

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 Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle Asmussen, Public Works Director Dave Breazeale, and City Attorney John Kragt. City Fire Chief Joel Bell, City Police Chief Dave McCormick, and Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt were excused. Also, present were Linda Schrag, Brian Bothun, Courtney Green, Dan & Dale Galbreath, John Rankin, Amy Galbreath, Kyle Niehenke, Dan Blankenship, Dale Brown from the Cheney Free Press and Nathaniel Crispman Scout Master for along with the Boy Scout Troop 888 and Girl Scout Troop 889.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor 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 February 20th, 2024, as presented. Council Member Jessica Quinn 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. Ritzville Memorial Cemetery-Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Grant-** Mayor Yaeger stated there is a letter from DAHP congratulating Ritzville for being awarded the Historic Cemetery Preservation Capitol Grant for the partially requested amount of \$42,325. The total project submitted was \$52,775. The basic cemetery mapping services which didn't include the plot inventory optimization was approved. The plot inventory optimization entails integrating data (lot, sections, plot inventory status) from existing cemetery records into a digital map. Mayor Yaeger stated the city could go back to DAHP and try to request the full \$50,000 stating the council wants to do the whole project. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to accept the funded portion and request further information about the additional plot inventory costs from DAHP. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- B. Mosquito Control Board Appointment-**Mayor Yaeger stated David Beus from the Adams County Mosquito Board has informed the city Dustin Killian's term is set to expire, and he would like to stay on for another two-year term. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve Dustin Killian for a two-year term to the Adams County Mosquito Board. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- C. Solar Plus Storage Contract-Seinergy-**Mayor Yaeger stated a couple meetings the agreement with Department of Commerce was approved, and the contractor was selected. This contract is Seinergy's services to establish a solar plus storage project planning and pre-development goal, develop a project development plan, assess solar site opportunities, engage community through public information sessions at council meetings, pre-design review and design the solar system. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the mayor to sign the contract for services agreement between the City of Ritzville and Seinergy, LLC. Council Member Michelle Plumb seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- D. Electric Service Agreement-Avista**-Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated the Avista agreement is for service to the new well. The cost was going to cost \$88,398.67 to have them install the service but they knocked it down to zero because they knew they were going to get the money overtime. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the mayor to sign the Avista contract ESA #54460 in the City of Ritzville. Council Member Jessica Quinn seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. Broadband Agreements**-Mayor Yaeger stated there is an Utility Use Agreement for the fiber-optic cable under I-90 and an agreement for the grant of Easement for the location of where the facility would be. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain asked Commissioner Blankenship what type of building it was going to be. Blankenship stated it was going to be a 12x12 building on a 14x14 slab. It will look a little like a construction shack except it will be less shabby looking with nicer coverings outside. There will be racks inside, and each ISP will have a different rack. Since the Colo agreement, that the City Attorney Kragt went over a few months ago, there were some suggested changes that were made. Council Member Mike Schrag asked about a timeline for the project. Blankenship stated the timeline on the Ritzville side is a little on the hopeful guess side but all of the materials, other than the buildings and the cabinets, are actually sitting in the staging yard down at the county public works facility in Othello. The construction bid for the project element in Lind will probably go out in the next few weeks because the franchise agreements and all the things that need to be put into place are pretty much done. Here in Ritzville, we still have these two documents to finalize so that the design team can finalize how they are going to get to these conduits to get across the freeway. Most of this could still possibly be built by the end of this year. Blankenship stated there is still another billion dollars available at the state level of federal money for something they call Broadband Expansion and Deployment Program to get to the rest of the served and unserved areas mostly in rural Washington. It's an ongoing process, it will probably be the end of 2026 before that project is done, which presents a problem for some people because a lot of people are expecting to use ARPA money for Broadband. ARPA money has to be contracted and obligated by the end of this year, this process doesn't even start until April or May, so there is now way that is going to happen.
- B. Golf Course Dishwasher Replacement**-Mayor Yaeger stated the sink drain and the sandwich prep table have been repaired. The only thing left is the undercounter dishwasher and the public works crew is going to look at that to see if they can find an obvious problem. There are some quotes from Spokane Restaurant Equipment for replacement units. Number two on the list of quotes is the best deal because it comes with an Avista rebate of \$2,650 so it is a really good deal but there isn't any room in the kitchen for a freestanding unit. The first one is a direct replacement of the one that is currently there. If the current dishwasher unit is not repairable, I'm looking for some movement in a budget number so we could move forward to buy a new one. Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated the crew has run the dishwasher ten times and it hasn't ever leaked or not worked or clogged and the cycle is 58 seconds. The guys said it

was a little unlevel, so they leveled it today and thought maybe that is why it was leaking periodically.

- C. **Copy Machine Printer Lease Agreement**-Mayor Yaeger stated there are two different rate sheets for the council to review. The first one from January is for a 60-month lease, and that dollar amount doesn't change the monthly payment. The full-service maintenance agreement changes because of the amount of color and black & white copies made each month. In 2023, there were 6,200 color copies a month average for the year and black and white was 3,500. Mayor Yaeger suggested bumping the color up to about 4,000 and the black and white up to about 3,000 so there will not be as many overages. To buy the copier it will be \$13,000 then buy the ink cartridges and pay for service and maintenance. Mayor Yaeger will contact the representative and have him send over a new lease agreement with 4,000 color and 3,000 black and white copies.
- D. **Traffic Impact Fee and System Development Charges**-Mayor Yaeger apologized for missing the last meeting but stated he just wanted to keep the traffic impact fees fresh in council's minds. Mayor Yaeger asked if the traffic impact fees of 90% or 80% was discussed. Council Member Michelle Plumb stated it had been discussed but there was not a round robin done for general agreement. Mayor Yaeger stated there is a 3rd option which is just a flat rate. Kyle Niehenke from the ACDC passed out a handout with some traffic impact fee research he had done. He said he wanted to place real value to the fees. We keep talking like these developments are happening regardless, but with these fees, development is dead in Ritzville. The City of Moses Lake has zero traffic impact fees, and the City of Cheney is working on their fees and will get them to me, but they have very low fees. Why would anyone want to come to Ritzville and pay these fees when they could go somewhere else with little or no fees. There was a lot of discussion on the fees from the council members, which will continue to be discussed in the future.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. **Galbreath Land & Livestock Letter**: the letter was in the council packet for city's council's information.

MAYOR UPDATES: Mayor Yaeger stated on February 9th he received a letter from Chief McCormick with his intent to retire. His official date of separation from the city will be June 28th, 2024. Mayor Yaeger will be gathering all the information on the current job description as the current job description dates back to 1997, so it will need some changes. There is the Washington State Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Association that helps with advertising and creating job descriptions and they do charge for their service. Ardurra's funding specialist Anna Noble is leaving Ardurra as she is starting her own independent business. Her last day is February 22nd. She appreciates being able to work with the city through the years both with Varela and also with Ardurra. Mayor Yaeger would like to work with the council committees and try to come up with committee descriptions. The public works committee has a meeting tomorrow at 3:30pm to hold a kickoff meeting for the 1st Ave project from Division to Palouse, which is scheduled to start between June and July before harvest.

- A. **City Attorney**-Attorney John Kragt stated the only thing he has on his list is the agreement with the county. The Utility Agreement is pretty vague as Commissioner Blakenship stated. The Innovia Foundation is coming to Ritzville this weekend and will be paying for all three days for anyone who wants to go see the movie at the theatre.
- B. **Public Works**-Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated the crew installed a new window in the entrance of City Hall because it is too cold was the door was opening so there is a slider window in place now to help with heating and cooling. Well #8 is moving along swiftly and we had a little miss communication with the electrical ditch being dug so we had a change order for that project. Also, the pipe going from the new location up the hill to the valve clusters AC is an asbestos cement pipe. This will also be replaced and require a change order. The EV charging stickers are ordered and they will be here this week. The concrete pads for the parking lot have been ordered and they will be picked up this week.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Yaeger adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:18pm.



Michelle Asmussen
Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II