

August 2, 2022

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, Wastewater Superintendent Gilbert Sanchez, Public Works Director Brian Ahrens, IS Director Carlos Hernandez, Library Director Linda Mecham, Accounting and Budget Manager Lori McCrae, Human Resources Manager Esmeralda Chavez, Planning and Zoning Manager Ervina Covcic, Fire Chief Mike Harrison, Police Chief Duane Rubink, and Police Captain Dennis Clark.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

INVOCATION:

An invocation was given by Reverend Will Ritter with Renew.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Those items contained in the consent calendar are as follows:

1. Approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 regular meeting

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 Johnson, Councilman Craig, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

PROCLAMATION – FIREFIGHTER/MDA FILL THE BOOT DAY:

CITY OF JEROME
Proclamation
FILL THE BOOT DAY

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is a dedicated partnership of scientists and citizens aimed at conquering neuromuscular diseases. MDA is one of the world's leading national health agencies, supporting research, patient care and education.

WHEREAS, IAFF Jerome Fire Fighters Local #4589 and the City of Jerome Fire Department members serve and protect communities throughout Jerome County every day; and

WHEREAS, IAFF Jerome Fire Fighters Local #4589 and the City of Jerome Fire Department members have become a symbol of pride, honor and strength; and

WHEREAS, IAFF Jerome Fire Fighters Local #4589 and the City of Jerome Fire Department members unselfishly donate their time and energy to supporting the battle against muscular dystrophy, and

WHEREAS, fire fighters across the nation are some of the largest supporters in the United States to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and

NOW THEREFORE

I, David M. Davis, Mayor of the City of Jerome, do hereby proclaim August 20, 2022:

**FIRE FIGHTER/MDA FILL THE BOOT DAY IN JEROME
and urge all citizens to recognize firefighters
for their support of the local community**

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR this 2nd day of August, 2022.

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

Council signified support of the proclamation with all “ayes.”

RESOLUTION NO. 10-22:

Mr. Carpenter stated a letter of interest was submitted for a planning grant, and the formal grant application process includes the selection of a consultant and resolution authorizing signatures for documents associated with the grant. The grant will assist with costs for the Wasterwater Master Plan Update project. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Mr. Carpenter stated staff applied for the maximum amount available of \$400,000. The consultant agreement total without optional tasks is approximatley \$335,000 with the City’s portion at 50% of that total after grant funds are applied. Upon inquiry by Mayor Davis, Mr. Carpenter stated staff was notified the grant would be funded upon completion of meeting the grant requirements.

The clerk read Resolution No. 10-22 in full as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ALL APPLICATIONS, FUNDING AGREEMENTS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE PROJECT, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City intends to develop a project to update the Master Plans for the Wastewater Treatment and Collection systems, such project being necessary to determine the needs of the area for health, safety and wellbeing of the people; and

WHEREAS, the Project is to be developed in accordance with the requirements in Idaho “Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water and Wastewater Facilities” (IDAPA58.01.22), Rules for Administration of Wastewater and Drinking Water Loan Funds (IDAPA 58.01.12) and will set forth Wastewater facilities required to be constructed to serve the needs of the area; and

WHEREAS, the costs of the Project of the Wastewater facilities are eligible for state funding; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jerome Idaho, that Mayor is duly authorized to sign applications, grant agreements and amendments, and other documents relating to Wastewater Projects.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL this 2nd day of August, 2022.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 2nd day of August, 2022.

By:

/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. 10-22 authorizing the Mayor to sign all applications, funding agreements, and other documents relating to the Wastewater Master Plan Update project. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Craig. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Craig, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-22:

Mr. Carpenter spoke of the Harvest Creek Subdivision final plat approval at the last Council meeting and the discussion regarding a sewer lift station. The developer had designed and planned to install a sewer lift station at the corner of 16th Avenue W and N. Fir. Engineering and Wastewater staff reviewed the planning documents along with the design engineer and determined that gravity sewer connection would be possible by installing approximately 900 feet of new sewer main. The bid amount for the additional sewer main exceeds the cost of installing the lift station by approximately \$150,000. The resolution allows for sole source procurement with the developer's contractor for this project; staff feels it would be cost effective to utilize the contractor, Christiansen Construction Company, already in place for the development. Upon inquiry by Councilman Barber, Mr. Carpenter stated the new gravity sewer line has the potential to serve future developments and maintenance of a lift station would have fallen upon the City. Upon inquiry by Councilman Peterson, Mr. Sanchez stated the cost of servicing a lift station at the Jerome Estates Subdivision, that has since been removed, cost approximately \$5,000-\$7,000 per year in manpower and utilities plus violations due to overflows. He further stated recouping the additional \$150,000 will take some time.

The clerk read Resolution No. 11-22 in full as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO FOR THE SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT AND ACQUISITION OF N. FIR STREET GRAVITY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Harvest Creek Estates Subdivision Final Plat was approved by the City Council on July 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a sewer lift station has been proposed by the developer because it is not possible to connect the proposed gravity sewer for the subdivision to the City wastewater collection system via gravity connection; and

WHEREAS, the sewer lift stations have a higher risk of overflow and require significantly more operation and maintenance expenses than gravity sewer; and

WHEREAS, the Wastewater Department desires to reduce long term operation and maintenance costs and liabilities; and

WHEREAS, the design Engineer has determined that it is possible to serve the Harvest Creek Subdivision with gravity sewer by construction of a gravity sewer main in N. Fir Street from 14th Avenue to 16th Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the cost for gravity sewer main exceeds the cost of constructing the lift station by \$150,000; and

WHEREAS, the developer of the Harvest Creek Estates Subdivision, MSJ Development LLC, has contracted with Christiansen Construction Company, Inc. to construct the subdivision sewer improvements; and

WHEREAS, the N. Fir Street gravity sewer main project must be constructed before or at the same time as the sewer mains for the Harvest Creek Estates Subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the compatibility of components is of paramount consideration; and

WHEREAS, it would be impractical and disadvantageous for competitive solicitation that would provide opportunity for two contractors to need to work in the same space at the same time; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code 67-2808 (2) allows for sole source expenditures when the governing board of a political subdivision declares that there is only one (1) vendor reasonably available under these circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby declare it a fact that that there is only one (1) vendor reasonably available for the N. Fir Street Gravity Sewer project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jerome Idaho, that the aforementioned N. Fir Street Gravity Sewer project may be procured more economically from the one vendor that is reasonably available and City Personnel are hereby authorized to pursue such sole source expenditure.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL this 2nd day of August, 2022.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 2nd day of August, 2022.

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

ATTEST:
/s/ Bernadette Coderniz
Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk

Councilman Barber made the motion to to pass Resolution 11-22 for the sole source procurement and acquisition of N. Fir Gravity Sewer Construction. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the

following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Craig, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT VEHICLE PURCHASE:

Mr. Ahrens spoke of the irrigation vehicle purchase approved by Council in December. Staff discovered that Dodge discontinued production of that particular model, and another truck was found by the dealer, Young Automotive, but for an additional \$2,981 than what was originally budgeted. Mr. Ahrens stated the additional funds for this vehicle will come from the operating budget; he further noted that there were no feasible trucks in a used condition and within the preferred price range. Upon inquiry by Councilman Craig, the Ford fleet truck is in Burley and can be picked up immediately.

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve the purchase of a 2022 Ford F-150 4WD SuperCrew with a purchase price not to exceed \$37,981.68. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Craig, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

KELLER ASSOCIATES ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT:

Mr. Carpenter stated the Wastewater Master Plan for the treatment and collections systems are out of date; the last updates were done in 2014 and 2010, respectively. There have been significant changes to both systems requiring updates to the Master Plan. He stated funding became available to the City and staff has been working with Keller Associates to develop a scope of work and determine which tasks need to be completed. Mr. Carpenter further stated the work would include a comprehensive look at the entire treatment plant and wastewater collection systems. He noted that this agreement is part of the grant application process and work will not begin until the grant has been approved.

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve an Engineering Services Agreement with Keller & Associates for engineering services to update Wastewater Master Plan for an amount not to exceed \$396,338. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Craig. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Craig, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

TENTATIVE FY 2022-23 BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:

Mr. Williams began the presentation by acknowledging City staff in identifying grant funding for a variety of projects needed within the City. He reviewed the tentative budget for FY2022-23 and highlights of the budget. This evening's approval will set the maximum expenditures for FY2022-23; upon approval Council can choose to reduce the budget but can no longer increase it. The public hearing for adoption of the budget will be held on August 16th and it will be Council's discretion on whether to adopt the budget that evening or move to the first meeting in September.

He spoke of the City's taxable value at \$899 million, a significant increase from FY2021-22, and noted that approximately \$124 million is due to the closure of URA Area 2. He stated approximately \$821,000 of new construction funds from the Area 2 closure will be allocated to the Street fund for future road improvement projects. The statutory allowed new construction

property tax budget is \$67,000, and in balancing the budget and general fund of governmental funds, no other property tax increases are included at this time. While the levy rate will be reduced, the increase in the value of residential homes will result in an increase in property taxes. The homeowner's exemption remains at \$125,000. Mr. Williams showed a levy rate history to the Council and noted the drop in the tax rate although it may not be enough to reduce the tax obligations.

Mr. Williams spoke of the reserves summary and stated that the City is at or in excess of the required reserve obligations while simultaneously funding capital projects with cash and continuing to fund operations and equipment replacement. The Governmental funds overview shows an approximate budget of \$16.4 million, and \$8 million of that balance is for one-time capital projects [i.e. the new police station, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds of \$2.4 million for the new park project, etc.]; this figure should be lower next year. Some of the Proprietary fund highlights were reviewed at length. In the Wastewater fund Council approved the Headworks Replacement project at approximately \$6.4 million, and staff increased by one full-time position to, for example, meet schedules for line replacements. In order to meet staffing, maintenance and service obligations while facing increased construction costs, a 12% increase in the Wastewater fund will be recommended in the budget. A 3% increase will be proposed for the usage rates, and debt service base rates will be shifted to operation revenues. The Water fund will see a 25% increase due to fully funding the 10th Street Well project; bid results will be forthcoming. A 10% increase to the water operating and usage base rates is included in the budget which will result in an increase of approximately \$2.00 per month per customer. He noted the importance of maintaining the City's water system and that rate increases have not occurred in the last several years. The annual increases in sanitation are tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as per the existing agreement with PSI Environmental Systems; the 9% increase in the sanitation cost will result in approximately \$.63 per month for curbside garbage collection.

Salaries and benefits include an 8.4% increase from FY2022. This figure represents the new Wastewater position; an estimated health insurance premium increase by approximately 10%; a proposed 5% increase in wages for those who meet or exceed expectations in annual reviews; a one-time supplement in the amount of \$2,000 per full-time employee to help offset inflation costs; and, a 3% shift in salary tables. Mr. Williams stated that staff has been conservative with adding new positions, but there has been enough growth in the community that will require additional staffing to provide and maintain services. He reviewed the cost of living figures in Jerome and stated there will be an approximate increase of \$9.51 annually for the average family. While increases in costs are not desirable, increases in growth are, and Mr. Williams believes the proposed budget acknowledges the goals of Council along with staff efforts and meets the needs of the citizens with minimizing the impact of increased costs. He thanked staff for their work in assisting with the preparation of the budget.

The notice for publication is as follows:

**Notice of Public Hearing
City of Jerome
Tentative Budget**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Jerome, Idaho will hold a public hearing for the consideration of the proposed budget for the fiscal period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 pursuant to the provisions of Section 50-1002, Idaho Code. Said hearing will be held at the City Council Chambers, 100 East Ave. A, Jerome, Idaho at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, August 16, 2022. At said hearing all interested persons may appear and show cause, if any they have, why said proposed budget should not be adopted.

The following is an estimate set forth of said proposed budget of the total proposed expenditures and accruing indebtedness of the City of Jerome, Idaho, for the fiscal period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, and is shown below as FY 2022-23 proposed revenues and expenditures.

Fund	Revenues		
	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 BUDGET	2022-23 PROPOSED
General	\$5,176,051	\$5,613,215	\$6,158,473
Street	1,994,701	2,467,601	2,935,265
Library	451,392	462,412	473,806
Park	235,204	641,336	254,825
Irrigation	189,500	192,473	197,158
Sanitation	341,584	380,456	419,974
Water	2,718,654	2,713,100	3,090,368
Wastewater	7,279,223	7,227,669	7,361,687
Existing Fund Balance	7,033,912	11,067,249	17,193,970
Total Revenues	\$25,420,221	\$30,765,511	\$38,085,526

Property Tax Revenue	Property Tax Budget		
	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 BUDGET	2022-23 PROPOSED
Property Tax Revenue	\$5,270,826	\$5,311,826	\$6,200,854
Foregone Property Tax Revenue	-	-	-
Total of All Other Revenues	\$20,149,395	\$25,453,685	\$31,884,672

Fund	Expenditures		
	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 BUDGET	2022-23 PROPOSED
General			
Legislative	\$90,672	\$86,816	\$83,750
Executive	17,072	17,031	17,053
Administration	774,914	830,552	3,226,226
Law Enforcement	2,668,763	5,711,478	7,254,927
Fire	1,535,824	1,536,054	1,677,890
Building	181,526	177,954	190,328
Animal Control	147,005	167,467	195,103
Total General Fund	\$6,449,233	\$8,627,362	\$12,646,277

Fund	Expenditures		
	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 BUDGET	2022-23 PROPOSED
Street	\$1,954,243	\$2,572,479	\$2,984,689
Library	461,392	472,438	468,865
Park	234,217	635,307	284,825
Irrigation	174,005	247,015	212,748
Sanitation	344,505	358,958	414,602
Water	4,734,194	5,013,399	6,290,752
Sewer	11,587,836	12,397,931	14,170,433
Total Expenditures	\$21,817,290	\$30,224,879	\$37,472,191

I, Ross Hyatt, Finance Director of the City of Jerome, Idaho, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct statement of the proposed expenditures and revenues for fiscal year 2022-23 all of which have been tentatively approved and entered at length in the Journal of Proceedings.

I further certify that the City of Jerome, Idaho did give notice for said hearing with notice having been published twice at least seven days apart prior to the adoption of the budget by the City Council. Citizens are invited to attend the budget hearing on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. and have the right to provide written or oral comments concerning the entire city budget.

A copy of the proposed city budget in detail is available at City Hall for inspection during regular office hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2022.

Ross Hyatt, Finance Director

Publish: August 4 and August 11, 2022

Councilman Barber made the motion to adopt the 2022-23 Fiscal Year Tentative Budget with the maximum appropriation of \$37,472,191 and authorize the clerk to publish the notice scheduling the public hearing for August 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Craig, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE TO CONSIDER FORGONE RESOLUTION:

Ms. McCrae spoke of the Idaho legislation passed in 2020 which established the requirement that entities publish and pass a resolution to add to the forgone balance to the budget be used in future years. The FY2022-23 budget includes a forgone balance of \$159,640 to be added to the reserve. The notice for publication is as follows:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JEROME
FORGONE RESERVATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Jerome, Idaho will hold a public hearing for the consideration of forgone reservation for fiscal year 2023 and consideration of Resolution No. 12-22 will be given which reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 12-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO, RESERVING THE FORGONE AMOUNT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 FOR POTENTIAL USE IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS AS DESCRIBED IN IDAHO CODE §63-802, et al.

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §50-235 empowers the city council of each city to levy taxes for general revenue purposes; and,

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §50-1002 requires the city council of each city in the State of Idaho to pass a budget, referred to as an annual appropriation ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §63-802 sets limitations on all taxing district budget requests on the amount of property tax revenues that can be used to fund programs and services; and,

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §63-802(1)(a) allows each taxing entity to increase property tax budget amounts by a maximum of 3%, plus an amount calculated based on the value of both new construction and annexation added during the previous calendar year, plus an amount for forgone taxes; and,

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §63-802(1)(f) requires that the City adopt an annual resolution to reserve additional forgone amount in order to utilize that amount in subsequent years; and,

WHEREAS, the City has met the notice and hearing requirements in Idaho Code §63-802(1)(f) to reserve the current year's increase in the forgone amount; and,

WHEREAS, the City intends to reserve \$159,640 of its current year's increase in allowable forgone amount.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEROME, IDAHO, that \$159,640 of the current year's allowable increase in its forgone amount is reserved and included in the City's total forgone balance for potential use in subsequent years.

HEARING DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

HEARING LOCATION: City of Jerome Council Chambers

100 East Avenue A

Jerome, Idaho 83338

City Hall is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone desiring accommodations for disabilities please call the City Clerk's office, 324-8189 ext. 105, at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

Publish: August 4 and August 11, 2022.

Councilman Barber made the motion to authorize the clerk to publish the notice for Forgone Resolution No. 12-22 on August 4th and 11th, 2022. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Craig, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE TO CONSIDER PROPOSED FEE INCREASES:

Ms. McCrae stated the City is required to publish the proposed rate increases and hold a public hearing. The proposed increases are listed in the public hearing notice; the notice for public notification is as follows:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF JEROME

Proposed Fee Increases

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Jerome, Idaho will hold a public hearing for the consideration of increases in fees and charges as follows:

Utility Fee increases for sanitation, water, and wastewater:

- Sanitation Fee to increase by 5.5 percent (first cart), 8.8 percent (second cart).
- Water Fees: Usage (Volume) rate increase of 10% and operations base rate increase of 10% for all meter sizes.
- Wastewater Fees: Reallocate 9% from debt service base fees to operating usage fees (reallocation results in zero increase or decrease in total between two fees). Additionally, and separate from above reallocation, increase operating usage fees by 3%.

HEARING DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

HEARING LOCATION: City of Jerome Council Chambers

100 East Avenue A

Jerome, Idaho 83338

City Hall is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone desiring accommodations for disabilities please call the City Clerk's office, 324-8189 ext. 105, at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

Publish: August 4 and August 11, 2022.

Councilman Barber made the motion to authorize the clerk to publish the notice scheduling the public hearing for August 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. to consider proposed utility fee increases. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Peterson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Craig, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWAL 2022-2023 – CHINA VILLAGE:

Ms. Coderniz stated one additional alcohol license is needing approval; China Village, LLC submitted their renewal application after the deadline in July and was not authorized to sell alcoholic beverages as of midnight on August 1st. This approval will allow them to resume sales as they have provided copies of their State and County licenses and have passed building and fire department inspections.

Councilman Barber made the motion to approve the application of China Village, LLC dba China Village for renewal of the Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023. Second to the motion was made by Councilman Johnson. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Councilman Johnson, Councilman Craig, Councilman Barber, and Councilman Peterson. **NAYS:** None.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Barber thanked public works crews for their efforts with this year's chip sealing, and Mr. Ahrens stated there should be one day of chip sealing remaining.

Councilman Craig spoke of the discussion Council has had regarding weeds in the downtown area. If the City will not be spraying weeds in alleys, the residents should be advised as soon as possible. He is concerned that residents are not spraying because they may believe it is a City obligation. Regarding the portable restroom at Veteran's Memorial Park, Councilman Craig noted the door does not shut and should be replaced. He also suggested a permanent restroom in the future similar to the restroom at Idaho Central Credit Union (ICCU) Park and the potential of tying in the new restroom with the Veteran's Park improvements.

Mayor Davis inquired about spraying weeds in the alleys, and Mr. Ahrens stated this may have been done years ago.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Williams stated staff was successful in getting another grant for the sidewalk portion of the W. Avenue I street improvements; he commended Ms. Covcic and Mr. Carpenter for their efforts in seeking the grant.

The City's procurement policy was up for discussion, and Mr. Williams reviewed the current levels of spending without Council approval: \$2,500 for department heads, \$5,000 for the City Administrator, and \$10,000 for the Mayor. Any amounts above those listed would have to be presented to and approved by the Council. Mr. Williams inquired if Council wishes to amend the policy as the items brought forth to Council are already approved during the budget approval process. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the existing procurement policy, and topics of the discussion included: spending flexibility; the value of the dollar today versus when the policy was approved in 2014; items already approved in the budget and the redundancy of bringing them back to Council for additional approval; having the City Administrator review higher purchases; department head responsibilities for spending; micromanaging department

heads; the option of having Council approve any changes above what was budgeted; including purchases included in the consent calendar if not listed as separate approval items; trusting in staff to be reasonable with purchases; Idaho statutes regarding procurement requirements; other cities with similar procurement policies and higher spending thresholds; the City's financial state at the time of the policy's adoption, and having additional reserves today; a contingency for large purchases (i.e. street sweeper); the payables reviewed by Council; and, negotiations with vendors. Mayor Davis commented on the expenditures listed in the consent calendar that have already been paid, and Ms. McCrae stated the payments are not made until after Council approval although current policy allows for specific vendors to be paid outside of the regular pay cycle. The list of vendors will be updated. Mr. Williams stated staff will review the policy and bring forward recommendations at a future meeting.

The URA Area 3 and Area 5 financing will close on August 4th, and Mr. Williams stated the Area 3 funds will go towards streetscape improvements (curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements, lighting, trees, etc.) along Lincoln, Main, Alder, Avenue A. Area 5 funds will go towards collection system improvements which will result in the removal of two lift stations, and the development of a new roadway to support the new park project. The process for advanced funding began in January, and Mr. Williams stated the proceeds will support projects for the betterment of the City.

City offices will close at 3:00 p.m. on August 9th for the Jerome County Fair parade.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss, Mayor Davis adjourned this August 2, 2022 regular meeting of the Jerome City Council at 6:34 p.m.

By:

Mayor David M. Davis

Attest:

Bernadette Coderniz, City Clerk