

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, Mike Schrag, Dede Boyer, and Debbie Chapman. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain was present remotely. 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 Attorney John Kragt was present remotely and City Fire Chief Joel Bell was excused. Also present was Charles Jingling and Brent Johnson from the Cheney Free Press.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Kadlec asked if there were any changes to the consent agenda. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to approve the consent agenda for July 5th, 2022, as presented. 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. Hearing none the mayor moved on.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Amending Chapter 3.36 Nuisances Public Hearing, Ordinance No. 2159-** Mayor Kadlec opened the public hearing at 7:02pm for amending Chapter 3.36 Nuisances. The purpose of this hearing was for the City Council to hear and consider any comments or concerns about the amended chapter. Everyone present was given an opportunity to be heard. Mayor Kadlec stated Ordinance No. 2159 is an ordinance amending chapter 3.36 nuisances of the Ritzville City Code to update the abatement process and information that was not current, unclear, or cumbersome. Mayor Kadlec asked Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt if she received any written comments by 5:00pm today and she stated there are no written comments. Mayor Kadlec asked if anyone in the audience had any questions or would like to speak on this matter. Charles Jingling stated he is a long-time resident of Ritzville, and it really bothers him when he sees these homes around town with junk cars and junkie yards. It didn't use to be that way, but he thinks it can be made nice again. He has read the ordinance four times and stated it will help get the city back to looking like it use to. With no further testimony, Mayor Kadlec closed the public hearing for amending the 3.36 Nuisances at 7:05pm. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2159, Amending Chapter 3.36 Nuisances of the Ritzville City Code. Council Member Dede Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- B. **Amending Chapter 8.12 Traffic Regulations Public Hearing, Ordinance No. 2160-** Mayor Kadlec opened the public hearing for Chapter 8.12 Traffic Regulations at 7:07pm. The purpose of this hearing was for the City Council to hear and consider any comments or concerns about the proposed plan. Everyone present was given the opportunity to be heard. Mayor Kadlec stated Ordinance No. 2160 is an ordinance amending chapter 8.12 Traffic Regulation of the Ritzville City Code to move the snow on sidewalks regulations to Chapter 3.36 Nuisances. Mayor Kadlec asked Clerk-Treasurer Flyckt if she had received any written testimony by 5:00pm today and she stated there are no written comments. Mayor Kadlec asked if there was anyone in the audience that had any questions or would like to speak to this matter and hearing none she asked if the council had any questions. With no further testimony, the public hearing for amending Chapter

8.12 Traffic Regulations was closed at 7:09pm. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2160 Amending Chapter 8.12 Traffic Regulations. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. Railroad Avenue Parking-License and Rules Committee-** Mayor Kadlec stated the License and Rules requested this item to be added to the agenda. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain stated the License & Rules Committee just wants the Public Works Committee to look into the viability of altering the parking on Railroad Avenue to angle parking. Since there are EV stations going in, there will be spots lost on one side. The committee was thinking that it was wide enough but have since learned that it might not be wide enough. Either way there were just wanting public works to look at it to see if it was a viable thought. Council Member Scott Yaeger stated he has looked at this quite a bit that day and right now there are 28 stalls on Railroad Ave. With the EV station we will lose 3 of those, which takes it down to 25, if the spacing is just like Main St. The parking stalls are 10' wide, with the space available we would have enough space for 21 angle parking. Scott stated he would not even look at it any further due to the number of stalls and between Division and the Railroad Depot, all of the equipment that is parked right there, limits having enough room there. On the other end we might lose 2 spots to gain the handicap there.
- B. Fireworks-Dede Boyer-** Council Member Dede Boyer stated as the law states right now, folks can shoot off fireworks from June 29th to July 5th from 9:00am until 11:00pm, except the 4th it goes until midnight. She suggested shortening that time. She tried to put her dogs in a quiet room, and they were still going crazy as they could hear and feel it. Councilmember Boyer said she thinks we need to cut the days and times down. She stated there is no reason to be shooting off fireworks at 2:00pm in the afternoon and there is no reason that we can't go from 7:00pm-11:00pm on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th as that provides plenty of time. Either that or have a show for the whole city. Councilmembers talked about how the hours follow the statewide restrictions. Mayor Kadlec asked for council members opinions on the issue. Council Member Michelle Plumb stated it was put on the community survey last year and we can put it on there again. The majority of the council felt it that it has been this way for a long time and didn't feel that it needed to be changed. The question was asked why there wasn't a place where everyone could go and shoot off fireworks in one place. Chief McCormick stated that it is a liability issue. The school doesn't want it on their property because they don't want to be liable if someone gets hurt or fires are started. The council decided to add a question to the community survey about limiting the number of hours fireworks can be discharged. Clerk-Treasurer Flyckt stated she would add it to the draft survey for council to review.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. No Correspondence

MAYOR UPDATES

- A. There were no mayor updates.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. City Attorney-** Attorney John Kragt stated he appreciates the council passing the nuisance code as it has been a long time coming. He has been working on some different things with the Chief and responding to public records requests which are pretty time consuming. Kragt acknowledged the public works department for the work they did on a major sewer issue at his house as they diagnosed the problem and got it fixed.
- B. Public Works-**Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated there were two major issues in the last two weeks with sewer mains which took up a lot of time. One of the issues was behind Lobe's house and the other was behind Kragt's house. These issues are going to continue as the city's infrastructure is old and it is past its service date. Breazeale purchased material for the city hall deck handrail and the crew put in the steps. Dede and Breazeale will be working together this week and will go down to Boxwood and get supplies ordered for the Division and Weber project. The city irrigation has still not come in for some reason, but they thought we were going to come pick it up and we thought they were going to ship it, so it's been sitting up there for a couple of weeks in will call. It should be shipped today. Another light pole was hit downtown in front of the Collective Adventure. It has been taken down and the crew will have to go down and redrill anchors. Breazeale does not know how it happened yet, but he will talk with the Chief soon to get the information and invoice the person responsible for the damage.
- C. Police Department-** Chief Dave McCormick stated he has been spending a lot of his time with the city attorney and with the city prosecutor regarding public records requests and associated issues that come along with those requests. One of the new hires has been pretty sick lately and took some time off to get well before he goes to the academy. Chief McCormick has talked with Alan from FCI about used cars that may be available for purchase. The year and mileage are too high so purchasing a car will be on hold until we can get cars with less miles and a little newer.
- D. Clerk/Treasurer-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated Springbrook will be installing the new utility software on the clerk's computers and then there will be a meeting with the representative to go over the current implementation timeline and discuss the data cleanup that we need to complete. There will be a letter mailed to utility customers explaining the new billing cycle that will be implemented after Flyckt receives confirmation on the implementation timeline. The letter should be mailed next week. In the letter it will let customers know they will not receive a bill until August 15th and the bill will cover June 16th through July 31st. There will be a second letter mailed to utility customers around the time they are used to getting their bill, so they can understand why they do not have a bill. We have received funding for the sewer plan through DOE and they are offering a grant for the principal amount. We have also received the second installment of the local Covid fiscal recovery money.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Kadlec adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 7:42pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II