

January 2, 2024

This regular meeting of the Jerome City Council was called to order by Mayor Davis at 5:30 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 Chris Barber, Councilman Jason Peterson, Councilman Brent "Oop" Johnson, and Councilman Bryan Craig.

Also present were staff members: City Clerk Bernadette Coderniz, City Administrator Mike Williams, City Engineer Tyson Carpenter, Streets and Parks Supervisor Ron Hendricks, Building Official Dave Richey, Finance Director Ross Hyatt, Wastewater Superintendent Gilbert Sanchez, IS Director Carlos Hernandez, Planning and Zoning Manager Ida Clark, Human Resources Director Esmeralda Chavez, Fire Chief Mike Harrison, Police Chief Duane Rubink, and Police Captain Anthony Gratzler.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

INVOCATION:

An invocation was given by Rabbi Yosef Chaim.

INSTALLATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Judge John B. Lothspeich administered the Oath of Office of Councilor to Christopher Barber and Councilor to Dale Ross.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mayor Davis appointed Councilman Peterson and Councilman Ross to serve on the finance committee for a term of one year.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Councilman Ross moved to nominate Councilman Barber as Council President. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Craig. No other nominations were presented. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Craig, Councilman Ross, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

This being the time and place published to consider a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Jerome, Idaho, vacating the undeveloped portion of Railroad Avenue as described in the 1909 Jerome townsite map, the Chair called the public hearing open at 5:40 p.m. and briefly reviewed the procedures that will be followed.

Staff Presentation:

Ms. Clark stated that Jerome County had been cleaning up lot lines within the fairgrounds for future expansion and uses, and the surveyor discovered a section of Railroad Avenue, as platted in the Jerome Townsite, that had not been vacated. Railroad Avenue is an undeveloped road situated between Jerome County parcels and one City parcel to the north. Ordinance No. 434 signed August 20, 1968 vacated a portion of Railroad Avenue but not the entire platted road. Ms. Clark stated Railroad Avenue had never been maintained or used as a public right of way; both the City of Jerome and Jerome County have requested that the remaining portion of Railroad Avenue be vacated. Ms. Clark spoke of Idaho Code 53-11 referencing the City's authority to vacate "whenever deemed expedient for public good." Additionally, the property on either side of the undeveloped road is owned by Jerome County; ownership of the vacated road will revert to Jerome County.

There was no testimony in favor, neutral nor in opposition to the consideration. There being no further testimony to be heard, the Chair declared the public hearing closed at 5:43 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-24:

The clerk read Resolution No. 01-24 full as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO, VACATING THE UNDEVELOPED PORTION OF RAILROAD AVENUE AS DESCRIBED IN THE 1909 JEROME TOWNSITE MAP.

WHEREAS, the City of Jerome wants to vacate the undeveloped portion of Railroad Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Railroad Avenue was platted as part of the 1909 Jerome Townsite Map and remains undeveloped; and

WHEREAS, Railroad Avenue lies within a lot where the Jerome County Fairgrounds would like to expand; and

WHEREAS, it is expedient for the public good and that no damages will result from the vacation; and

WHEREAS, all adjacent property is owned by Jerome County and City of Jerome;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Jerome, Idaho that the legal description for the Railroad Avenue vacation is:

TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 16 EAST, BOISE MERIDIAN, JEROME COUNTY, IDAHO,

***SECTION 13:** A parcel of land located between the 200 foot vacated railroad right of way and Blocks A-256 & A-259 of the Jerome Townsite Plat more particularly described as follows:*

Beginning at the intersection of 2nd Ave. W. and N. Date St. (Which lies South 00°19'08" West a distance of 699.95 feet from the intersection of 4th Ave. W. & N. Date St.) Thence North 00°19'08" East for a distance of 30.00 feet, Thence North 89°41'46" West for a distance of 1325.48 feet to the

TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING:

Thence continuing North 89°41'46" West for a distance of 64.38 feet;
Thence along a non-tangent curve to the right with a radius of 1809.38 feet, with an arc length of 206.14 feet, with a chord bearing of North 17°18'33" West, and a chord distance of 206.02 feet;
Thence North 14°02'44" West for a distance of 254.02 feet;
Thence South 88°36'17" East for a distance of 70.00 feet;
Thence South 00°18'36" West for a distance of 30.18 feet;
Thence South 14°02'44" East for a distance of 206.15 feet;
Thence the along a curve to the left with a radius of 1749.38 feet, with an arc length of 222.24 feet, with a chord bearing of South 17°41'05" East, and a chord distance of 222.09 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL this 2nd day of January 2024.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR this 2nd day of January 2024.

By:

/s/ Chris Barber for David M. Davis

/s/ David M. Davis

David M. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Bernadette Coderniz

Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk

Councilman Barber made the motion to pass Resolution No. 01-24. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Craig, Councilman Ross, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023 regular meeting and executive session

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

MAYOR'S AWARD:

Ms. Clark spoke of the City's strategic plan and two specific focus areas: Commercial Environment (code enforcement and community clean up), and Pride in Property (i.e. improve maintenance of commercial properties). A Mayor's Award program is addressed within the focus area for commercial properties and then eventually residential properties. Ms. Clark reached out to other municipalities regarding similar programs to acknowledge local businesses and their reinvestment in the community. The Mayor's Pride in Property award would be given to those who show pride in their community by positively impacting a property or properties in Jerome. This award would not be a grant or funding, but recognition for their efforts.

Guidelines for evaluating properties were provided to Council for review, and Ms. Clark stated there are already a few businesses on Main Street that meet the criteria. When recognizing residential properties, the criteria will go beyond keeping lawns mowed and weeds trimmed. The ultimate goal is to recognize businesses for their efforts, and a certificate would be presented to them at a City Council meeting.

Mr. Williams stated this program had been in the works for some time. The award would be a branding and messaging effort to recognize those who invest in the community and show pride in their property, and also to create a standard for properties in Jerome. He also spoke of several businesses downtown who have already improved their properties and will be recognized for their efforts. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Mr. Williams stated the awards will be given as often as nominations are reviewed. Councilman Ross spoke of advertising the program in the Northside Journal, and Mr. Williams stated the program can also be mentioned on social media. Mayor Davis also spoke of some businesses who have made significant improvements in their properties and that the program had been reviewed several years ago but never implemented. Ms. Clark noted that Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Wretchford, also had some properties in mind to be recognized. Additionally, she has a list of properties ready for recognition at the upcoming meetings in February and March once reviewed by Mayor Davis. She reiterated that the focus of the program would be on commercial properties in the beginning, and Councilman Ross spoke of the importance of recognizing residential properties as well.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Ross spoke of his appointment to the Council seat and that he is honored to be serving the City of Jerome and its citizens once again. He looks forward to getting to know the staff.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Williams stated the legislative session is moving forward. He will be in Boise on January 24th for a City Manager’s meeting and January 25th for the City Officials Day at the Capitol. He recognized Representative Jack Nelson for his efforts in identifying issues that may affect, or help, the City. Mayor Davis noted the City Officials Day at the Capitol event will begin at 9:00 a.m.; he plans to leave Jerome by 7:00 a.m. for those who wish to carpool. Mr. Williams stated there are several exciting projects coming up and that they could present some challenges; staff is fully committed to resolving issues and providing quality projects for Jerome.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this January 2, 2024 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 5:56 p.m.

By:

Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk