

their cost to manage it or for someone else to manage it. Council Member and Broadband Committee Member Michelle Plumb stated we are applying for a \$5 million dollar cap grant and Petrichor has done a great job keeping the cost below the cap. There is no match required but it shows you are vested if you are able to produce a match, so the broadband committee is wanting to make sure the council is still ok with us using the ARPA funds as a match. Dennis Chamberlain stated that building the hub is going to be expensive and you have to keep security in mind. We are going to need a secure building and it needs to be visible. There will also not be a contract with Petrichor until the city has funding. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion that the council would reserve the ARPA/ Local Recovery Funding money for use in any broadband project grant application. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- B. Fireworks Public Hearing Ordinance No. 2155-** The public hearing for amending Chapter 2.28 Fireworks of the Ritzville City code opened at 7:28pm. Mayor Kadlec stated she received a letter from Linda Kubik, a concerned citizen in Ritzville, that she would like to read. They are in favor of a permanent fireworks ban; they are fortunate the roof on their garage is metal as the amount of debris that lands on it each year would necessitate replacing it otherwise. Mayor Kadlec proceeded to state the purpose of the hearing is for city council to hear and consider any comments or concerns about amending chapter 2.28 Fireworks. Everyone present was given the opportunity to be heard. Mayor Kadlec asked Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt if there were any written comments received by 5:00pm today, or does the staff have any additional information? There were no comments or additional information to report or than the statement Mayor Kadlec just read. Hearing no questions or comments from the public, the hearing was closed at 7:30pm. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2155 an ordinance of the City of Ritzville, Washington amending Chapter 2.28 Fireworks of the Ritzville City code. Council Member Scott Yaeger seconded the motion. Council Mark Weigand opposed. Motion passed 6-1.
- C. Public Works Service Truck Purchase-** Public Works Director Dave Breazeale has been researching purchasing a new service truck and he has not been able to find one within the budgeted price of \$50,000 because the prices on used pickups this year are outrageous. There is a 2021 F-550 with a crane compressor up for auction and Dave requested approval to purchase a service truck up to \$50,000. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to authorize Dave Breazeale to move forward with a purchase up to \$50,000 for a new service truck out of the ER&R fund. Council Member Dede Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- D. Street Paving Project-Precision Paving Plus, LLC Bid-** Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated we are coming up on wintertime and need get paving done. Dave has received three bids and Precision Paving was the lowest bid. The railroad is coming in next week to do Jefferson and Division Street crossings and they are going to pave 15' north from the crossing and the city has to pick up 12' to smooth that crossing out. Specialty works for the Railroad and their bid came in at \$17,000 (\$5,000 just for the railroad strip). Dave also spoke to a company that usually does it, but they came in at \$11,000. Precision Paving is already doing work in the city paving Friday on Galbreath Way and their bid was \$10,400. Dave requested approval to get the streets fixed before wintertime, which would be Division Steet on the hill, Columbia Street and a few more and the railroad pavement project. Council Member Dede Boyer made a motion to

approve Precision Paving Plus, LLC bid proposal in the amount of \$10,478.16. Council Member Mark Weigand seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- E. **Set Budget Public Hearings:** Council Member Mark Weigand made a motion to set the Ad Valorem Taxes Hearing for November 2nd, the 2022 Preliminary Budget hearing for November 16th and the 2022 Final Budget Hearing for December 7th. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. **Community Survey Report-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated this is the third year as the community for feedback to help with the budget planning process and planning projects for next year. The survey covered demographics, quality of life, city services, safety, American rescue plan act funds, beautification funds, and proposed ordinances. There were 208 surveys mailed and 175 were completed either by hard copy or online. The total response rate was 22%. There were common themes and the top three areas to focus on were street repair/maintenance, economic development/planning, and nuisance properties. Other top themes were improving the downtown buildings & beautification and addressing the homeless population in downtown. The top choice for the American Rescue Plan Funds (ARPA) was tied between hardship-addressing negative impacts to small businesses at 41.33%, and broadband infrastructure and internet access at 41.33%. The next top choice was city infrastructure at 34%. This information will be used at the budget retreat, which is set for October 8th. Julie asked council members to be thinking about the projects they want to see in 2022, as the city works on the goals and projects for next year at the budget retreat.
- B. **Jan-Aug 2021 Quarterly Financial Report-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated revenue and expenditures are currently 66% to budget. Since there were transfers approved by council the revenue percentage is higher for the 001 current expense fund. If you remove the total transfers amount of \$31,257.72, the current expense fund is 72.8% revenue to budget, which is a 6.8% increase in revenue.
- C. **2022 Draft Budget-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt presented a draft budget for council members to see before the budget retreat. The finance committee, the mayor and Julie have looked at the CPI rate which has gone up significantly this year. They anticipate the minimum wage is going to go up and they are waiting for the information to come out at the end of September. Right now, in the draft budget there is a COLA at 2%. They will keep looking at the information that comes out at the end of September before moving forward a final suggested COLA rate. The 110 tourism funds applications are due by October 8th and after that time they will come back with budget suggestions for that fund.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. **City Attorney-** John Kragt stated Julie sent him the broadband agreements to look over and he will get that back before the end of the week. Last time John was at council there were a few nuisance property situations, and he has worked with Julie a little bit on that. John reached out to a client who is good personal friends with Pierson Burke, and they are attempting to transfer that house and maybe save the city some money and time versus John doing the full foreclosure as discussed at the prior council meeting.
- B. **Public Works-**Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated he has the standpipe inspection coming up this week. Dave has not heard back from Verizon on any kind of plan to implement a caging system or a deterrent to keep the pigeons away from the top of the standpipe as they are ruining the paint job. Industrial Coatings is coming back

next month to do the warranty work on the interior of the standpipe. The standpipe will be drained and everyone in the city will have low water pressure on the hill. Crack sealing will start next month. Crack sealing is budgeted at \$10,000 and the work will start on the hill and end at 6th street and continue south until they run out of material. The airport needs to be done next year and it will cost around \$5,000. The city path, the golf course path, and all of the asphalt the city hasn't been taken care of in years needs to be done. There is a sewer plant inspection on Thursday with DOE. It is an inspection they do every two years to check the dams and make sure we don't have any burrowing animals or weeds or any kind of infiltration. Galbreath Way will be done with asphalt patching on the approaches Friday. Once that is complete, they will do the pavement work for the city. Council discussed increasing the crack sealing budget. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to move the amount from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to go towards crack sealing. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Council Member Scott Yaeger stated he received a call from Dana that there is an ecology planning grant application that is due by October 12th. Its for ecology water quality and has to do with the sewer plant update. The sewer plant plan was adopted back in 2002 so he suggests within the next couple of years we should update that plan. Those plans typically cost anywhere from \$150,000-\$200,000. Ecology normally pays 50% loan and 50% grant. The application would be no cost to us and will be announced next June or July of next year if there was funding or not. Council Member Scott Yaeger made a motion for the council to approve Varela to complete the application for the ecology water quality fund program due by October 12th and approve the mayor to sign that application once complete. Council Member Dede Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- C. Police Department-** Chief Dave McCormick stated in the last two weeks they have received seven reported burglaries, six of those have been commercial businesses or shops, and one was a residence. The residence sustained some substantial damage to the belongings inside and the other six were not damaged but there were items missing. They are all being investigated, and they have some leads. There is a need for civil service commission appointments which is covered under RCW 41.12.030. Chief McCormick has contacted Mike Miller, Ned Bernath and Brian Kramer. They have all agreed and are grateful to be asked. Under the initial appointment one would be a 6-year term one is a 4 year, and one is a 2-year term. Each time they are reappointed it would be a 6-year term with no compensation.
- D. Clerk-Treasurer-**Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated reviewing broadband pole attachment agreements and sending out requests to any internet service providers that are currently providing broadband in the City of Ritzville. The city also asked for letters of support and have received ten letters so far. Julie will be meeting with County Treasurer Kayla Meise on the draft nuisance ordinance and whether the special assessment lien fees can go through their office. There is also a lot of work being done responding to two development projects.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Linda Kadlec adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:15pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II