

**OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Yaeger opened the remote and in person council meeting at 7:00pm. The council members present were Mike Schrag, Dennis Chamberlain, Michelle Plumb, Jen Verhey, William Green, Jessica Quinn and Brooke Scheel. Staff members in attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle Asmussen, Public Works Director Dave Breazeale, and City Attorney John Kragt. City Fire Chief Joel Bell and City Police Chief Dave McCormick were excused. Also, present were Linda Schrag, Brian Bothun, Derek & Susan Schafer, and John Rankin.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Yaeger asked if there were any corrections or additions to the consent agenda. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to approve the consent agenda in the amount of \$156,707.21 for September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS-** Mayor Yaeger asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to comment. With no comments, Mayor Yaeger moved on.

**ACTION AGENDA**

- A. Centurytel Franchise Agreement-** Mayor Yaeger stated we started working on this agreement back in July. CenturyTel made some changes, and the city attorney has reviewed the agreement and has suggested changes. City Attorney John Kragt stated this is the last changes they have come back with for the city's review. Council Member Michelle Plumb wanted to know if the city had a contract for the wire that has been hanging down on Division Street for a while now. Public Works Director Dave Brezeale stated he spoke to someone 2 years ago, and they were supposed to come out and fix it then, but never did. The council agreed to table the agreement until there was a response from CenturyTel regarding the changes.
- B. Damaged Police Car Proposed Settlement-** Mayor Yaeger stated he finally got some information back from Traveler's Insurance Company that represents the person who hit the city police car. Mayor Yaeger put the vehicle on Kelly Blue Book with the miles, year, and fair condition and came up with about the same base cost. The base cost for the basic explorer is \$14,695. The rest of the cost is the police equipment that was on it, that all adds up to \$19,057.84. Council Member Brook Scheel made a motion to accept the proposed market value settlement amount of \$19,057.84 for the 2018 Ford Explorer. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

- A. Solar Plus Storage for Resilient Communities Final Deliverable Presentation-** Postyn from Seineryg stated he met with Scott, Dave and Michelle Plumb last week. The last time he provided an update to the council was after the 60% design discussion. The group discussed goals and narrowed the focus down to two sites. After that discussion, it was narrowed down again to provide the 100% design for city hall. The goals that were discussed are supporting a 2.5-day power outage, whole building back-up, making

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sure the feasibility study is designed for future grant funding, the importance of reducing CO2 emissions, constructability and serving as a resiliency hub. In the final report it shows the site at City Hall with about 25PV KW on the solar system on the East facing roof. On the North side are containerized battery storage systems, and those battery systems have fire suppression and other monitoring and alert systems that the company does remote monitoring. We are looking at an annual savings of \$69,132 by year 15. The next step would be the grant application for this facility unless the climate commitment act, which is on the ballot this fall is repealed, we would expect there would be funding for this again next Spring. So ideally there would be a timeline of applying for it in Spring of 2025 for a grant award and finishing the project in the Summer of 2026.

- B. Golf Course Maintenance Closure September 30<sup>th</sup>**- Mayor Yaeger stated usually the plugging and painting of the greens takes three or four days. Golf Manager Jesse Bowman discussed this process with the Ritzville Golf Association, and they are going to do it together all in one day. Mayor Yaeger has approved the request to close the golf course for the whole day to complete the process.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A. Officer Ryan Borden Resignation Letter  
B. 2025 Budget Requests:  
\* Gritman Senior Center  
\* Ritzville Golf Association- John stated there are three trees that need to come out, they are eye sores. There is also some trimming that needs to be done on holes 4 & 5.  
\* Ritzville Public Development Authority  
\* Adams County Development Council

**MAYOR UPDATES:** Mayor Yaeger stated the window updates at City Hall are complete, and waiting on the interior trim to be done on about eight or nine windows. He drove by the Golf Course this evening and saw those windows were started today. It appears three windows were installed and there is no trim yet. The police chief recruitment initial candidates were screened by WASPC, but only one candidate met all the requirements, which is the candidate from out of state. All the candidates that did not meet the requirements were sent a letter. The city attorney and Mayor Yaeger will have a preliminary interview with the candidate that did meet the requirements to access any further interview process. The city attorney and Mayor Yaeger are working on the City of Ritzville agreement with Adams County for interim coverage for patrol while the city is searching The Chief of Police replacement. They are trying to set up a meeting with the Adams County Sheriff and the Prosecutor's to see what that looks like for interim short-term services.

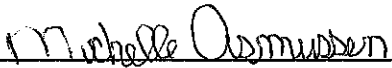
#### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

- A. **City Attorney:** John Kragt stated he has been working on some things with the mayor and got the franchise agreement reviewed.  
B. **Public Works**-Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated 6<sup>th</sup> Ave is torn up now and they are doing the ADA ramps and installing new sidewalks. Also, the 1<sup>st</sup> Ave project has started. All of Maverick's utilities are done all the way down to Homestead. Les Schwab

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utilities are all installed up to the building, and Breazeale went and inspected those two weeks ago. He had to remove a light pole out of the street last night because the fire department was doing hydrant flushes, and someone got a little too close with one of the fire trucks and knocked one over and busted it. Luckily, the city had a replacement globe and pole, but now there is nothing left for replacement parts. Council Member Michelle Plumb wanted to know if there was any update on the well. Breazeale stated they have been back and forth with RD & POW on the solution to fix it and cost. The contractor came back with worst case scenario of \$117,000 to install the valve. Mayor Yaeger, Ben Varela and Breazeale have discussed this in detail several times. We went back to POW and told them to give us a better number and they came back with \$69,000 as their last proposal.

- C. **Clerk/Treasurer**-Clerk Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated the Deputy Clerk Treasurer 1 administrative position was posted about a week and a half ago. There are currently eight applicants the first review will be done when she is back from vacation on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The city has a new permitting system through the contract with the County Building and Planning Department that is now online for those who have permit applications. Flyckt has placed the cloud permit link on the city website so an applicant can go there and do their own permit applications. City Hall can still receive hard copy applications and staff will go online and upload it in the system for the applicant. If they provide an email address they will be invited to the dashboard, and they can see the whole progression of that permit. We the permit is ready to issue the system will notify the applicant the permit has been issued and they can download it from that system. Council Member Brooke Scheel wanted to know if we were charging a fee to people that are not submitting their own permits now that they have access to do so. Flyckt stated there is no fee charged for this service. They are charged for the permit and county and state fees as per the approved city fee schedule. Flyckt is working on the draft budget with Mayor Yaeger and reminded council the budget workshop is set for October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-1:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Yaeger adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 7:55pm.

  
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Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II-