

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, Legal Counsel Ted Larsen, City Administrator Mike Williams, City Engineer Tyson Carpenter, Streets and Parks Supervisor Ron Hendricks, Building Official Dave Richey, Wastewater Operations Supervisor Thomas Mong, IS Director Carlos Hernandez, Finance Director Ross Hyatt, Accounting and Budget Manager Lori McCrae, Human Resources and Planning Services Director Esmeralda Chavez, Fire Chief Mike Harrison, and Police Chief Duane Rubink.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

INVOCATION:

An invocation was given by Reverend Harriman Randle with the Overcomers Church.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 regular meeting and April 25, 2023 special meeting

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

CITIZEN CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR CONCERNS:

Walter Erickson, 315 S. Fir, Jerome, appeared before Council to address concerns regarding absentee landlords (those who live outside of Jerome) and neglected properties. He spoke of excessive weeds, junk, and abandoned vehicles throughout town, and stated that the nuisances are not being addressed in a timely manner. He spoke of the City code pertaining to weed height and how some weeds, while noxious and a nuisance, do not meet that height requirement. He spoke of violations throughout town including junk yards, weeds and trash. While he recognized the efforts of some property owners and the efforts of the Code Enforcement Officer, he stated more needed to be done to enforce the City code (stronger and more timely enforcement). Mr. Erickson also spoke of older vehicles parked on roads without licenses and the ordinance requiring their storage.

Mayor Davis invited Mr. Richey to address Mr. Erickson's concerns and explain the process of enforcing code. Mr. Richey stated the Building department is responsible for code enforcement and that one Code Enforcement Officer in the department does his best to keep up with various violations throughout town. He spoke of several addresses which have been issued notices; unfortunately, the clean-up is short-lived. Staff follows code with issuing citations on specific timelines and will do their best to address the neighborhood surrounding Mr. Erickson's property. Mr. Richey stated unregistered/unlicensed vehicles are not allowed to be parked on City streets and should be towed; unfortunately, the building department does not have the authority to tow vehicles, but they can tag the vehicles and advise the police department.

Extensive discussion ensued with various questions presented to Mr. Richey. Topics of the discussion included the following: unregistered/unlicensed or wrecked vehicles on private property (must be behind a fence); registered/licensed parked on City streets (no violations if in working order; some discretion is given for vehicles with flat tires or appear to be in working order); the process of citing properties and abating them at the owner's expense (this has been done in the past); the effectiveness of liens when properties are leased; citations that were issued by Code Enforcement but dismissed in court (Mr. Larson will follow up on this); liens on properties until paid; noxious weeds (including 'goat heads') addressed in the City code; notifying the citizens of their responsibilities in controlling weeds via the Northside News; properties that have been issued citations for many years; property owners and tenants residing in the homes in question; funds in the City budget for abatements of larger nuisances; lists given to property owners/tenants to get assistance with property clean-up; and, the benefit of having a list available to owners/tenants when they are unable to clean up their property.

Mayor Davis thanked Mr. Richey for replying to Mr. Erickson's concerns, and he thanked Mr. Erickson for bringing his concerns to the Council. Mayor Davis reiterated that the code enforcement staff consists of one person, and Mr. Erickson expressed appreciation to the Code Enforcement Officer. However, he feels more enforcement of the codes would help alleviate the nuisance issues. Mayor Davis requested that Mr. Larsen follow up on the claim that all citations have been dismissed as stated earlier.

Deloris Argyle with the United Way of South Central Idaho appeared before Council to discuss the collaboration with Region V called "Southern Idaho Youth Succeed." She spoke of the Magic Valley and struggles with suicides that affect all citizens and stated the "Southern Idaho Youth Succeed" is back by the Idaho Resilience Project. Ms. Argyle stated murals are being painted throughout the region and she is seeking a location for a mural in Jerome; the mural will be fully funded by the Idaho Resilience Project and will state "HOPE Lives Here" to emphasize "Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences" (H.O.P.E.). She hopes the mural can be placed in a visible location in Jerome.

PROCLAMATION – H.O.P.E. WEEK, MAY 8-12, 2023:

The proclamation comes from the "Southern Idaho Youth Succeed" program, and Ms. Argyle emphasized positive experiences resulting in healthy outcomes for students. H.O.P.E. Week will be held at Jerome Middle School (JMS) May 8-12, 2023 and will feature activities to emphasize positive experiences and healthy outcomes (i.e. chalk walks, kite flying in 2022, etc.). May 12th is "High Five Friday" at JMS whereby kids are given a "high five" and "good morning" from anyone who participates. She stated many times the small efforts make big differences in the children's lives.

The clerk read the proclamation in full:

PROCLAMATION FOR H.O.P.E. WEEK

MAY 8-12, 2023

Whereas, the mental and physical health of children and youth is important to families, communities, health care workers, and service providers across the City of Jerome; and

Whereas, services for children and families in Jerome have incorporated trauma-informed care, based on the knowledge that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can cause long-term harm to physical and mental health.

Whereas, more recent research has shown that brain development is improved through Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs); and,

Whereas, PCEs significantly decrease the risk of poor mental health and depression even among those of us who have experienced significant adversity as children; and,

Whereas, we now know that resilient communities can improve the chances that children will experience connection, safe places to live, learn and play, and have opportunities to engage with others. These key experiences go a long way to reducing the lifelong effects adverse community environments; and,

Whereas, families cannot provide PCEs alone; ~~Jerome~~ can enter into partnerships that help create the strong families and communities that lead our children into lifelong health; and,

Whereas, there is H.O.P.E (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) for all Jerome families, including those who have faced adversities in their communities and within their families, because childhood adversity is not destiny; and,

Whereas, the H.O.P.E Week is a national effort supported by families, scientists, non-profits, research centers and institutes, universities, and government agencies to raise awareness about the significance of Positive Childhood Experiences in child, youth, and family services and supports, research, and policymaking; and

Therefore, I David M. Davis, Mayor of the City of Jerome, do hereby proclaim May 8th-12th, 2023 as H.O.P.E Week.

/s/David M. Davis

Mayor, City of Jerome

Council signified support with unanimous “ayes.”

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL POLICE WEEK, MAY 14-20, 2023:

The clerk read the proclamation in full:

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

TO RECOGNIZE NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022 AND TO HONOR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THOSE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED OR DISABLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES AND SAFEGUARDING OUR DEMOCRACY.

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers play a critical role in protecting our community; and

WHEREAS, the Congress and President of the United States have 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 Department 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 15 through 21, 2023 as Police Week in which all of our people may join in honoring 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 Monday, May 15, 2023, as Peace Officers 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 2nd DAY OF MAY, 2023

/s/ David M. Davis, Mayor



Chief Rubink invited Council to attend the Magic Valley Law Enforcement Memorial Service and lunch at the Twin Falls Park on Saturday, May 13th at 11:00 a.m.

Council signified support with unanimous “ayes.”

CONTRACT AWARD – BURKS EXCAVATION:

Mr. Carpenter spoke of the Southside Park project and stated a bid opening was held last week. Three bids were submitted and they were all within the same range. Burks Excavation was the apparent lowest bidder and staff recommends the contract be awarded. Mr. Carpenter

stated the engineer's estimate was lower than the bids received by approximately \$200,000, and the project will be funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and funds from the Jerome Urban Renewal Agency (URA) Area 5. Upon inquiry by Councilman Peterson, Mr. Carpenter stated the work will be infrastructure and mostly done by October although some irrigation tie-in work will be done once the irrigation season ends. A name for the new park has yet to be determined.

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve a contract award to Burks Excavation for the Jerome Southside Park Construction project. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Craig. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Craig, and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

CONSULTANT AGREEMENT – CIVIL SCIENCE ENGINEERS:

Mr. Carpenter spoke of the contract awarded to Idaho Materials & Construction for construction of the E. Main Street Sidewalk project at the last Council meeting and noted that funding for the project will come from Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funds through the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (Lhtac). A third-party consultant to perform the construction engineering and inspection is required. The contract with Civil Science will include construction surveying services. The scope of work was reviewed at length, and Mr. Carpenter stated the firm is familiar with the TAP program.

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve an Engineering Services Agreement with Civil Science for construction engineering, inspection and surveying for the East Main Sidewalk project for time and materials not-to-exceed \$89,131.28. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Craig, and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

SURPLUS VEHICLES, PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Hendricks stated the department has a standard practice of disposing vehicles no longer in use to make room for new vehicles. All vehicles run and will be sold through an online auction with Magic Valley Auction on Highway 93; the auction will begin on May 19th. Mr. Williams noted the support of Council allows for the replacement of the outdated and outworn vehicles.

The vehicles to be sold are as follows:

- 2 from Irrigation
 - 2006 Chevy Colorado, VIN#1GCCS148368284599
 - 1999 Dodge Pickup, VIN# 3B7KC26Z6XM552658
- 2 from Water
 - 2005 Chevy Colorado, VIN# 1GCCS148X58147173
 - 1986 Chevy 1-ton service bed, VIN# 1GDHC34W7GS508244
- 4 from Streets
 - 1992 Ford 1-ton service bed, VIN# 2FDJF37G4NCA44926

- 1995 Chevy S10 Pickup, VIN# 1GCCS19Z4S8251090
- 1999 Dodge ¾ ton Pickup, VIN# 3B7KC26ZXXM552663
- 1999 Dodge 3/4ton Pickup, VIN# 3B7KC26Z2XM552673
- 1 from Parks
 - 1984 Ford dump bed, VIN# 1FDHF27Y1EPA59626

Councilman Barber made the motion to sell the above mentioned 9 Public Works surplus vehicles at Magic Valley Auction on May 19, 2023. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Peterson, Councilman Craig, and Councilman Barber. **NAYS:** None.

DISCUSSION ON 2024 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PRIORITIES:

Mr. Williams reviewed the budget calendar for 2023 along with strategic plan priorities and challenges needing to be addressed. A Council workshop will be held once budgets from departments have been submitted; the workshop held last year was beneficial in providing preliminary information and getting additional feedback and recommendations from Council. The preliminary budget presentation will be on July 18th, and the document will be available to Council for review approximately one week prior to the meeting. The tentative budget meeting will be held on August 1st, and at this meeting the Council will set the maximum budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. From that point on and up to the adoption of the budget Council will be able to reduce the budget but not increase it. On August 15th, a public hearing will be held to formally adopt the budget, or Council may choose to hold a special meeting prior to the first Tuesday in September to adopt the appropriations ordinance.

The strategic plan was adopted in 2015 and has served as the main driver of the budgeting process, and Mr. Williams explained that projects, activities, programs or capital projects not supported by the strategic plan are generally not included in the budget. The 10th Street Water Tank Replacement project and the Headworks facility at the Wastewater Treatment Plant are examples of public facilities along with downtown revitalization meeting the objectives of the strategic plan. Mr. Williams spoke of budget drivers and key priorities of the strategic plan and the near-completion of the new police station after nearly twenty years of conversations and planning. The monies set aside annually for the police station, approximately \$479,000, are now available to be disbursed amongst the governmental funds for other projects at Council's discretion. In providing for community health and safety, investing in the City's systems is imperative. Additionally, park maintenance is also a priority with investment in equipment and maintenance, and the construction of the new park. Mr. Williams also spoke of positioning the budget within a sustainable short-term and long-term spending plan framework. Connectivity initiatives continue to be priority; a new contract was awarded for the E. Main Street Sidewalk project and new curb, gutter and sidewalk will be installed on S. Fillmore. Investing in City personnel (compensation, training, etc.) also continues to be a priority, and Mr. Williams spoke of the challenging environment in keeping up with the current level of maintaining services while considering inflation and competition to recruit, attract and retain employees. A market update will be presented to the Council to provide market wages for employees.

Mr. Williams spoke of anticipated utility and construction increases, and the City is still in a pattern of growth with residential projects (shift from single-family homes to multi-family

complexes) along with commercial and industrial projects. The City has invested approximately \$20 million in public projects, with several projects happening concurrently. Downtown improvements that are now, or have, recently taken place include the 208 Grill (formerly Diamondz), the Tiger Zone (formerly Jerome Bowl), and the remodeling of the old doll museum. Additionally, the announced College of Southern Idaho (CSI) project, at the site of the former Central Elementary School, will be a significant downtown project along with the new police station. Mr. Williams noted the Community Development Block Grant awarded to the City, will help fund the streetscape restoration on Avenue A and Alder, and approximately \$3.7 million in urban renewal financing will go towards improvements on Lincoln and Main. Additionally, ITD will be making improvements on Main Street as part of the state highway system. These projects will enhance the look and feel of downtown and meet the desires of the community. In terms of the cost of doing business, Mr. Williams stated City funds are obtained through property taxes, fees for services, and utility rates. In order to continue with the same level of service as in previous years, rate adjustments may need to be made. Staff has been reviewing fees charged for services, and a resolution with some recommended increases will be presented to Council at a future date. He concluded by thanking Council for their support in funding programs and services.

Mayor Davis inquired on what the Council would like to see considered in the budget projections for FY2023-24. Councilman Barber spoke of employee investment and staying competitive with local businesses; the need for additional water rights; and, pedestrian safety via additional sidewalks throughout town (specifically on Fillmore where there will be increased traffic with the new school). He also commended staff in all departments for their efforts. Councilman Craig also agreed with employee investment as a priority; a shop for the public works department; material located beneath the playground; a potential partnership between the City, the URA and Jerome Development for the Veteran's Memorial Park upgrades (the County has contributed \$60,000 towards the upgrades); and, an electrical vehicle charging station for those who may be passing through town. Councilman Johnson agreed with everything spoken thus far in terms of retaining staff, and he also agreed that weed maintenance is vital. He stated he is pleased with the direction the City is headed. Councilman Peterson also agreed with what was spoken and added connectivity and a possible easement behind the Stoney Ridge development to add a walkway or path to ultimately connect to Lincoln. He is pleased with the Main Street Sidewalk project and the new 10th Avenue pathway for pedestrians, and agrees that Fillmore may need to be a priority given the new school and increased traffic. Mayor Davis spoke of connectivity and roads, and the additional funds coming from the URA with the closure of Area 2 for the roads budget. The City has been fortunate with outside funding sources (i.e. grants, ARPA funds, emergency flood money in 2018, etc.). However, with the bidding environment and increased costs in construction, Mayor Davis stated the City will have to prioritize projects and be watchful of spending. The new grant plus URA funds will assist with downtown revitalization and hopefully turn it into an area where businesses will want to locate and for residents to gather. Water rights are of concern; with the growth in the City additional water rights will need to be purchased.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Barber spoke of the code as it pertains to signs and possible revisit the code as various signs are distributed all over town. He also inquired about E. Yakima and its current

condition; Mr. Williams stated staff was told the temporary fix to that road would last approximately eight years, and we are approaching that amount of time since the work was done.

Councilman Craig confirmed with Chief Harrison that the streets will be washed down after the clean-up efforts on the upcoming Saturday.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Williams spoke of the City-Wide Clean-up on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and meeting behind the CSI building; participants should bring gloves. He also spoke of a potential site for the mural discussed earlier in the meeting; the wall on the west side of Council Chambers facing Lincoln could be an ideal location as it will be visible. Ms. Argyle noted the mural is supposed to last ten years. Councilman Craig inquired about a permanent mount versus painting directly on the wall, and Ms. Argyle stated conversations will need to take place with whomever will be doing the work.

Regarding the new police station, Mr. Williams met with the architects and Starr Corporation earlier today. They are on target with the improvements to the exterior of the building and the expected completion date is sometime in May. There have been issues with getting bidders to pave the parking lots, and Mr. Williams stated Starr Corp. will be doing some of the work. The parking lot may not be completed until July, and he expects a summer grand opening.

Mayor Davis reminded everyone of High Five Friday at Jerome Middle School and recommended that participants be at the school by 7:40 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this May 2, 2023 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 6:36 p.m.

By:

Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk