

### **OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING**

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

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

Mayor Yaeger asked if there were any corrections or additions to the consent agenda. Council Member Michelle Plumb requested item A, RRFB Complete Streets Grant Additional Services Authorization, under the Discussion Agenda be moved up to item B under the Action Agenda. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to approve the acceptance of the agenda for March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with the requested change from Council Member Michelle Plumb. 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. Show Cause Hearing: 105 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave-** Mayor Yaeger opened the show cause hearing at 7:02pm. The purpose of the hearing was for the city council to hear and consider the pertinent facts relating to show cause why the resolution should not be adopted, ordering the nuisance be abated by the city or it's designee for the cost of said abatement being charged against the said landowner. The address of the property is 105 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, and the property owners are Scott & Tammy Gilder. Clerk Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated on February 21<sup>st</sup> the first photos were taken, the nuisance conditions were cluttered yard, littered dwelling, scrap piles, debris, abandoned vehicles, sagging fence, which are all a fire hazard. A letter was mailed to the property owner on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to clean up the property with a show cause date of March 19<sup>th</sup>. Follow up pictures were taken on March 11<sup>th</sup>; things had been moved around but there were the same nuisances present as before. Mayor Yaeger has provided a photo from today and some items have been removed including the abandoned vehicles, 1 appliance & sagging fence and there is still some debris remaining. There is now a significant change since the photo was taken last week. The mayor stated the council can now choose to either (1) authorize the city clerk to proceed with the administrative abatement procedures to abate the public nuisance violation which shall include the passing of a resolution or (2) the city council shall direct the city clerk not to proceed if they find that there is no public nuisance violation, or the city has not proceeded according to the nuisance chapter. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to not proceed with the abatement of the property at 105 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- B. RRFB Complete Streets Grant Additional Services Authorization-Ardurra-Council** Member Michelle Plumb stated the grant application is due the 26<sup>th</sup> of April and requesting Ardurra write and submit the grant. Their estimate is not to exceed \$6,000 using the allocated ARPA money. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to approve the mayor to sign the Task 2: RRFB Complete Streets Grant Service Authorization Form between the City of Ritzville and Ardurra. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

## **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

- A. City Park Ping Pong Table Request-Mayor Yaeger** stated Daniel Malby has submitted a letter requesting to have a ping pong table in the park. Malby contacted Mayor Yaeger and the letter includes some suggested things to think about. Malby will purchase the table, paddles, balls, and everything for the table. The city does not want this to be a maintenance and a policing issue for the City of Ritzville. If we request him to remove it and it is not removed, then the city will remove it. Mayor Yaeger requested the Park & Recs Committee to review the request. Council Member Michelle Plumb stated the first thing she thinks about is liability insurance.
- B. Construction and Planning Project List-Mayor Yaeger** went over the list providing an update on the construction and planning grant projects and which staff and committees were the lead for each project. Council Member Plumb stated the Gateway sign needs to be discussed with the council. Mayor Yaeger asked if she wanted it to go to the committee before it went to the council. Council Member Plumb stated she will have it go to committee first.
- C. Analyze City's SDC Rate Agreement-Varela and Associates-Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt** stated task one will be to update Facility costs and ERUs. The city staff and mayor met with Ben Varela last week to show him the data from the financial and utility system. The well data doesn't match the system data, which can be typical. Ben will do an analysis of the data and use an average. The task two is to update the wastewater system development charges report. Flyckt stated she and Ben remember having a conversation at council about approving task one and not task two but there was nothing in the past council minutes during that time. Mayor Yager stated this is why it is being discussed tonight. It was decided to send the agreement to the Public Works committee for review and bring it back to the next council meeting.
- D. Comprehensive Plan, Land Use and Zoning Periodic Update-The city's contracted planner Aaron Murcar, with SCJ Alliance,** presented the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update to the City Council. The significant updates include the 2044 vision, policy framework, housing element, future land use map and the ten-year action plan. Clerk Treasurer Flyckt requested council review the plan and come back to the next meeting with any suggestions or questions. The public hearing in front of council will be set for April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There was no correspondence.

**MAYOR UPDATES:** Mayor Yaeger stated he has been working with the Golf Course Restaurant about how the sandwich prep table was fixed but then it stopped working so it needed to be replaced. A new sandwich prep table was purchased. The dishwasher is working intermittently, and hopefully the problem from last week has been fixed. The replacement for that unit isn't very cheap so we are hoping we don't have to replace it. Mayor Yaeger stated the capital improvement budget for the golf course clubhouse has a budget of \$74,000 for the HVAC unit, windows, and insulation. Mayor Yaeger requested approval from the City Council to use the \$74,000 budgeted in the Capital Improvement Fund to pay for the prep table to keep the restaurant open and use these funds for the dishwasher, if needed. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the capital improvement fund allocation to pay for the golf course equipment. Council Member Jessica Quinn seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

#### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

- A. City Attorney-** John Kragt stated he is researching the title and deed for the fairgrounds bathrooms and trying to come to a final conclusion, and he is working on a couple of other small projects with Flyckt and the mayor.
- B. Public Works-**Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated the crew connecting the new water and sewer services down on Alder this week for the two new houses being built. They went to turn the valve on the existing meter and the valve broke because it hasn't been turned on in 60 years. The crew dug it up and replaced it and they are going to tap the other line tomorrow or Thursday. The crew will hopefully get out to those trees on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave and get them done. Well #8 well house is framed and sheeted, and the metal is on backorder for two to four weeks. The contractor has not done the pull apart yet. They were doing the 210' of water line from the well house up to the old valve and replacing all the old AC as well. The new service truck has been purchased and it is in the city shop. It cost \$60,210 after taxes and licensing.
- C. Police-**Chief Dave McCormick stated Officer Beck-Gmeiner was qualified on the range with the county last week and he is now armed and fully uniformed. He is still scheduled to start the Spokane Police Academy on May 5th. In reference to the rash of burglaries, the major one was the residence where stolen jewelry was recovered. The stolen jewelry was from two pawn shops out of Spokane and a search warrant discovered the jewelry in a pickup truck that had been taken to a task force lot. Last Friday the two officers that are working on this case located and recovered the three stolen shotguns. A local person who is tied into this whole mess had them, the officers took those without incident or a search warrant. They have been taken to the state crime lab in Cheney for print and possibly DNA testing. Over the last month the department has purchased four cameras that are charged by the sun. They have cellular capability and will send the pictures right to the officers' cell phones or the cell service can be turned off, and they are saved on an SD card.

**D. Clerk/Treasurer-**Clerk Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated Michelle Keefer and herself were on the Forestry Grant webinar today. They learned there are some grants that will receive state funding and others will receive a combo of state and federal funding. The city used to have combo funding, but now it is just federal funding. The City of Ritzville is number 29 on the list and it will take a couple months to receive the agreement. It looks like the city will be receiving the full requested amount of \$346,000. The development code update phase one to restructure the codes, was sent over to license and rule committee today. Phase two will include updates such as adding the mixed-use zone, which is the work SCJ Alliance will be working on next.

**ADJOURNMENT-**With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Yaeger adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:12pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II