

OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Linda Kadlec opened the Remote/In Person Council meeting at 7:00pm. Council members present were Scott Yaeger, Mark Weigand, Michelle Plumb, Dede Boyer, Mike Schrag and Dennis Chamberlain. Council Member Debbie Chapman was present remotely. 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 City Police Officer Tom Gracie, Police Sargent Mark Cameron, Charles Jingling, Marsha Smith, Barry Boyer 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 Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Mark Weigand seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS- Mayor Kadlec asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Council Member Michelle Plumb stated she would like to pass along there was an Ice Age Flood speaker on the 9th, and he was very impressed on how far Ritzville has come with all the work we are doing around town.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Officer Retirement Presentation-**Chief McCormick stated Tom is retiring as of the 23rd of this month and we have been fortunate to have him here for 11 years. He is moving to Boise, ID and is going to work as an investigator for the Idaho Department of Transportation on November 1st. Chief McCormick presented a special plaque to Tom. Tom stated it has been a pleasure serving the city, he loved the support he has had here, and he can't thank everyone enough. He has met a lot of wonderful people and it has been a great opportunity, full of experiences he wouldn't have had otherwise.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. **Long-Term Care Coverage-**Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated at the budget workshop meeting there were questions about what the long-term care coverage was, how it was going to impact employees, and how much each employee will have to start paying at the beginning of January. It is a start requirement, where an employee either has the long-term care through the state or through another sponsored plan. AWC will provide an open period in 2022 and when they do, the city will look at their long-term care option for employees. For now, starting in January employees will have to pay \$.58 per \$100 or \$290/year on an annual salary of \$50,000. To give council an idea of a set salary rate, Julie did an analysis for the finance committee showing three different employees and their varying pay ranges. It equates to 1% of an employee's pay will go to the long term-care coverage. When we were looking at a potential of a 2% COLA, 1% of that would go to the long-term care. The finance committee, Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer will review the 2% COLA again and what the percentage will be in the preliminary budget.
- B. **8th Street Snaky Sewer Line-**Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated the 8th Street snaky line has been a long-time problem in the city and there are numerous snaky sewer lines that run throughout the city. The one on 8th street connects to the homes of Bud & Suzy Kirkendall, Linda Kubik and Brian Gordon. They are starting to have a lot of issues with their line and are coming to the city to ask for assistance. Dave was always told that

was the homeowner's line and not the city's line and they are saying that it is possibly the city's line. Dave said he does not have any documentation to say otherwise. It is an old Orangeburg line that is deteriorating and needs to be fixed. Kirkendalls have already had one backup and had 2 feet of sewer in their basement. Service Master was up there for 2 weeks cleaning it out. It's starting to gurgle again so we are trying to flush it and jet it, but the line comes out in so many different angles. Dave thinks there are issues with the line maybe collapsing and hanging up and not making the corners. Dave asked for some direction from the council on what we can do to fix it. If we dig it, we are assuming liability of it at the same time it is going through our street, to our city main lines. Dave thinks at the very least we should dig the first 45 up and see what is going on with that corner. With the snaky sewer line grant we are working on, it will be replaced eventually but Dave stated they line may not hold up until that happens. Mayor Kadlec stated before we go any further, Linda Kubik had brought her a letter that she would like to read aloud to the council. After listening to the letter, it is now cleared up that the line is a private line and not a city owned line. Dave stated he is willing to try and cut the 90 out and then reangle it so it isn't so drastic of a turn and is more gradual, it will be new pipe so hopefully it will not resist as much with the plastic pipe as it does with the Orangeburg that is in there. Council Member Mike Schrag stated he thinks there should be something signed by the owners since it would be a liability issue because we are doing this as a free gratis type thing to try and solve it at least temporarily as soon as you do something, you are assuming liability for the whole thing. Julie stated we could talk to our land use attorney before we do anything. Dave stated he had another one pop up today, up at Lance Repp's house, which used to be Dr. Schmick's house. The line comes out of his house, hits our street, and then goes all the way down to Grant Street. Dave believes that it is a private line, but we may have dug it up before and cut off about 30' of line that was sticking out, where his connection comes in and put a clean out in because it was backing up a lot. He has been having problems, so we have been washing it for him because the clean out is in our street and the line is in our street. Today, he had a backup again, he called a guy in to camera it, right where his line enters the city sewer line it is completely under water. I don't know if when we chopped the line 10 years ago it compacted it or we didn't compact it good enough, but it sank. I am just assuming it is our line I don't know how we would know who it belongs to we don't have any paperwork on it. We are going to dig that one up, check the end of the line and go 4 or 5 feet to see if it is another Orangeburg line.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. **RDDA Budget Request**-Request was provided in the council packets.

MAYOR UPDATES: Mayor Kadlec stated she had a request from Chief McCormick to go ahead with the Civil Service Commission appointments which include Mike Miller 6-year appointment, Brian Kramer 4-year appointment and Ned Bernath 2-year appointment. At reappointment each term, there will be for a 6-year term. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the appointments of Mike Miller, Brian Kramer, and Ned Bernath to the Civil Service Commission. Council Member Dede Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. **Public Works**-Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated the guys started crack sealing last week and only got in about 3 days. They started on Washington and they are

now going from 6th to the end of the streets. There are 2 ½ pallets left and they started with 5. The contractor for the Burrough's Home is going to finish up the soffit and then we will get a final projected cost of what's left in the budget and the scope of work that is left to complete. Work on the tank yesterday.

- B. Police Department-** Chief Dave McCormick thanked the mayor for the appointments to the commission. Chief McCormick stated there are ads placed in the local paper for the entry level position and the lateral position. Julie has also put it on the website and the Facebook page, and it came out today in the Spokesman and the Tri-City Herald.
- C. Clerk-Treasurer-Clerk-Treasurer** Julie Flyckt stated our 2-year audit started today and there are changes in how they handle the audit due to COVID protocols. They will not be onsite, and everything will be done electronically. Julie will be working on the preliminary budget over the next two weeks to have it ready for the next council meeting. The city has partnered with the county on another broadband grant. If the city does not receive the funding for the first grant submitted or receive partial funding, this other grant opportunity will help to move that project forward. It has to be a county lead application because as it requires the recommendation from the county. All of the towns and cities have gone in together with the county on this broadband grant. If we do receive funding, the council will see it added to the budget as a new fund will be created. The city received an application for a new home to be placed on a parcel up on Low Street. Since that parcel had multiple lots, they is also an application for a lot line adjustment, and the city is working with SCJ Alliance to review that project. Julie also got a call today about another vacant parcel that was purchased, and they are planning on building a home on that lot as well.
- D. Fire:** Dave Breazeale stated Andrew Carlson was appointed as the new City Fire Captain at the fire department's meeting last night Julie stated Dave Breazeale has also been appointed as the Assistant Fire Chief.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Linda Kadlec adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 7:42pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II