated that staff works with the customers to get payments in and that accounts will not be shut off this month. He also stated that staff tries to meet or exceed the reserves beyond the 25% requirement, and that today’s environment is an example of the benefit of these reserves.

**PROCLAMATION – BUILDING SAFETY MONTH:**

The clerk read the following proclamation in full:

**PROCLAMATION  
BUILDING SAFETY MONTH – MAY 2020**

**WHEREAS**, our city is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depends on the safety and economic value of the homes, buildings and infrastructure that serve our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster, and;

**WHEREAS**, our confidence in the structural integrity of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers,

plumbers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

**WHEREAS**, these guardians are dedicated members of the International Code Council, a nonprofit that brings together local, state and federal officials that are experts in the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work, play, and;

**WHEREAS**, our nation benefits economically and technologically from using the International Codes that are developed by a national, voluntary consensus codes and standards developing organization, our government is able to avoid the high cost and complexity of developing and maintaining these codes, which are the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the world;

**WHEREAS**, these modern building codes include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods and earthquake; which, according to a FEMA-commissioned study by the National Institute of Building Sciences, provide \$11 in future mitigation benefits for every dollar invested, and;

**WHEREAS**, Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown protectors of public safety—our local code officials—who assure us of safe, efficient and livable buildings that are essential to America's prosperity, and;

**WHEREAS**, "Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World," the theme for Building Safety Month 2020, encourages all Americans to raise awareness about the importance of safe and resilient construction; fire prevention; disaster mitigation, and new technologies in the construction industry. Building Safety Month 2020 encourages appropriate steps everyone can take to ensure the safety of our built environment, and recognizes that the implementation of safety codes by local and state agencies has saved lives and protected homes and businesses, and;

**WHEREAS**, each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety and economic investment at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments, fire prevention bureaus and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, David M. Davis, Mayor of the City of Jerome, Idaho, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2020 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to join with their communities in participation in Building Safety Month activities.

/s/: David M. Davis  
Mayor, City of Jerome

The council signified support of the proclamation with unanimous "ayes."

### **VEHICLE PURCHASE – FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Harrison stated last year the 1994 Chevy brush truck was taken out of service. When it was taken in for repairs, it was determined that the left motor mount bracket was torn out of the frame and the frame was cracked in several areas. Staff determined that it would have

been a liability to the department in emergency situations to simply weld the frame together. The brush truck was sold through publics surplus.com (with full disclosure of its condition). Chief Harrison stated that the department set aside funds in the budget to purchase the F550 cab chassis. The funds will also include the pump, hoses and water tank installation along with other equipment installed; the flatbed is already on hand. Staff pursued local options but found a better price elsewhere. The water tank and pump will be approximately \$14,500 and the cost of the tool boxes will depend on the size and what can be added after the water tank and pump are installed. Upon inquiry by Councilman Johnson, Chief Harrison stated that the truck will be custom built to the department's specifications; a ready-made brush truck would have cost an additional \$50,000-\$60,000 to purchase. He stated that Larsen Fire Apparatus Service Company does quality work and will be installing the water tank and pump.

Councilman Culver made the motion to approve the Fire Chief to purchase a 2020 F550 Cab Chassis and to purchase and install associated equipment for the vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$70,000. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Peterson, Councilman Culver, Councilman Johnson and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

### **CITY OF JEROME STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Mr. Williams reported on the strategic plan in place and meetings which have taken place based on priorities of the council and staff direction. He stated that the strategic plan was developed approximately six years ago after meetings with the mayor and council along with reaching out to the public (business owners, industries, community partners, school leadership members, etc.) for input on what direction the city needed to go in. He spoke of the environment back then (few building projects, high unemployment, negative public relation issues, etc.) and the strategic plan that was developed based on conditions at that time. He also spoke of progress made from the original plan to today and feels it can be modified now with anticipated changes in 2021. Mr. Williams emphasized that staff is looking for direction on the prioritization of certain areas.

Regarding successes, Mr. Williams began with Focus Area 1: Commercial Environment. He noted improvements to the downtown area including the creating of the Parking and Beautification Committee; establishing an urban renewal district whereby the Urban Renewal Agency (URA) has had the ability to purchase property; updated code enforcement; and, continuing to support downtown events. Things yet to be done include agreements with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD); funding building projects along Main Street; and improve public sentiment.

Mr. Williams spoke of Focus Area 2: Public Facilities and stated that successes include the improvement of park amenities (specifically ICCU Park); the ability to set aside funds for a new police station; improvements to public works and engineering facilities; success with water, roads and sewer line projects; and building a funding mechanism to maintain rates. He identified items needing to be completed including the building of a police station; finishing connectivity initiatives (10<sup>th</sup> Ave E bike path, Main Street path, etc.) with funding in place, and continuing with capital funding to address decay and deteriorating facilities.

In reviewing Focus Area 3: Community Pride, Mr. Williams stated that the focus title be changed to Pride in Property as it better connects to the successes achieved. Included in those successes is the improved condition of parks and improved code enforcement with the amended nuisance ordinance, established programs like the Clean Up Day was to be extended to Clean Up

week (postponed during the Governor's Stay at Home order). Staff would like to acknowledge those who show pride in their property by establishing the Mayor's Award program whereby properties are identified for maintenance and celebrated.

Focus Area 4 pertains to Cost of Services, and Mr. Williams stated that these costs were initially included in the plan because of the water and wastewater rate increases at the time the plan was developed. Since that time, staff has been working to maintain competitive fees and property taxes without any rate increases for water or sewer services in the last five years nor irrigation fee increases in the last two years. This has been possible due to continued growth and good management practices. Additionally, the city has been successful with securing grants in various departments, and staff will continue to pursue them. The plan identifies what needs to be done including formally identifying when to outsource projects versus doing them in-house.

Mr. Williams spoke of Focus Area 5 and explained that three separate areas (Civic Engagement, Youth Focus and Changing Demographics) were combined into one and renamed Community Involvement. Different demographics of the community are each identified in this focus area and it was determined that the largest segment of the city's population is between ages 18 and 34. Educational opportunities for the youth along with the growing Hispanic community are a priority in this focus area as are educational support and opportunities for the senior members of the community. The library will continue to partner with the College of Southern Idaho and other agencies for educational support as well as look at other opportunities for public gatherings to bring the community together. The Community Spirit Committee is one example of success in promoting events that appeal to all demographics.

Regarding managed growth, staff feels this area needs further conversation once the strategic plan is completed and may involve research and a discussion of ideas on city growth. The existing goal of the focus area needs further definition to clearly identify priorities and issues pertaining to city growth. Mr. Williams stated the comprehensive plan will also require extensive discussions to address city growth. In reviewing Focus Area 8: Public Service Attitude/Effectiveness, staff felt it necessary to remove it from the strategic plan as many important aspects of this focus area are now included in the city employee policy manual. Mr. Williams spoke of Focus Area 10: Economic Prosperity and stated the city has been successful with multiple capital projects and low unemployment figures. One of the goals in the plan has changed from offering a large number of jobs to offering quality jobs and focusing on providing incentives to incoming businesses. He stated few changes were made to Focus Area 11: Community Health and Safety and Focus Area 12: Environmental Quality. Public health and safety and clean water continue to be high priorities, and staff wishes to continue to support partners to achieve better outcomes. Mr. Williams spoke of a survey in which poor health was identified in Jerome County, and he stated that improved connectivity for walking and other activities should result in good outcomes. Lastly, Mr. Williams spoke of Focus Area 13: City of Jerome Staff and stated that it important that staff is supported but also held accountable. Staff is grateful for mayoral and council support with opportunities for training, career path opportunities and competitive pay and benefits. He further stated that staff is accountable for holding high standards in providing customer service, and that staff seeks any feedback to include and improve the strategic plan as presented.

Councilman Peterson stated the updated plan looks great, and Councilman Johnson stated the city has made good strides in improving the plan. Mr. Williams stated that in reviewing the strategic plan staff was able to recognize the achievements along with items needing improvements when recommending changes. He further stated that when the strategic plan was

first implemented, there was little funding available for the projects projected; he credits partnerships with other agencies and community members. For example, the ICCU Park improvements initially came from a citizen's recommendation. Councilman Johnson commented on the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue E sidewalk project as a good example of progress; he has received positive comments regarding the public works department on that project. Mayor Davis commended Mr. Williams and city staff along with community members who have all contributed to the successes of the strategic plan.

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

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilman Barber, Councilman Culver and Councilman Johnson wished health and safety to everyone. Mayor Davis spoke of concerns regarding Governor Little's Stay at Home Order extension, whether the restrictions would be relinquished or minimized, and the lack of information regarding the Jerome County statistics in order to move forward. He reminded council that the extension would be revisited in nine days, and asked council for input on what should be done, as the council and leaders in the community, should the number of COVID-19 increases. Councilman Peterson expressed concern for the unknown aspects of the virus. He stated that there has been some information regarding testing and the rate of infection at only 2% meaning that the number of those infected could be higher than what is reported. He also stated that at some point, life must continue and that some businesses could close permanently if not reopened soon. He would like to see restrictions lifted but with guidelines for continued safety. Councilman Culver stated he would like to see businesses reopen but with a continued emphasis on social distancing. Councilman Johnson concurs with reopening businesses with caution. Extensive discussion ensued regarding office practices and utilizing services at a distance. Topics of the discussion included banking online; professional office services; retail business struggles compared to large corporate businesses; the fear of the virus returning at an alarming rate; many unknowns pertaining to the virus including infection and mortality rates; the city's obligation to follow governor's orders but with some restrictions; declaring a city emergency, and establish an ordinance to enforce additional restrictions. Councilman Barber commented on citizen safety but also the need to reopen businesses while continuing to follow the governor's protocol. He also spoke of the lesson learned regarding preparedness and social distancing practices, and that at some point businesses should be prepared to reopen when allowed to do so. Councilman Johnson spoke of other illnesses like influenza and its impact on society.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Mr. Williams spoke of staffing and the initial separation of crews to minimize contact while continuing to provide services; those who were able to work from home had been advised to do so. Beginning on Thursday, staff is looking to return some staff to full time while continuing to maintain distances and avoiding excessive public contact. He stated that those members of staff who can work from home will continue to do so, and anyone who becomes sick or is exposed to the virus will follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for quarantine.



There has been correspondence for the “Support Local Gems” initiative, and Mr. Williams stated that Friday will be “Support Local Business Day” whereby citizens are encouraged to support local businesses whether by ordering online, take-out or delivery, or posting positive reviews on social media. Mr. Williams also spoke of the generous donation of \$100,000 by an anonymous Jerome couple to Jerome 20/20, which will be used as a grant program to assist local businesses affected by COVID-19. He also spoke of the city’s intention to file to intercede in a matter between the City of Nampa and the irrigation district that could affect the city’s ability to discharge wastewater to the J Canal. More information will be forthcoming.

Mr. Richey stated that he is still receiving plans and permits for new residential homes, and Mr. Carpenter provided a quick update on construction projects. He stated that the Jerome Estates Sewer Bypass Project should be completed by the end of the month. Additionally, the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue E sidewalks project is underway and going well. Upon inquiry by Mr. Larsen, Mr. Carpenter stated that there was no crop loss associated with the bypass project as indicated in the contract.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this April 21, 2020 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 7:08 p.m.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk