

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 Robert Culver, Councilman Brent “Oop” Johnson and Councilman Jason Peterson.

Also present were staff members: City Clerk Bernadette Gomes, City Attorney Ted Larsen, City Administrator Mike Williams, Information Services Director Carlos Hernandez, Library Director Linda Mecham, City Planner Ida Clark, Human Resources Manager Esmeralda Chavez, Finance Director Ross Hyatt, Accounting and Budgeting Manager Lori McCrae, Building Official Dave Richey, City Engineer Tyson Carpenter, Mike Hensley, Wastewater Lead Supervisor Brad Henry, 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:

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

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA – ADD RESOLUTION NO. 09-19:

Councilman Culver made a motion to add Resolution No. 09-19 to the agenda. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Culver, Councilman Barber and Councilman Peterson and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDER REZONE OF PROPERTY FROM C2 TO R2:

This being the time and place published to consider a request from Chris Barber for a zoning map amendment, changing the zone from General Business (C2) to Residential 2 (R2), on that parcel described as a portion of the SE ¼ SE ¼ Section 18, Township 8 South, Range 17 East, Boise Meridian, Jerome County, Idaho, the Chair called the public hearing open at 5:35 p.m. Councilman Barber recused himself from the council.

Applicant testimony:

Mr. Barber stated he purchased the old fish and game building on Highway 25 which includes approximately 3.5 acres. The building has been vacant for many years, and he is requesting that the property behind the building be rezoned to residential. It is currently zoned as commercial use. Upon inquiry by Councilman Johnson, Mr. Barber stated he plans to build nine townhomes. Additionally, Mr. Barber stated the surrounding properties are also zoned residential. He will lose some parking space, but will have enough for the main building. He further stated the rezone will be a good fit for the community, and he showed council a map of the property on which the townhomes will be built.

Testimony by staff:

Ms. Clark stated the property was annexed into the city in 1973 and zoned for business use; no other records exist regarding other rezones to this property. The lot was split at the last

Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission meeting. She stated the application states “rezone will encourage growth to occur” and noted the adjacent properties zoned as residential. A public hearing was held before the P&Z Commission on April 9, 2019 and there was one letter of testimony neutral to the application; no testimony in favor nor in opposition to the request was submitted. She further stated the commission recommended approval of the request.

There was no testimony in favor, neutral, nor in opposition to the request. There being no further testimony to be heard, the Chair declared the public hearing closed at 5:41 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDER REZONE OF PROPERTY FROM CBD TO M1:

This being the time and place published to consider a request from Tyler Norris for a zoning map amendment, changing the zone from Central Business District (CBD) to Light Industrial (M-1), on those parcels described as Lots 22 thru 31, Block 96, Jerome Townsite NE 24-8-16, more commonly known as 112 West Avenue B, Jerome, Idaho, the Chair called the public hearing open at 5:41 p.m.

Applicant testimony:

Tyler Norris appeared before council to request rezoning of the property from commercial to light industrial. He stated the purpose of the rezone is to build another warehouse on the property for storage so that he may sell the existing building to Jimenez Auto Repair, a neighboring business. The current commercial zone does not allow for storage facilities. Additionally, the rezone would allow for additional parking. Upon inquiry by Councilman Peterson, Mr. Norris showed the council a map of the area for the rezone request and where the new building will be located.

Staff testimony:

Ms. Clark stated the lots are a part of the original Jerome town site and the request is for other permitted uses which are considered legal nonconforming uses. There is an automotive repair shop onsite allowed by a Special Use Permit. A rezone from commercial to light industrial would allow the storage building as a permitted use. She noted the adjacent areas are a combination of commercial and industry processing; a public hearing was held by the P&Z commission on April 9, 2019 with no testimony in favor, neutral nor in opposition to the request. The commission has requested approval of the request.

There was no testimony in favor nor in opposition to the request.

Neutral testimony:

Ms. Connie Buhler, 239 S. Cedar, Jerome, asked for clarification between the two zone types. Ms. Clark explained the different zones and permitted uses within each zone. Some zones allow certain operations with an occupancy permit, and others require a Special Use Permit. Additionally, some uses are not allowed in specific zones. Because this property is currently zoned as commercial, the storage building is not allowed. However, the property is adjacent to other light industrial property and qualifies for the rezone request. Upon further inquiry by Ms. Buhler, Ms. Clark identified the areas on the map.

There being no further testimony to be heard, the Chair declared the public hearing closed at 5:49 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the April 16, 2019 regular and executive meetings

Councilman Culver made a 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 Culver, Councilman Barber and Councilman Peterson and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

ROAD SCHOLAR PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Lan Smith with the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) appeared before council to present Road Scholar awards to two public works employees. He stated the Road Scholar program requires approximately 80 hours of work with 11 classes to complete 40 credits. He further stated that participation in the program ensures the city is implementing best practices on the roadways, and points are earned towards grant monies for which the city can apply. He presented the Road Scholar award to Public Works employee Kenny Shaffer. Public Works employee Bob Gagnon was also to be presented with awards but was unable to attend.

OATH OF OFFICE – POLICE OFFICER JACOB BENNETT:

Chief Hall introduced Jacob Bennett as Jerome's newest police officer. He was hired in January 2019 and has been attending the College of Southern Idaho Law Enforcement Program. Prior to working for the city he was employed by Jerome County Sheriff's Office as a detention deputy, and Chief Hall is happy to welcome him to the department. Officer Bennett's badge was pinned by his father.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION PRESENTATION:

Police Officer Guillermo Garcia appeared before council to present recognition awards to several community members. He stated at the beginning of the school year there were discussions about implementing traffic safety near the high school on N. Tiger Drive. The goal was to allow for safer pedestrian crossing. There were also discussions about the Stop the Bleed campaign with the fire department.

Officer Garcia reached out for assistance to implement these plans, and four individuals came forward and went out of their way to assist. Kami Elorrieta, Cassandra Hinton, McCall Stauffer and Ryan Evans were presented with plaques of appreciation. All four individuals work at the high school and raised approximately \$25,000. These funds were used to install pedestrian crossing signs at Jerome High School, and digital speed signs which will be installed this summer. Officer Garcia is hopeful that similar projects will be implemented through the Jerome schools with additional funds raised.

Mayor Davis commented that it is great to have members of the community assisting with projects.

PROCLAMATION – BUILDING SAFETY MONTH:

The clerk read the following proclamation in full:

**PROCLAMATION
BUILDING SAFETY MONTH – MAY 2019**

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 U.S. based organization, 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, “No Code. No Confidence.” the theme for Building Safety Month 2019, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of safe and resilient construction; fire prevention; disaster mitigation, and new technologies in the construction industry. Building Safety Month 2019 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 2019 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.”

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL POLICE WEEK:

The clerk read the following proclamation in full:

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

TO RECOGNIZE NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2019 AND TO HONOR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THOSE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED OR DISABLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITYS AND SAFEGUARDING OUR DEMOCRACY

WHEREAS, the Congress and President of the United States has designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which it falls as Police Week; and

WHEREAS, since the first recorded death in 1791, more than 21 ,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, during Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, we honor the men and women of law enforcement who have been killed or disabled in the course of serving our communities; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Police Depallment of the City of Jerome play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of the City of Jerome; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens know and understand the problems, duties and responsibilities of their police department, and that members of our police department recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence or disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the City of Jerome Police Department provide a vital public service to the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor David M. Davis, call upon all citizens of the City of Jerome and upon all patriotic, civil, and educational organizations to observe the week of May 12 through 18, 2019, as Police Week with appropriate ceremonies in which all of our people may join in commemorating police officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in doing so, have established for themselves an enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

I FURTHER call upon all citizens of the City of Jerome to observe Wednesday, May 15, 2019, as Peace Officer's Memorial Day in honor of those peace officers who, through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty.

PROCLAIMED THIS 7th DAY OF MAY, 2019

/s/:David M. Davis, Mayor

The council signified support of the proclamation with unanimous “ayes.”

PROCLAMATION – MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK:

The clerk read the following proclamation in full:

**PROCLAMATION
MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK
MAY 5-11, 2019**

WHEREAS, The Office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels, and

WHEREAS, Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all.

WHEREAS, The Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community.

WHEREAS, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations.

WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David M. Davis, Mayor of the City of Jerome, do recognize the week of May 5 through May 11, 2019, as Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Bernadette Gomes and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2019

Mayor /s/:David M Davis

Attest: /s/:Bernadette Gomes

The council signified support of the proclamation with unanimous “ayes.”

BILL NO. 659, ORDINANCE NO. 1174 – INTRODUCTION:

Bill No. 659 was sponsored by Councilman Culver.

The clerk read Bill No. 659 by title only to constitute the first reading as follows:

BILL NO. 659
ORDINANCE NO. 1174

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO AMENDING THE CITY OF JEROME ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP BY ZONING THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN, IN THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO FROM GENERAL BUSINESS (C-2) TO RESIDENTIAL 2 (R-2); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BILL NO. 660, ORDINANCE NO. 1175 – INTRODUCTION:

Bill No. 660 was sponsored by Councilman Johnson.

The clerk read Bill No. 660 by title only to constitute the first reading as follows:

BILL NO. 659
ORDINANCE NO. 1174

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO AMENDING THE CITY OF JEROME ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP BY ZONING THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN, IN THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO FROM CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD) TO LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (M-1); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19:

The clerk read resolution No. 09-19 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO, APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Title 50, Chapter 3, of the Idaho Code describes the powers and duties of the Mayor, and;

WHEREAS, Title 50, Chapter 5, of the Idaho Code describes the powers, duties and responsibilities of the members of a City Council, and;

WHEREAS, Title 50, Chapter 2, of the Idaho Code describes the general duties and powers provided to political subdivisions – including municipal corporations – operating in the State of Idaho, and;

WHEREAS, Title 50, Chapter 2, Sections 4, 5 and 6 describe the appointment process and the procedures each municipal corporation is required to follow when considering an individual for an opening on officially recognized boards and commissions, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Jerome is organized under the Mayor/Council form of government and the Mayor serves as the City’s Chief Executive Officer, and;

WHEREAS, the Mayor is required to make appointments to City-sponsored boards and commissions as terms end and vacancies are created, and;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jerome as follows:

SECTION 1. JEROME CITY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

The following individual is appointed as a member of the Jerome City Planning and Zoning Commission to serve a term effective with the date below-written, in accordance with delineation thereof:

Jeff Schroeder

May 2019 through February 2022

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE:

Resolution 09-19 shall be effective upon its passage as required by law.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL this 7th day of May, 2019.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR this 7th day of May, 2019.

By:

/s/ David M. Davis

David M. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Bernadette Gomes

Bernadette Gomes, City Clerk

Councilman Culver made a motion to approve Resolution No. 09-19, the mayoral appointment of Jeff Schroeder to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Culver, Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

Mayor Davis stated that Mr. Jeff Schroeder was interviewed by Ms. Clark and P&Z Chairman Rod Mink along with another applicant who later withdrew their application. They, along with Mayor Davis, recommend that Mr. Schroeder be appointed to the vacant position on the P&Z Commission.

COMMERCIAL USE OF NORTH AND VETERAN'S PARKS – JOE MAMA CAR SHOW:

Mr. Carl McEntarffer appeared before council to request commercial use of the parks and that the fees be waived. He stated he and Randy King are looking to make some changes to the car show. They would like to bring the "Show and Shine" event to North Park and make it a family-friendly event. The rib-eating contest will be back again this year, and Diamondz Event Center will be providing entertainment that evening. Mr. McEntarffer is also requesting a beer garden located throughout the park for patrons (wearing wristbands) to enjoy their beverage while walking through the park looking at the cars. He plans to have security on hand as well, and anticipates that families will enjoy the new park improvements while also enjoying the car show.

Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, Mr. McEntarffer stated the beer garden will be available on Friday night only. In years past the "Show and Shine" event has been held downtown with streets closed off, the local bars selling alcohol, and people walking around. He and Mr. King felt this portion of the event would be more family-friendly if relocated to the park. There will be no beer garden on Saturday but food vendors and a wide variety of cars to enjoy. Mr. Williams stated council can approve the event with the understanding that the beer garden would be discussed with Chief Hall to ensure conformance with Alcohol Beverage Control laws. Chief Hall stated he does not have any immediate concerns but that it would be best to do some planning beforehand.

Councilman Culver made a motion to approve application of Carl McEntarffer and Randy King to hold the annual Joe Mama's Car Show on August 16⁻¹⁷, 2019 in North and Veteran's Memorial Park and waive permit fees due to the public nature of the event. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Culver, Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

CONTRACT AWARD – KLOEPFER, INC.:

Mr. Carpenter presented the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) project and contract award for approval. He stated the IOEM projects must be completed by October 2019. This project is on N. Date Street from W. Main Street to 7th Avenue W; the road will be rebuilt entirely with base and asphalt and will be able to handle the large amount of residential and school traffic. Mr. Carpenter stated two bids were received for the project, and the lower bid was from Kloepfer, Inc. in the amount of \$209,211.00. The bid was higher than the anticipated

budget amount of \$198,629.00, and staff recommends that the additional funds come from street reserves.

Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Mr. Carpenter stated the project should take approximately six weeks to complete from July to August before school resumes in the fall. Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, Mr. Carpenter stated the project documents were put together by Civil Science and that start/completion dates should be listed.

Councilman Culver made a motion to approve the contract with Kloefer, Inc. for the ERF 181 N. Date Street project for a total unit price bid of \$209,211.00. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Barber. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Culver, Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

COMMERCIAL USE OF NORTH PARK – FREEDOM FEST:

Ms. Gomes spoke on behalf of the Community Spirit Committee requesting commercial use of North Park for the 3rd Annual Freedom Fest. The event has been successful in previous years with vendors and activities for children. The new improvements will provide entertainment for children along with a variety of food and merchandise vendors and a beer garden. Diamondz Event Center is also providing the music entertainment. Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, Ms. Gomes explained how staff reviewed the North Park improvements compared to vendor booth locations in 2018 to ensure that there would be sufficient space for vendors. Additionally, Main Street will be closed and staff expects that the event may expand into Veteran's Memorial Park next year.

Councilman Culver made a motion to approve the application of the Community Spirit Committee for commercial use of North Park on June 29, 2019, and waive any permit fees due to the civic nature of the event. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Culver, Councilman Barber, Councilman Peterson and Councilman Johnson. **NAYS:** None.

BUDGET INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION FOR FY2019-2020:

Mr. Williams stated the purpose of this discussion is to review last year's priorities and goals and get feedback from the mayor and council on what their direction may be for the upcoming fiscal year. The preliminary budget will be presented to council on July 16th and will be available for their view around the first week in July. Mr. Williams stated staff is beginning to work on department budgets to stay within projected revenues.

Mr. Williams spoke of the Strategic Plan and briefly described some successes of the thirteen focus areas:

- Commercial Environment – Urban Renewal District Area 5 was approved by council in December 2018 to assist with industry expansion. Additionally, discussions regarding downtown beautification and property procurement have been ongoing.
- Public Facilities – staff has been working diligently to save monies for a new police station, and \$1.25 million has been saved and restricted for that project. He thanked council for approving the previous years' budgets to allow for this savings. Additionally, the façade of Fire Station No. 3 was redone to enhance beautification, and

Idaho Central Credit Union generously donated a large sum to move forward with North Park improvements.

- Community Pride – the Community Spirit Committee has been able to bring a sense of pride with various events including the Main Street Trunk or Treat event.
- Cost of Services –water rates have not been increased in nearly five years because of responsible department management, and capital projects have continued despite the lack of any rate increases.
- Civic Engagement – staff has been utilizing social media (Facebook, for example) and public contact (booth at Jerome Fair) for community outreach.
- Managed Growth – the city has been growing by approximately 1-1.5% over the last four years; most subdivisions have been expanding or created without annexation; infrastructure was extended outside of city boundaries for the Lynch Oil project but the improvements will benefit the city as more projects come to town. He expects more infill projects this coming year.
- Youth Focus – library programs, police and fire youth academies and park improvements all serve the youth. Statistics show that Jerome is a “young” community in terms of average resident age, and the ability to cater to this population is important.
- Public Service Attitude and Effectiveness – this is emphasized throughout all departments and in staff meetings.
- Changing Demographics – holding multi-cultural events and tailoring services to all demographics continue to be a priority.
- Economic Prosperity – in the last fiscal year the city has had over \$60 million in industrial expansion, which resulted in 50-60 new jobs in the community; staff expects the industrial component to continue with current growth patterns. Staff has also been working with companies to bring good, high-paying jobs to Jerome.
- Community Health and Safety – investments in the wastewater system along with capital and services through the police and fire departments have emphasized this focus area.
- Environmental Quality – improvements made to the wastewater treatment plant and processing of bio-solids will assist with the impact on the environment.
- Jerome City Staff – Mr. Williams thanked council for the support provided to city staff through approved training, compensation and benefits received. Staff is working to attract and maintain quality employees.

Mr. Williams briefly reviewed budget drivers and key priorities from 2018. One goal listed was to comply with the fund balance reserve policy, and the city is currently in compliance and, in fact, exceeding reserve balance on all funds. The goal is to continue to save and restrict funds for a new police station. Other future projects include the 10th Street sidewalk and pathway; the budget will be available in the coming fiscal year. The compensation model will be reviewed regularly to ensure the city maintains quality employees. Mr. Williams concluded by stating that staff understands current priorities with planning the budget.

Councilman Barber commented on the public works department and that they deserve more recognition and appreciates when staff is recognized for jobs well done. His priorities include the continued efforts towards a new police station along with downtown beautification efforts. He stated there have been productive meetings and give businesses hope. He believes the community events are what draw people downtown and the efforts to beautify downtown will only strengthen the city economically; he would also like to see businesses get more involved with downtown beautification. Councilman Barber would also like to see more green space on the west side of Jerome; he suggested the possibility of partnering with the Jerome Recreation District (JRD) to further explore this option.

Councilman Culver stated it is important to keep up with salary surveys; with many employees approaching retirement it is vital to keep quality employees. Other priorities include the water tank on 10th Street; bottleneck lines, and water rights. Despite the mitigation plan in place, Councilman Culver feels staff should continue to plan for future growth. He would also like to see sidewalks be a budget priority.

Councilman Johnson feels it is important to keep on top of wages to retain quality employees. Other priorities include sidewalks and pride in downtown.

Councilman Peterson agrees with Councilman Culver regarding ground water rights with potential growth in the city. City park maintenance is also a priority, and Councilman Peterson also spoke of a partnership with JRD to assist with park maintenance.

Mayor Davis spoke of the police station as a priority along with sidewalks, paths, curb and gutter to enhance community connectivity. He mentioned the possibility of involving Local Improvement Districts, and stated he is hopeful some grants will be available to improve the condition of some city streets. Downtown improvement efforts are also a priority along with continuing to implement building and fire codes. Mayor Davis also spoke of promoting community spirit and pride by encouraging family-friendly events and recreational opportunities. He feels the Community Spirit Committee, which consists of members of the community, is a good thing to have. He also encouraged competitive wages and benefits along with a friendly work environment. He commended the employee culture initiative and sees positive changes with the implementation of the program. Mayor Davis stated the nuisance ordinance is a main focus now and he wants to see it continue to encourage property ownership pride. Water rights are also a concern for future growth.

Mr. Williams stated a budget will be built around the priorities listed and will work diligently to meet as many of the suggested needs as possible.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Culver met with Mr. Williams and Bryan Craig to discuss some potential changes to Veteran's Memorial Park. They would like to see the monuments closer together, and Mr. Hensley stated that Lee Nunnally did the original work and can be contacted. Councilman Culver stated they are still in the planning stages but would also like to see additional flags with the relocated monuments. Councilman Barber stated he spoke to Jerome Cemetery sexton Scott Fraser to assist, and Councilman Culver also spoke of monies needed to complete their plans. Councilman Barber also spoke of landscaping at Veteran's Memorial in addition to having the monuments moved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Hyatt introduced Lori McCrae as the new accounting and budget manager. She brings to the city much accounting experience with local organizations and he is pleased to have her on board.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this May 7, 2019 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 6:54 p.m.

By:

Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

Bernadette Gomes, City Clerk