

OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Kadlec opened the remote and in person council meeting at 7:00pm. Council members present were Michelle Plumb, Scott Yaeger, Marsha Smith, Dede Boyer, Mike Schrag, Dennis Chamberlain, and Debbie Chapman. Staff members in attendance were Public Works Director Dave Breazeale, Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle Asmussen, and City Police Chief David McCormick. City Fire Chief Joel Bell and City Attorney John Kragt were excused. Also present were Barry Boyer, Ben Cross, Michele Kiez, Bruce Benzel, Jessica Quinn, and Dale Brown from the Cheney Free Press.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Kadlec asked if there were any changes to the consent agenda. Council Member Michelle Plumb stated she would like to add an item to the discussion agenda, for the sewer indebtedness fee. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the added discussion agenda item, for November 1st, 2022. Council Member Scott Yaeger seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS- Mayor Kadlec asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Barry Boyer who lives at 308 E. Alder Ave. He is concerned from last week when the discussion of the restaurant at the golf course came up. One of the things said was the rent had been \$500 a month at one point and it seemed to be suggested to be \$500 a month again. Very few people were in this council room when the rent became \$500 as it was zero for a long time. The reasons it went to \$500 was for reasons I don't want to say publicly because it doesn't reflect good on us. If you want to cripple the golf course, messing around with the restaurant up there is how you do it. We have a good restaurant and happy people. My recommendation is rent at \$1 a year.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. Hydromax USA Agreement: Nov 4th-Nov 18th-** Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated it is the same agreement that has been approved before and just updated with the new address location. Every time they put a new gas line in, they bore them in, so they go in and inspect through our sewer lines afterwards to make sure they didn't penetrate a sewer line with their gas line. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the mayor to sign the Temporary Sewer Access Agreement with Hydromax USA between Nov 4th and Nov 18th. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- B. Main Ave Slurry Project-Pay Estimate #2-** Council Member Scott Yaeger stated Pay Estimate #2 is for item #3 "Additional Slurry Aggerate and Emulsion Rate" per Change Order #1 that was approved at council on 10-18-2022. Pay Estimate #2 is for \$7,510.38 and the total cost to date on that project is \$72,468.98. Dave Breazeale and Yaeger met with Cody from Blackline on October 27th and he agreed the defective joints were indeed defective. We are assuming they won't be able to come back until next spring to do something about it. Council Member Scott Yaeger made a motion to approve Pay Estimate #2 in the amount of \$7,510.38 for item #3 to Blackline, Inc. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- C. C. Golf Course Restaurant Agreement-** Clerk Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated after the last council meeting the Parks & Rec Committee met and went over the updated lease agreement. There are some changes that were suggested in that meeting which are provided in the updated agreement. The one point that was left to be filled in later was

the request from the property owner not to pay rent in January or February. The Parks and Rec Committee asked Dan Duff to ask the restaurant owners and see if they would be willing to pay the January and February rent in the other months. Dan spoke to Jackie, the restaurant owner, and she came and spoke to the mayor yesterday. Mayor Kadlec stated after speaking with Jackie from Porky's she said she was going to be open part time through November and December. From those discussions in the agreement is no rent for January or February but there would be rent through the end of this year and then start up again in March through December of next year. Our city attorney let us know if an agreement goes over a year you have to do a notary on it so we will add a notary signature line. Council Member Scott Yaeger stated in section two, the last sentence, "if the Lessee chooses to sub-lease the operation of the restaurant facility the city will approve any sub-lease in writing" should be removed as it is contradictive to number 13 (a) "the Lessee choses to Sub-lease, the operation of the restaurant facility". Scott recommends the last sentence of number two to be deleted. Council Member Marsha Smith made a motion to approve the Golf Course Lease between the City of Ritzville and Porky's Clubhouse Grill. Council Member Dede Boyer seconded the motion. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made an amended motion to approve the lease between the City of Ritzville and Porky's Clubhouse Grill removing the last line in item number 2. Council Member Michelle Plumb seconded the amended motion. The amended motion passed 7-0. The vote went back to the original motion which was approved 7-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition-**Michele Kiez stated she is a 4th generation deep well irrigator in the Odessa groundwater replacement project and she married a 4th generation dryland wheat farmer. Kiez spoke about the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition and the Columbia Basin Project. She showed a map that Representative Mary Dye and Kiez have taken to Washington D.C. and she has been in the Trump White House six times and his signature is on the bottom of that map as well as Vice President Pence. The Coalition is gaining huge momentum on the project as its still congressionally approved. With the lower levels of the aquifer, a lot of the smaller communities are suffering like Lind, Ritzville, and Odessa. Kiez provided a map showing the areas in blue are the Odessa aquifer where the levels have dropped 300 feet below state mandated levels and right now we could be taken off the deep wells out in the Columbia Basin project. I don't think we want to do that because this is the economic engine that the existing half of the Columbia Basin project produces. It is a 6 billion dollar per year agate that we need to keep running in the state of Washington. When we complete the project, we will double that agate. We are replacing the deep wells right now with the Odessa ground water replacement project and we have one system of 8,200 acres that is now watering, and we took 13 of those wells offline. The USDA is in charge of the program, and they are helping us with the watershed. Kiez asked for a representative to come and attend the coalition meetings, so the City of Ritzville knows what is going on. Kiez requested the survey be filled out as it will provide information about what the city needs as far as repairs, what the well levels are, and what problems the city is having. There are funding avenues that the Coalition can help the city with to get pipe repairs, or whatever it is that may be needed. The Coalition meets once a month. Council Member Debbie Chapman volunteered to come to the meetings.

- B. 2023 Preliminary Budget-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated the Mayor and herself have been working on the budget since August with Department Heads, then a draft budget was provided for the budget workshop and now we are presenting the preliminary budget. There have been some updates that Mayor Kadlec and Flyckt have spent a number of days going back and forth on, looking at how to make the current expense fund work. The cost of insurance is going up an estimated 16.5%. This is one of largest city expenses for the year. The Minimum wage has increased by \$1.25 to \$15.74/hour. Asuris health is a 4.5% increase, which is the portion the city pays for employee benefits. There is a requested increase of a PT Deputy Clerk Treasurer I position to a FT position. The budget includes and estimated Avista 7% rate increase. There will be another 8% increase in 2024. With so many different changes hitting the current expense fund, there is an 18% change from the 2022 budget. Clerk Treasurer Julie Flyckt went over the expected changes for each department within the current expense fund. The next step is to update the ad valorem tax, which the city just received from the assessor's office today. Flyckt requested the public hearing for ad valorem to be set for December 6th. Council Member Dede Boyer made a motion to reschedule the ad valorem meeting from November 1st to December 6th. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- C. Sewer Indebtedness Fee-** Council Member Michelle Plumb stated the previous council had approved a sewer indebtedness fee in 2010 and it is already in the city fee schedule, and it has not been charged out since then. Plumb asked Flyckt about it because in 2018 Mayor Cook had sent out a letter about it letting people know they were going to get charged and it still hasn't been charged. Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated it has been put in the budget the last 3 years because Mayor Cook wanted to bring that forward. It was a software charging issue and an issue of identifying which properties should be charged. Anyone that is a current account that leaves for the winter or turns off their service will be simple to add the fee, it is the properties who are not active but have sewer connections that are a challenge to make sure we are going to charge those people correctly. Before Larry retired, he went through the list extensively with Flyckt and since that time Dave's public works crew has gone through that list too. The fee was set up in Vision and we know that it works because we accidentally charged someone after we tested it. The issue is staffing as every time Flyckt had staff working on it, she would tell them to make sure they got all the accounts in there, but it repeatedly never got done. Now our current Deputy Clerk Treasurer I is going make sure the fee is set up in the new system and make sure all of the accounts are set up to be charged. Then it will need to be communicated to customers again to ease calls into city hall. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain asked what is the timeline? Flyckt stated she would have to follow up with the Deputy Clerk to see where she is at in the process.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. RPDA Minutes were provided in the council packet.

MAYOR UPDATES

There were no Mayor updates.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. Public Works-**Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated currently we are at 1,240 'on the #8 well and they are picking up the pace a little so it's going a little quicker but they are still way behind schedule. We got all of our lots fertilized yesterday, just in time for the rain today. Everything has been blown out, winterized and the bathrooms are closed up. The crew is out reading meters again. We usually stop in October but they forgot to winterize them last month so they get to go out and read them this month so they can winterize them. We are getting ready for winter, and we got all the plows on the trucks today as it is supposed to snow all next week.
- B. Police Department-** Chief Dave McCormick stated the officers that are in the academy right now are set to graduate on the 15th. Mark Cameron is going to go up tomorrow to observe their mock scenes at the academy. Halloween was a very quiet night with the only complaint we had was the speeders on Division Street. Mark was able to sit at two 20-minute segments. The fastest car on the first segment was 22 and the fastest car on the second segment was 23 and they both slowed down to 20 when they came through the flashing signs. We are still waiting for the two new cars from FCI as we haven't received notice that either one is ready yet.
- C. Clerk/Treasurer-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated she gave council the wrong public hearing dates for the Reimer Annexation and the city has not received the letter of sufficiency from the Assessor's office yet. Flyckt requested to reschedule the annexation and zoning public hearings for December 6th and January 17th. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to reschedule the public hearings for the Reimer Annexation to December 6th and January 17th. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Kadlec adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:25pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II