

OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Kadlec opened the remote and in person council meeting at 7:00pm. Council members present were Michelle Plumb, Marsha Smith, Mike Schrag, Dennis Chamberlain, Debbie Chapman, and Dede Boyer (remote). Council Member Scott Yaeger was absent. 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 Ashlee Simonson, Kyle Niehenke with the ACDC, Jessica Quinn, and Dale Brown 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 November 15th, 2022. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS- Mayor Kadlec stated Ashlee Simonson contacted her the other day and she has an idea about the Christmas tree being moved from the library back down to the Pastime. I explained to her why we moved it down there in the first place, but she would like to come and address the council as she feels she has a solution. Ashlee stated she was reminiscing with a childhood friend about how we liked going downtown, especially during Christmas. They remember having the Christmas tree done on the corner of Main and Washington. They were wondering why it was no longer in the middle of downtown, after asking around I had figured it out. Historically the City of Ritzville had its Christmas tree in the middle of the street on Main and Washington. After many years and several accidents, they relocated it to the Southeast corner of Main & Washington also know as the Pioneer Plaza. The city then moved the tree again after it had been vandalized several times. Ashlee is very passionate about returning the tree to its previous sidewalk location on the corner of Main & Washington. She stated three reasons for wanting it at this location: 1) The businesses on Main St. are business that are owned and ran by local people, and we should do anything we can to bring people downtown to support locally. 2) The previous reasoning to move the Christmas tree to the library is no longer an issue as of this year because the Pastime is not open. 3) By having the tree lighting at the library, it will exclude vendors and participants from participating in the tree lighting and the festival of lights. The festival of lights is in the plaza from 4pm-7pm and the tree lighting is at the library at 5:30pm. In the last three days, Ashlee has been able to collect 75 signatures from Ritzville residents to be on board with moving the tree back to Pioneer Plaza. Ashlee stated she does not want to take away from the library's event. The mayor opened it up for discussion to the audience and council. Mayor Kadlec was concerned about how to anchor the tree, so it doesn't blow over. Dave Breazeale stated all you can really do is put weight on the base to keep it anchored. Mayor Kadlec took a council vote by a show of hands to see who was in favor of moving the Christmas tree back to Pioneer Plaza. It was a 6-0 vote in favor of moving the tree back.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Show Cause Hearings:** Mayor Kadlec opened the public hearing for the show cause hearings at 7:10pm. The purpose of the hearing was for the City Council to hear and consider the pertinent facts relating to show cause why a resolution should not be adopted, ordering the nuisance be abated by the city or its designee with the costs of said abatement being charged against the said landowner. Everyone present was given the opportunity to be heard.

B. 310 Whittlesey- The first show cause was for 310 Whittlesey St for property owner Ralph Eilmes. Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated there have been numerous complaints about this property from the neighbors and the city has been watching it for a few months. There is overflow from two other properties in town that have gotten together, and they are collecting all their junk at this property. They are remodeling the house, but the car, RV, and boat collection is getting worse. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain wanted to know how many lots there were down there. Dave stated it all belonged to one person, but it has been split, not sure if has been completed legally. Chief McCormick stated they have taken a tractor down there with an implement on it and drug it around to get rid of the grass and weeds, it's down to dirt around the house. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to authorize the city clerk to proceed with the administrative abatement procedures to abate the public nuisance violation and passing Resolution No. 2022-13. Council Member Michelle Plumb seconded the motion. Council Member Dede could not respond due to technical difficulties. Motion passed 5-1-0.

- **507 W. 1st Ave-** The next show cause was for 507 W.1st Avenue, for property owner David Ahrens and property renter B&B whose owner is Christopher Curtis. Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated this property is owned by the same man that used to own the last property. He rents it out to B&B, and B&B is a towing company that has an open lot with a bunch of junk vehicles on it. The city code states if you're going to run a wrecking junkyard business it needs a sight obscuring fence and it's not. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to proceed with the abatement and pass Resolution 2022-14. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Council Member Dede could not respond due to technical difficulties. Motion passed 5-1-0.

The mayor closed the show cause hearing at 7:25pm.

- C. Ad Valorem Tax Public Hearing, Ordinance No. 2162-** The public hearing for the 2023 Ad Valorem Taxes was open at 7:26pm. The purpose of the hearing was for the City Council to hear and consider the pertinent facts relating to the 2023 Ad Valorem Taxes. Everyone present was given the opportunity to be heard. The purpose of the hearing was to allow the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2023 Ad Valorem Tax. The city is allotted a 1% increase of property tax from the previous year plus the levy rate on any new construction or annexation. The total amount that is allotted for 2023 is anticipated to be around \$360,904 or the maximum amount allowed by law. The Adams County Assessor's office has provided this amount to the City Clerk for the 2023 budget year. The mayor asked if the council or anyone in the public had any questions. With no comments or further discussion, the public hearing was closed at 7:27pm. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2162 the Ad Valorem Taxes. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Council Member Dede could not respond due to technical difficulties. Motion passed 5-1-0.
- D. 2023 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing-** The mayor opened the public hearing for the 2022 City Budget Fees at 7:28pm. The purpose of the hearing was for the City Council to hear and consider the pertinent facts relating to the 2023 budget. The Clerk provided copies of the proposed preliminary budget which included minimum wage increase of \$1.25 to \$15.74/hour, Asuris health insurance increase of 4.5%, increase of a part time to a full time Deputy Clerk Treasurer 1, projected insurance increase of 22.79%, estimated Avista 7% rate increase, and updated fee schedule. The fee schedule changes

are adding scan and electronic copies fee at \$.50 a page, increasing parcel combination/boundary line fee to \$200.00, and adding traffic impact fees based on traffic study. There were no comments or questions from the public or council. The mayor closed the public hearing at 7:30pm.

- E. **ACDC Budget Request-** Council Member Mike Schrag stated the finance committee met with Kyle with ACDC that morning. Normally the city pays \$2,500 a year to the ACDC. The council looked at reducing the SCJ Alliance contract from \$10,000 down to \$5,000 so the amount for the ACDC can be raised. ACDC requested \$10,000 but at this point in time, the committee couldn't see their way clear of that. So, the committee recommends doubling the city's amount to \$5,000 in the 2023 budget.
- F. **Capital Improvement Plan-Set Public Hearing for December 20, 2022-**Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated the last time the council saw the plan was at the budget workshop. Since that time, more work has been done to update the plan with the department heads. A lot of what is in the plan is a starting point as it refers to waiting for the comprehensive plan to get updated in 2023. The city is also waiting for the sewer plan update, which will guide future capital expenditures. Next year, the plan will come alongside the comp plan update and budget process. The only item in the plan for 2023 right now is the golf course clubhouse windows for \$30,000. In 2024, replacing the HVAC system at city hall is listed. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to set the public hearing for the Capital Improvement Plan on December 20, 2022. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- G. **Festival of Lights Street Closure-** Council Member Debbie Chapman stated she was speaking on behalf of Dede Boyer and requesting a street closure on Washington Street, from Main Avenue to Railroad, for 2pm-8pm on December 2nd, 2022, for the Festival of Lights event. Dave Breazeale stated he would advise the council to run some generators for the vendors down there since they are moving the Christmas tree down there the plaza will lose that many more outlets for people to plug their stuff into. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the street closure for the Festival of Lights from 2pm-8pm on December 2, 2022. Council Member Debbie Chapman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

There were no discussion agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Reimer Annexation Letter of Sufficiency was provided in the council packets.

MAYOR UPDATES

There were no Mayor updates.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. **Public Works-**Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated currently Ned has been out in the street sweeper picking up the leaves off the streets. There are a few sewer plugs and water breaks the crew is responding to. Things are freezing and thawing out in the day, and people are forgetting to winterize their outside spickets and they are finding out really quickly when it thaws out, there is water squirting on the side of their house.

The crew is doing a bunch of maintenance, tearing things apart that broke this summer and putting them back together.

- B. Police Department-**Chief Dave McCormick asked Debbie if it would be possible if someone from the Chamber could contact the businesses that will be affected by the street closure and let them know what the plan is so they aren't calling when the barricades go up that afternoon. Ryan and Robby have graduated from the Police Academy. They will be assigned starting the 17th with deputies for field training. They will work in Ritzville most of the time, but they will be scheduled in Othello periodically when the need for the Sheriff's office brings them down there. Last week, one of the SUV's broke down at the academy, and it was towed to Spokane Auto Care. It was an electrical issue with the safety cut off switch for the fuel pump in the interceptors.
- C. Clerk/Treasurer-** Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated the next step for the budget is updating expenditure estimates for 2022. The TIB awards should be announced by early December and the budget will be updated depending on what is awarded to the city. Flyckt will also remove the \$100,000 revenue replacement from the budget as requested by the council as that will be a separate council action. Flyckt asked Sam to get a hold of Springbrook on Project 37 Sewer Indebtedness Fee to make sure we can have that fee set up in our system. Sam reached out to Springbrook but there is no conformation yet.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Kadlec adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:10pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II