

### **OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Scott Yaeger opened the remote and in person council meeting at 7:00pm. The council members present were Michelle Plumb, Mike Schrag, Dennis Chamberlain, Jen Verhey, Jessica Quinn, and Garrett Blauret. New council member William Green attended after being sworn in. Staff members in attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle Asmussen, City Police Chief Dave McCormick, and Public Works Director Dave Breazeale, and City Fire Chief Joel Bell. City Attorney John Kragt was excused. Also, present were Linda Schrag, Brian Bothum, Courtney & William Green, Officer Dew, Brandon Beck-Gmeiner, Andrew & Chauna Carlson, Pete Spain, Lisa Brody, and Dale Brown from the Cheney Free Press.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Scott Yaeger asked if there were any corrections or additions to the consent agenda. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the consent agenda for January 16th, 2024, as presented. Council Member Jessica Quinn seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

- A. **Ward 3 Council Member-William Green**-Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt swore in the new council member for Ward 3, William Green. The new council member then took his seat on the council panel.
- B. **Police Officer-Brandon Beck-Gmeiner**- Chief McCormick introduced the newest police officer, Brandon Beck-Gmeiner to the council. Mayor Scott Yaeger swore Brandon into his new position as a City of Ritzville Police Officer.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS-** Mayor Yaeger asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to comment. Pete Spain from 301 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave stated he had a couple questions for the council. He received a bill for his water on Broadway and the water was shut off last year, actually it's been almost two years now. He just now received the bill that says we have to pay that fee even if the water is shut off. He didn't receive the first one in October, but he received the second one and now it shows he owes it for two months. Spain asked why am I just now being charged, is that for everybody or is that just me? Mayor Yaeger stated that is an indebtedness charge and everyone that has their water shut off is being charged that fee. Spain continued to say welcome to the council to the new members. Then stated he has had a lot of issues, but I won't get into them tonight. Lisa Brody from 407 S. Jefferson stated she received the water bill today, but she couldn't pay it because it wasn't online. She also has a problem with the dates that are put on the bill as to when it is due and when the late fees are charged. She also noticed that on the \$37, if you are a commercial entity, you are not to be charged that fee.

### **ACTION AGENDA**

- A. **2024 SCJ Alliance On Call Agreement-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated the on call agreement is the yearly agreement that is done every year with SCJ Alliance for city planning. On call means depending on what project comes our way that we need their services, they are on call. The agreement is for \$10,000 in 2024. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion for the mayor to sign the on-call services for the City of

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Ritzville for 2024 for SCJ Alliance in the amount of \$10,000 from the local recovery funds. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- B. **Golf Course Restaurant Contract Correction-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated at the last council meeting the restaurant contract was approved, but the time frame was January through December 2024. Jackie, who owns Porky's and leases the golf course, let us know that it should actually be March through December 2024. This is a correction to the agreement from last time. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the corrected lease for the Golf Course Clubhouse and Restaurant. Council Member Jessica Quinn seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. **2024 Budget Amendment-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated there are corrections that need to be made for the 2024 budget. The items that need to be corrected are the part-time records clerk and part-time wage lines as they did not include the 3% COLA, the 2024 fee schedule for golf winter rate change from \$5.00 to \$10.00, and the ER&R plan and ER&R fund change to replace a police car in 2024 and not 2025. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to set the public hearing for Ordinance No 2178 amending the 2024 Budget of the City of Ritzville as adopted in Ordinance 2177, for February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. **Planning Commission Meetings-**The November 8 and 15, 2023 minutes were included in the council packets.

**MAYOR UPDATES:** Mayor Yaeger stated he received notification around noon today the ACDC is meeting tomorrow, weather dependent, at the Legion Hall to discuss their economic plan at 3:30pm. They are looking for more community and city involvement with some of their buildings.

### DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. **Public Works-**Dave Breazeale stated he and the mayor met up with Dan at the golf course on Friday to test the equipment to see what was broken and what needs fixed. Public Works will take care of fixing the things that need fixed this week to the best of their ability. Some of the items may be fixed while other items like the dishwasher may just need to be replaced. A final walk through was completed today with RD for the Distribution Project. The crew is getting ready for the snow tonight and doing some maintenance on the equipment for wintertime.
- B. **Police-**Police Chief Dave McCormick stated they are just trying to get Brandon through all the paperwork and training on the Spillman Law Enforcement System and getting access. He will be on the schedule to ride with one of the police officers starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, but in the meantime, he will be trained on things we need to get him trained on. When the weather gets better, he will do some range training and get certified by one of the county range officers. Chief McCormick stated there is a

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representative from one of the police supply companies coming out from Spokane on Friday to fit Brandon and get all his sizes down for his uniforms that he will need for the academy. It is still unknown when or where Brandon will be attending academy yet.

- C. **City/Clerk**-Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated Mayor Yaeger has been working with her on our development projects and they had a meeting with city contractors this week to go over current projects. Flyckt is starting to do some community meetings to help develop action steps for the comprehensive plan. Flyckt is not sure how many she will be able to go to, but she is trying to reach the main meetings where their work will correspond with the city comp plan. Flyckt has met with the Chamber and will be attending the partnership group meeting this Thursday. In March, the city is on the agenda to meet with the Adams County Park & Rec District.
- D. **Fire**-Fire Chief Joel Bell stated he has been following up with the place where they took the ladder truck for repairs. Bell has been calling them about once a week and they haven't called him back but finally today they called me back and they said it will be done within the next couple of days. There was an attic fire the other night and thankfully the fire department had a lot of help.

**ADJOURNMENT**-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Yaeger adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 7:33pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II