

OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Linda Kadlec opened the Remote/In Person Council meeting at 7:00pm. Council members present were Marsha Smith, Dede Boyer, Mike Schrag, Dennis Chamberlain, Michelle Plumb, and Debbie Chapman. Council Member Scott Yaeger was excused. 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, Derek Schaefer, and Rod Larse from the Adams County Journal.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Linda Kadlec asked if there were any changes to the consent agenda. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS- Mayor Kadlec asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Council Member Mike Schrag stated he would like to add to the discussion agenda the ordinances concerning First Ave and the towing businesses.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. Galbreath Way/Weber Road Substantial Completion-** Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated essentially, they are done, and they have a punch list of items to do but can't do them until springtime. Dave spoke to Varela about the damage corner who is ultimately responsible for paying for it. They said they are putting together a request for TIB to cover the cost and if it is not covered then go after the contractor's insurance. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to allow the mayor to sign Galbreath Way/Weber Rd TIB Project Substantial Completion with Precision Paving Plus. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. POW Contracting, Inc. Pay Estimate #7, Pete's Lift Station Project-** Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated they came back initially with a \$52,000 pay estimate. He spoke with Varela, and we are going to retain \$19,125 out of this initial pay estimate which decreases it to \$31,837.61. It will give us some money to hold back until the pump situation is resolved and everything else on the list is done. It is working now, and we have not had any problems in the last week and a half but that is still too soon to give up that \$19,000. Dave would like to have it online for at least a month to make sure it is going to function the way that it is supposed to. Dave recommended paying them the \$31,837.61, with the city holding back the \$19,125 until at least next council meeting. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to approve Pay Estimate #7-rev. 1 in the amount of \$31,837.61 to POW Contracting for Pete's Lift Station. Council Member Debbie Chapman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. 2021 Financial Report-** Clerk- Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated she is currently working on reconciling the entire year and then she will be working on the annual financial report for the auditor's office so the numbers may change a bit. For the Current Expense fund budget revenue versus activity was 115.3% to budget. There are three transfers done in the past year that contributed to that revenue amount. The revenue is actually 11% over budget for revenue with a 3.7% over on expenditures. The 2022 budget projected end the year at \$338,596.92 fund balance. The end the year is actual at \$406,856.17 so

percentage to fund balance is 37% and in our financial policies the minimum goal is to maintain 25%. The sales and use tax is also up 16% over last year which where the majority of our revenue for current expense comes from. Hotel/Motel tax is up 17% over last year and golf fees are up 27% over last year as well.

- B. 1st Ave Beautification-** Council Member Mike Schrag stated he has been watching 1st Ave with the beautification program and with the Tree Board and it isn't very pleasant for first time visitors or anyone to drive by the towing company's and see the remains of wrecked vehicles. He believes it's been over a year that we have been working on an ordinance to have them cooperate with us on fencing those yards. Mike state he thinks its time that if we are going to pass ordinances to try and improve the beautification of the city, especially on 1st Ave, which has been neglected for a long time, we need to start doing something about these properties even if it costs us money. Clerk Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated we have been working on updating that ordinance for the last year with our City Attorney and there has been ideas of how to handle the abatement once the resolution is passed, and cleanup has not occurred. Unfortunately, we found out we can't do it the way we were hoping to. Our city attorney is having his staff attorney work on finalizing and updating the ordinance and getting it back to us. Council Member Michelle Plumb stated in reference to our code, those lots that are being used specifically for that type of business, it has to be a sight obscuring fence.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. RPDA November minutes were provided in the council packets.

MAYOR UPDATES:

Mayor Kadlec stated she met last week with City Attorney John Kragt and he has promised, and she is going to keep on him, to get the nuisance ordinance done. We are now meeting once a month and we will stay on top of it. It has been brought to the Mayor's attention when we have these short meetings that the staff would like to go home early too. So please vacate the building after the meeting so they can lock up. Also, we need to watch the quorum rules as well when we are talking in groups.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. Public Works-**Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated the crew has started working on the cemetery bathroom. He had them construct the walls down at the city shop so they aren't working outside in the cold, and they should get them erected tomorrow and then move on do building the chamber deck. There was incident with one of the snowplows where a private plow guy backed into the plow and wrecked the truck and his truck. Dave was wondering if sometime in the near future if council could think about an ordinance about these private plow drivers being on our city streets breaking manholes and valve lids as they are leaving piles and piles of snow in the middle of the streets. We plow curb to curb so when the snow melts off the roads are clear, and everyone has a clear path to drive. When they leave all that out there its always going to leave ice and compacted snow that won't come off until springtime. The crew is doing a little burning of slash piles that were acquired from the summer and fall.
- B. Police Department-** Chief Dave McCormick stated they are about halfway through their testing process for the two new officers. The oral boards are going to be on the 29th. Chief went to order tasers as he wanted to replace one of the two aging tasers and they

no longer support the technology they are so old. He was going to get two of the ones we have now, but they said they were only going to support those for another year. The Chief received a proposal for replacing all five of our tasers where the old ones are sent back, and we will get a credit of \$1,000. They will be on a 5-year purchase plan with no interest. The new models come with rechargeable batteries, a charging docking station that will take six at a time, 35 taser cartridges and some inert cartridges that are used for training which are enough to train five officers with tasers for the 5-year period, and in theory enough live cartridges if you don't use them a lot and keep them fresh over the 5-year period. When he looked at purchasing two, they were \$1,095 a piece then you have to buy the battery and cartridge. They are 60 days out on the supply of them right now. He is going to enter into that agreement with them where the first year is \$2,800 and then it is \$2,200 for the four years remaining.

- C. **Clerk-Treasurer-Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt** stated we have received the Broadband Grant and Adams County is the lead on this grant. The grant funding includes the City of Ritzville, the Town of Lind, Areas of Othello, and areas of Adams County. The City of Washtucna is also included in the grant but they received public works board funding and Commissioner Dan Blankenship, who is taking the lead for the county, is looking to see if we can use those funds as the match to this grant. The total grant award was \$10,320,889 and the total project cost is \$11,500,000. There is a 10% match, which is around \$1,146,000. There is a meeting tomorrow with all the county and everyone that is involved with the grant to start working through the logistics. The job posting for the Deputy Clerk Treasurer position is closing this Friday and we only have two applicants so far.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Linda Kadlec adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 7:35pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II