

**July 21, 2020**

This regular meeting of the Jerome City Council was called to order by Mayor Davis at 5:32 p.m. While council chambers were open to the public, the meeting was also held by teleconference and the public was encouraged to continue with social distancing. 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 Chris Barber and Councilman Brent "Oop" Johnson. Councilman Jason Peterson joined the meeting at 5:38 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 Operations Supervisor Brad Henry, 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.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Pastor Tim Knutson of the Jerome Bible Baptist Church.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the July 7, 2020 regular and executive meetings
2. Monthly Department Reports
3. Approve Claims

20-20 Autoglass \$70.00, Accu Sales \$330.00, A-Core of Idaho \$257.50, Advanced Collection Technology \$100.00, Advanced Underground Imaging \$225.00, Aflac \$164.90, Air St. Luke's \$90.00, All Wireless Communications \$1,430.43, Amazon Capital Services \$177.52, Andrew, Jacob R \$55.51, Appliances, Etc. \$65.00, Argo Company \$108.54, Assoc of Jerome City Firefighters \$132.00, Association of Idaho Cities \$5,229.60, Auto Zone \$22.19, Badger Meter \$319.51, Barajas, Manuel A \$14.88, Bennett's Truck Repair \$2,021.32, Blip Priinters \$142.00, Blue Cross \$96,264.91, Boise Office Equipment \$25.00, Bonneville Blue Print Supply \$116.00, BPA Health \$321.55, Builders Firstsource \$40.00, Bullock Automation and Electric \$960.00, B-Z Plumbing \$255.74, C.H. Spencer LLC \$3,820.00, Callen Refrigeration LLC \$535.00, Center Point Large Print \$88.08, Century Link \$1,656.74, Centurylink Business Services \$132.65, Chase Paymenttech \$1,555.19, Cintas Corporation \$44.65, City of Jerome \$278,974.75, Colonial Life & Accident Insur \$2,295.24, Columbine Control Company \$1,711.51, Conrad & Bischoff Inc \$221.20, Crossroad Point Owners Assn \$247.83, Culligan Soft Water Service \$111.50, Curtis, Intermountain Division \$733.36, D & B Supply \$2,016.53, Data Support Co Inc \$1,365.55, Davies Aqua Chem Supply Co \$234.86, Dc Frost Associates, Inc \$27,300.62, Deerskin Mfg Inc

\$5,700.00, Demello, Kimberly M \$15.34, Dig Line Inc \$301.66, Dwe, LLC \$18,700.00, Emergency Reporting \$4,007.00, Farmore of Idaho \$2,479.20, Fastenal Company \$412.42, Floyd Lilly Co \$175.72, Fred Kenyon Repair Inc. \$866.19, Freedom Electric Inc. \$130.00, Freedom Mailing Services, Inc \$2,030.18, Gem State Paper & Supply \$2,482.94, Gem State Welder's Supply \$78.00, Glendale Construction Inc. \$14,567.79, Go-Fer It Express \$455.00, Grainger \$396.00, Greatamerica Financial Services \$271.00, H.D.Fowler \$5,093.66, Hach Company \$6,155.10, Hall, Daniel \$11.61, Hansen, Tracy D \$85.00, Hanson Janitorial Supply, Inc. \$33.43, Harvey's Office Plus \$116.94, High Output Construction Inc \$12,471.60, Hogentogler & Co Inc \$187.48, Hub City Building Inc \$116.10, ID Child Support Recepting \$3,183.95, ID Excavators Inc. \$861.00, ID Rural Water Association \$240.00, ID State Tax Commission \$11,412.06, Idaho Controls and Automation \$6,523.00, Idaho Fire Extinguisher Company \$67.00, Idaho Materials and Construction \$426,160.02, Idaho Power Co. \$72,357.65, Idaho State Historical Society \$1,633.50, Idaho State Police \$1,718.75, Ingram Book Company \$1,542.59, Integrated Technologies, Inc. \$123.50, Intermountain Comm., Inc. \$2,330.00, Intermountain Gas Company \$1,232.24, Irace Construction LLC \$1,150.00, J.Gardner and Associates \$245.00, Jerome City Water Department \$10,099.65, Jerome County \$10,746.88, Jerome County Sheriff \$352.40, Jerome FF Local Union 4589 \$600.00, Jerome Recreation District \$110.00, Jerome Rotary Club \$1,350.00, J-U-B Engineers Inc. \$10,228.40, Keller Associates Inc \$4,050.00, Larson-Miller, Inc \$248.16, Les Schwab Tire Centers Inc \$1,684.30, LHTAC-LHSIP \$2,000.00, Magic Valley Electric LLC \$135.00, Magic Valley Labs \$8,490.20, Mango Languages \$750.00, Mason's Trophies & Gifts \$8.20, Matthew Bender & Co., Inc. \$506.82, McCreary, Martha J \$117.86, McHugh Bromley, PLLC \$783.34, Metroquip, Inc. \$2,527.63, Mike's Repair \$157.12, Minert & Associates, Inc. \$90.00, Mony Life Insurance Company of America \$3,928.80, Mountain View Spraying Inc \$61.00, MSBT Law \$7,250.00, Munimetrix Systems Corp. \$89.98, Napa Auto Parts \$980.65, NCPERS Group Life Ins C356 \$224.00, New Tech Security, Inc. \$360.00, Newbry, Andrew S. \$11.96, Nutrien Ag Solutions \$607.50, OCLC Inc. \$1,800.00, Oheda, Victor Hidalgo \$18.64, Overdrive \$3,000.00, Overhead Door Company of TF Inc \$660.00, Penworthy \$116.90, Peterson's Reliable Electric \$611.50, Prevent Fire, LLC S Corp \$39.00, Productivity Plus Account \$1,610.50, Pro-Flame, Inc \$276.95, Project Mutual Telephone \$304.54, PSI Environmental Services Inc \$22,884.44, Quadient Leasing USA, Inc \$916.68, Quality Tire Company \$450.26, Reis Plumbing and Heating Inc \$8,278.00, Rexel USA Inc \$1,457.67, Ridley's Food & Drug \$28.68, Rocky Mtn Information Network \$100.00, Rodda Paint Company \$918.75, Ross Hyatt, Treasurer \$20.00, Sawtooth Veterinary Services \$100.00, Scales NW LLC \$400.00, Signed Sealed & Delivered \$82.82, Silver Creek \$754.28, Siteone Landscape Supply, LLC \$561.28, Skaggs Companies, Inc. \$238.84, SKM, Inc. \$901.25, Smith, LLC \$1,516.96, Something More \$63.16, Southern Idaho Solid Waste \$9,894.40, Southwick, Jeremiah D \$80.91, St Luke's \$45.00, Stotz Equipment \$18.50, Superior Equipment \$1,004.19, Symbolarts LLC \$322.50, TFD Enterprises, LLC \$13,616.46, Thatcher Company \$15,026.45, Times News \$1,129.00, T-Mobile \$270.90, Tore Up \$473.00, Traffic Safety Supply Co Inc \$5,769.49, Treasure Valley Coffee, Inc. \$137.25, Triple C Concrete \$165.06, US Bank of Idaho \$5,186.87, US Bank Equipment Finance \$291.79, Underwood Recycling \$54.11, United States Treasury \$247.45, Urgent Care of Jerome/Twin Falls \$90.00, US Bank Credit Card \$12,145.20, USA Bluebook \$992.11, Valley Wide Cooperative \$22,155.19, Vance Landscape & Sprinklers \$115.00, Var Resources, Inc \$1,666.24, Verizon Wireless \$3,374.57, Watts Hydrolic and Steam Store \$23.88, Western States Equipment \$6,477.75, Western Waste Services \$1,832.44, Williams Meservy & Larsen LLP \$12,856.42, Xpress Bill Pay \$818.29, Young Cdjr of Burley \$29,157.00, Zions First National Bank \$1,211,328.61.

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

**JEROME 20/20 QUARTERLY UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES:**

Jerome 20/20 Executive Director Larry Hall appeared before council with a brief update on activities. He stated that he is involved in approximately seventeen different city and county projects; some are remodels while most are land-only projects. He is monitoring grants for recreation purposes amongst other activities, and provided updates on a few local projects. Project Chino is approximately three weeks away from an announcement and is located on Frontage Road; Project Supro will have their groundbreaking in late summer, and the Urban Renewal Agency (URA) has been working with them providing incentives; and, Project X, now Nelson-Jameson, is working on construction plans. Mr. Hall briefly spoke of the progress with the University of Idaho Café, a county project, and concerns with completion in a timely manner (Rupert dairy, CSI project, etc.).

### **RESOLUTION NO. 06-20:**

Mayor Davis spoke of the resolution supporting the South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) recommendations for COVID19 protection, and he reminded council of the last meeting whereby the possibility of drafting an ordinance to take action on a potential emergency. He stated that he and Mr. Williams have been attending meetings with SCPHD who have encouraged cities and counties to consider a mandate for wearing masks although District 5 chose not to implement a mandate but strongly encourage their use.

Mr. Williams stated that local hospitals, health districts and medical professionals have requested mandates for wearing masks in public. SCPHD #5 voted not to pass a mandate but to present a resolution strongly encouraging the wearing of masks. This resolution before council is for the city to adopt the recommendations of the SCPHD by abiding by the three (3) W's: washing hands, wearing a mask and watching social distancing for the purpose of slowing down the spread of the coronavirus. Focusing on the impact of Magic Valley hospitals and health care centers, staff is hopeful that the recommendations listed in the resolution will help slow down the number of cases. Room capacity is available but could easily be overrun with an increase in cases throughout the Magic and Treasure Valleys. The resolution lists recommendations along with exceptions to wearing a mask, and it includes language encouraging local businesses to abide by the recommendations and post the resolution for their patrons. The resolution includes an effective date until superseded by council.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the resolution. Topics of the discussion include support by Councilman Culver and Councilman Barber; the resolution as an opportunity to voice the council's opinion as a body of government; Councilman's Johnson's belief in safety and social distancing but concerns with recommending masks, leaving the decision to the public, and the fear that a mandate will soon follow the recommendation; Councilman Peterson's support in avoiding business closures by recommending masks; the fact that many local businesses are now requiring masks; the protocol for someone who comes to a city building without a mask and the fact that a resolution is not enforceable; and, drafting an ordinance if council decides on more drastic measures. Mr. Larsen stated that several communities have taken the approach of passing a resolution as the resolution and ordinance are similar in what they are trying to accomplish. A resolution lacks criminal enforcement but includes language to "strongly encourage" the use of masks; communities that have taken this approach include Bellevue, Ketchum, Rexburg along with several cities in Northern Idaho. He encouraged council to have a vigorous discussion to decide if anything needs to be added or removed from the resolution prior to the motion. He recommended that the language regarding the emergency disaster declaration be removed if council is not ready for this step.

Mayor Davis commented on the paragraphs which indicates a declaration of emergency and Mr. Larsen spoke of discussions whereby other communities were making the local emergency declaration for the purpose of purchasing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) without having to go through purchasing requirements. He stated that Idaho Code would allow the passing of an ordinance without that declaration and that Jerome was one of few cities that did not make the declaration months ago. He further stated that the Mayor could declare an emergency on his own action and then have a special meeting called to vote to continue the emergency declaration, and that this declaration is included in the resolution but can be removed.

Upon inquiry by Councilman Peterson, Mr. Larsen confirmed that communities have followed the resolution route because of the inability to enforce the wearing of masks; there are exceptions to the recommendation, but it would be hard for law enforcement to enforce a mandate without fully knowing if someone has a qualifying health condition which would exempt them from wearing a mask. Some cities like Hailey have enforced an ordinance and have been met with a good degree of voluntary compliance. Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, council agrees to have the emergency declaration removed from the resolution as it can be made at a later time and included in an ordinance. Mr. Larsen commented that if the Mayor decides at any point it is necessary to declare an emergency, a meeting (either regularly scheduled or special meeting) would have to be held within seven days. Mayor Davis commented on an emergency declaration and the need for an ordinance, and Mr. Larsen stated that the city's ability to purchase PPE is not a concern at this time. Upon inquiry by Councilman Johnson, Mr. Larsen stated that a resolution is a statement of the city council whereas an ordinance becomes part of Jerome's city code and is enforceable by punishment.

Mr. Williams stated there has been discussion with department heads regarding the potential passing of the resolution and the expectation that city staff abide by the recommendations in city buildings. He feels that in circumstances where social distancing is not possible from either a customer or staff member, that masks be utilized (i.e. riding with another city employee in a city vehicle, several people in one office where six feet cannot separate them, etc.). Mayor Davis commented that this recommendation would also apply to city council meetings to ensure that the resolution is being implemented. He further agrees that staff should be subject to abiding by the recommendations in the resolution, especially in city facilities, if proper social distancing is not possible. Councilman Culver and Councilman Peterson both commented that this is a reasonable expectation of city staff. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Mr. Larsen stated that statistics were included in the resolution to provide reasons for establishing the resolution based upon current environmental conditions.

The clerk read Resolution No. 06-20 in full as follows:

**CITY OF JEROME**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH RESOLUTION NO. 06-20**

**WHEREAS**, the health and safety of all residents and visitors to the City of Jerome is of the greatest priority to the City of Jerome, and is the statutory duty of the city under Idaho Code 50-304; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person. The virus is spread between individuals who are in close contact with each other through respiratory droplets; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC reports that people are most COVID-19 contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest) however spread is possible before people show symptoms, or by those that are asymptomatic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Idaho Governor Brad Little signed a declaration of emergency for the State of Idaho in response to concerns that cases of COVID-19 are imminent in Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, on and after March 13, 2020, the Idaho Governor issued a series of Orders addressing public health measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 including a **Stay Healthy Order** signed May 30, 2020, and inclusive of the Idaho Rebounds Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 20, 2020, Idaho was reporting 14,873 total cases of confirmed and probable COVID-19, including 571 new cases on July 19, 2020 and 119 deaths to date; and

**WHEREAS**, the emergency services and local healthcare facilities have limited capacity to handle a significant increase in COVID-19 confirmed cases in Jerome County; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a continuing and urgent need to protect all residents, employees and visitors in the City of Jerome from the risks relating to the COVID-19 pandemic through the protection provided by wearing facial coverings; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jerome Mayor and City Council find it necessary to enact additional recommendations beyond those outlined in the May 30, 2020 Department of Health and Welfare Stay Healthy Order to slow the community spread and protect the health, safety, and welfare of individuals living, working and visiting the City of Jerome; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of the City of Jerome, in consultation with South Central Idaho Public Health, and local Health Care Professionals has determined it is necessary and appropriate to act in order to improve the likelihood that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in the city remain safe and secure, and the health care facilities in the city are not overwhelmed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor finds that a shutdown event, similar to that enacted in March, April, and May of this year would likely devastate our local businesses, and can likely be avoided by taking measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within our community such as wearing of face coverings;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the city does hereby adopt the following resolution, relating to wearing of face masks, and it shall remain in effect until rescinded, superseded or amended by the Mayor or City Council.

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1: COMMUNITY EFFORT TO STAY HEALTHY**

**Every person is strongly encouraged to follow the “Three Ws” to stay healthy and to help the Jerome Community stay healthy: “Wash Your Hands,” “Wear a Mask,” and “Watch Your Distance.”**

1. “WASH YOUR HANDS”: Residents, citizens and visitors to the City of Jerome are reminded to follow CDC recommendations and to wash their hands with soap and warm water with as much frequency as possible and for a minimum of 40 seconds per washing. When soap and water are not available or practical the use of hand sanitizer is encouraged.
2. “WEAR A MASK”: When in any indoor or outdoor public place, residents, citizens and visitors to the City of Jerome are encouraged to completely cover their nose and mouth with a cloth or similar face covering, whenever other members of the public are physically present for otherwise unprotected social interaction, subject to the following guidelines:
  - a. DEFINITIONS: For purposes of this Public Health Resolution “public place” shall mean any place open to all members of public without specific invitation, including but not necessarily limited to, retail business establishments, restaurants and bars, government offices, medical, educational (schools), religious facilities, arts and recreational institutions, public transportation, including taxi cabs and ridesharing vehicles. “Members of the public” shall mean persons not therein employed, present without invitation.
  - b. EXCEPTIONS:
    - i. Children under the age of 5.
    - ii. Persons who cannot medically tolerate wearing a face covering. A person is not required to provide documentation demonstrating that the person cannot medically tolerate wearing a face covering.
    - iii. Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
    - iv. Persons, including on-duty law-enforcement officers, pharmacists, or others, for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
    - v. Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose, face, or head for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
    - vi. Persons who are seated at a table in a restaurant for the purpose of eating or drinking, or any establishment that offers food or beverage service, so long as the person is able to maintain a distance of 6 feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or party as the person. This exemption does NOT apply to entry, exit, or other movement through the facility.
    - vii. Indoor or Outdoor public places where people can, and consistently employ social distancing as recommended by CDC.
3. “WATCH YOUR DISTANCE”: Residents, citizens and visitors to the City of Jerome are encouraged to maintain six feet (6’) of physical distance between themselves and other members of the public whenever possible. Residents, citizens and visitors of

the City of Jerome are further encouraged to avoid public gatherings of more than 50 persons unless the physical distance and mask wearing can be observed.

4. **LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION:** Every registered business in the City of Jerome is encouraged to enforce these recommendations on his/her premises for all who enter, whether they be employee, vendor, patron, or any other person.
  - a. It is acknowledged that businesses may encounter aggressive or angry patrons not wishing to wear face coverings, and in some instances patrons who are unable to wear a face covering due to a known medical condition as excepted above. The city acknowledges that businesses operate on the principles of private property, and may address these conflicts as they see appropriate, provided those measures make a reasonable effort to comply with this requirement. The city encourages businesses to provide masks for sale (or free of charge) or make other accommodations for such patrons, such as curbside service.
5. **ENCOURAGED TO POST AND ENFORCE:** Every business is encouraged post this Resolution, or an approved summary of it in a conspicuous place at all public entrances to their facilities, and is encouraged to make a reasonable effort to enforce these suggestions with all who enter their premises.

## **SECTION 2: EFFECTIVE DATE AND SUNSET DATE**

This resolution shall take effect at 12:00 a.m., on July 22, 2020 and shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded, superseded or amended by the Mayor or City Council.

Approved by:

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

ATTEST:

/s/ Bernadette Coderniz  
Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk

Councilman Culver made the motion to pass Resolution No. 06-20, support South Central Public Health Districts recommendations for COVID-19 protection with the corrections. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Barber. After consideration, the motion passed by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Culver, Councilman Barber and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** Councilman Johnson.

Mayor Davis directed staff to have the resolution made available to the public possibly as a single-sheet summary through utility bill mailings, postings in city buildings and local businesses and posting on social media in both English and Spanish.

## **JEROME COUNTY FAIR BANNER FEE WAIVER:**

Jerome County Fair Manager Jamie Rupert appeared before council to request that the \$50 fee for the fair banner to be displayed on S. Lincoln be waived.

Councilman Culver made the motion to approve the request of the Jerome County Fair to waive the \$50 banner fee. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After

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

### **FISCAL YEAR 2021 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Williams appeared to present FY2021 preliminary budget. Staff has been working on the document for several months and Mr. Williams commended staff on their efforts to prepare the document for review. The document is available on the city website for public access. This evening's presentation is to review the FY2021 preliminary budget with final numbers to be presented August 4<sup>th</sup>. A public hearing will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup>, and council can formally adopt the budget that evening or set a special meeting for further consideration and adoption. Mr. Williams noted that the city mission statement, budget drivers and the ten key priorities from the Strategic Plan were utilized to develop the budget. Complying with reserve requirements is valuable, and having healthy reserves will help offset unforeseen circumstances. Saving and restricting funds for a new police station have been a priority along with sidewalk maintenance and connectivity initiatives. Regarding property taxes, Mr. Williams stated that staff has estimated that the city's total taxable value will remain at approximately \$567 million but only on July 31<sup>st</sup> will the actual figures be known. The new construction value of approximately \$4 million was incorporated into the budget but the city opted not to incorporate the 3% tax increase. Property tax scenarios were provided based on estimates. The city has opted to participate in the State Public Safety Property Tax Relief Program which will also alter the property tax scenarios for one year (unless the city pulls out of the program before the September deadline). Net Levy Rate comparisons were also provided with Jerome trending towards the bottom of the graph.

Regarding salaries and benefits, Mr. Williams stated that with no new revenue expected nor rate increases but a slight decrease in state shared revenue, there were no salary increases budgeted for FY2021. The new construction value will be allocated to the streets fund. Insurance renewal rates will be available in the fall, and staff is hopeful that with low renewal rates, other budget savings and favorable state revenues throughout the year, the opportunity for mid-year salary adjustments will present itself. Compared to FY2020, staff has increased by one employee, a temporary over-hire of one in the police department due to staff shortage.

Mr. Hyatt spoke of the city's governmental funds and briefly highlighted each fund and the proposed budget compared to FY2020. He stated the proposed total expenditures are \$5.4 million, less than a 1% decrease from FY2020 and noted that the transfers increased by 9% due to staff computers purchased in the IT, Police and Fire Departments. Highlights include the council discretionary fund, replacement of the Deputy Fire Chief vehicle, additional rescue equipment, two additional police vehicles and funds towards a new police station (total saved is approximately \$2.2 million).

In the Street Fund, the total budget is \$1.9 million, which reflects a decrease compared to FY2020, primarily from a decrease in street projects. Highlights include equipment and service truck replacements, sidewalk curb and gutter, new street lights and reconstruction of W. Avenue I from Lincoln to Birch. Mr. Hyatt reported on the Library Fund and the budget of \$461,000 which also reflects a small decrease. A grant of \$7,500 is built into the maintenance and operations budget increase. Highlights included \$10,000 for construction of the patio area. The Parks Fund includes a budget of \$234,217, a slight increase from FY2020 for additional part-time employees. Highlights include the continuation of part-time employees and the

replacement of mowers and playground equipment. Mr. Hyatt provided an overview of the Governmental Funds and noted the decrease due to the street capital funding.

Mr. Williams reviewed the Proprietary Funds and first spoke of the Wastewater Fund and the 201% increase in capital based upon projects in the collection system and the plant completed with reserve funds. The upgrade project was completed this last year after the 2013 Judicial Confirmation, which allowed for upgrades in Phases 1-3. Phase 4 includes the upgrade and remodel of the Head Works facility, which is losing its useful life rapidly. Undersized and decaying, the facility has been on the project list for some time. This \$4 million project will be funded with reserves which have grown over time due to funds rolled over, a new industrial customer, significant industry expansions and penalties collected from industry permit violations. There is a Priority One sewer line project that will be funded from the short-lived asset fund. The \$750,000 project will include a new pressure line installed between the H Street Lift Station and Main Street to handle current and future flows and an asphalt overlay. Other highlights in the Wastewater Fund include equipment replacement and the purchase of a service pickup. Upon inquiry by Councilman Peterson, Mr. Williams stated that if assessed values come back lower than anticipated, the tax rate would increase. The exception would be participation in the state property tax initiative which would lower tax rates overall for one year.

Mr. Hyatt briefly reviewed the Water Fund's total budget of \$4.7 million which includes \$1.8 million budgeted for the 10<sup>th</sup> Street well project. Staff is working with consultants for long-term planning with that project, and other highlights include a Master Plan project and equipment replacement.

The Irrigation Fund is healthier with a slight increase in reserves each year. Mr. Hyatt explained that there is a slight increase in the operational budget due to city collections of assessments on behalf of Northside Canal, some of which will be reimbursed and not reflected in the increase. Upon inquiry by Councilman Peterson, there are no irrigation rate increases built into the FY2021 budget. Highlights include continued irrigation maintenance and a service truck replacement.

Mr. Hyatt stated the Sanitation Fund budget reflects a 4% decrease in sanitation service rates. In the request for bids for a five-year contract, PSI Environmental Systems was the successful bidder with a decreased base rate from \$5.67 to \$4.97 per month.

Regarding Internal Service Funds, Mr. Hyatt stated that the total Human Resources Fund will decrease by approximately 5% due to a decrease in consulting services. The Engineering Fund includes \$15,000 for professional services for surveying and testing, and the Information Services budget of \$261,437, decreased by 27.05% from FY2020, includes the replacement of six servers city wide, new staff computers and new public library computers.

Mr. Hyatt reviewed the total budget figure of \$24,902,466 for the FY2021 year and noted errors due to a missed Public Works position, incorrect allocations of an employee's salary and benefits, and some differences in the amount of capital budgeted between FY2020 and FY2021. He reviewed the average cost of living in Jerome under the new budget, and he spoke of the State Public Safety Property Tax Relief Program should the city choose to participate.

Upon inquiry by Councilman Johnson, Mr. Williams stated that the median house price is based upon all homes in Jerome that fluctuate in cost (new home versus older mobile home, for example). He also stated growth in the community, especially industrial and commercial growth, has allowed for stable water and sewer rates since 2013. He expressed pride in the fact that the planned capital projects are coming from savings over time along with good staff operations. Councilman Peterson commented on a previous discussion regarding a possible Equivalent

Residential Unit (ERU) rate increase, and Mr. Williams stated that the increase was avoided with the interest savings through a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) loan, operational increases and the city's growth. Water and sewer rates are reviewed annually. Mr. Williams stated that the tentative budget will be presented to city council on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Mayor Davis stated that Mr. Larsen will draft an ordinance pertaining to the issues discussed with the pandemic and that it will be enforced by Declaration of Emergency.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Mr. Richey reported that new single family home permit count has exceeded last year's figures, and that the remaining lots in Phase 1 of Lutheran Heights Subdivision are sold.

Mr. Williams stated that series of Public Service Announcements will be released advising residents of the upcoming Chip Seal project on S. Lincoln from Main Street to the interstate. He stated that the fresh coat of asphalt will be beneficial to the busy roadway. He also addressed the N. Tiger Drive Pavement Rehabilitation project consisting of resurfacing N. Tiger from 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue E to the city limits (approximately one half mile) plus widening a portion of that road. The lowest bid of \$470,000 exceed the budget of \$300,000. Staff feels the bids were high based on a number of issues with contractors and that the bids may be rejected and project re-bid. Mr. Williams also spoke of negotiations with land owners for property north of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street well and staff is hopeful that a resolution will be forthcoming. Upon inquiry by Councilman Johnson, Mr. Williams confirmed that the property in question is a field behind the well. He will instruct Mr. Carpenter to provide a written report/update on projects to council.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this July 21, 2020 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 6:58 p.m.

By:

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

Attest:

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