

MINUTES  
PAYETTE CITY COUNCIL  
Special Meeting & Work Session  
July 23, 2012

**5:15 PM – Special Meeting**

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Williams, Ivan Mussell, Georgia Hanigan, Jeff Sands, Lee Nelson and Craig Jensen, Mark Heleker

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Mary Cordova, City Coordinator, Randy Schwartz, WWTP Superintendent, Mark Clark, Chief of Police, Steve Castenada, Fire Chief, Randy Fales, Park Superintendent, Jamie Couch, Street Superintendent, Rob Woyak, Water Superintendent and Doug Argo, City Engineer Jennifer Kelley, HR and Bobbie Black, Deputy City Clerk.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Special Events Permit: Appeal on revoking of permit - Deportivo Cueramaro: Chief Clark addressed the Council. He stated that on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 his officers responded to a report of a large fight at the soccer field. When arriving a couple individuals eluded the police and a couple of arrests were made. One individual had a broken arm and several were bloodied up. Alcohol was a factor. Several were talked to and stated that there had been drinking. The person representing the group became argumentative with the officer. As a result the officer stated that they are not welcome back. A letter was sent to the league revoking their permit. Mr. Clark stated that there were other non-reportable drinking violations. He stated that he understood that 2 teams were involved in the incident. The letter was addressed to the main person that had received the permit.

Randy Fales stated that when they first met with the league rep, they were told no alcohol is allowed. The trees are being damaged and he put signs up in English and Spanish. At first alcohol wasn't bad and recently it has become a big problem. They have had problems with non-use of the bathroom facilities. His department has found bottles and cans in the trees and along the fence.

Azteca League – Rigoberto Cardenas, addressed the Council. He stated that the game that day ended at 2:00 pm and they had another game in Weiser, so he was not there when the fight broke out. This happened with the spectators watching the game and not his players. He can't stay there all day to watch them. He was asked if he had advised them that he can run the risk of losing his permit by their actions. Mr. Cardenas stated that he has told everyone that drinking is not allowed and they don't care and just get mean. It falls on his shoulders to make sure the permit is obeyed. He stated they also sell food and have been told they can't do that either.

The Council asked about security on the permit. It was not included but could be added if the permit was reinstated. He stated that there are 28 teams in the league and 3 teams play at this field. The coach that was involved will be playing at another field, he is at blame. The Council asked if he can delegate someone in charge when he is not there. He stated that the coach of each team can call the police if they see alcohol and was suggested that the game is stopped until all alcohol is removed. If the league policed their group we wouldn't be in this situation.

Mr. Cardenas stated that he tells them all this and they won't listen. The council suggested that maybe someone other than a coach is supervising. The council would like the league to come back to the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting with a plan on this and the permit is revoked until a plan by the council is approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm

**5:49 PM – Work Session**

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Williams, Ivan Mussell, Georgia Hanigan, Jeff Sands, Lee Nelson, Craig Jensen, and Mark Heleker

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Mary Cordova, City Coordinator, Randy Schwartz, WWTP Superintendent, Mark Clark, Chief of Police, Steve Castenada, Fire Chief, Randy Fales, Park Superintendent, Jamie Couch, Street Superintendent, Rob Woyak, Water Superintendent and Doug Argo, City Engineer Jennifer Kelley, HR and Bobbie Black, Deputy City Clerk.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Budget 2012: Mayor Williams stated this work session is to go over with the committees and council the budget for next year.

Gene Gray addressed the Council. He is the chairman of the Forestry Commission. He handed the council pamphlets of tree inventory and the importance and benefits to the city. He would like to see a tree inventory program for all the trees in the parks and on city property. He estimated the program to be around \$3,500 and volunteers/students can help with the project. If the program was in place it would benefit by identifying hazardous trees and possibly saving a life. The council asked Mr. Fales how many trees do we have and he stated he has no idea. Mr. Fales stated that he does have money in this year's budget and we are looking into it. The council asked if we would need money each year and Mr. Gray stated the parks department would have to keep up with the inventory after the initial start up. He also asked the Council to consider funding for the member of the commission to attend the 3 day seminar in Boise each year. This would allow the members to gain expertise on trees.

Mike Phillips from the Public Works Committee addressed the Council. He stated that they had 1 meeting in June and hasn't been able to meet again. A lot of items were presented, but they are getting more information on what could be cut and taken out of the budget. The water department has a short fall and they wanted to know more information. Mayor Williams stated that the water fund is not taxed based, it is a user fund. The work session is for each committee to have input on what they are passionate about; he asked Mr. Phillips if he had questions about the budget. Mary Cordova stated that she had a different recollection of the meetings. The department heads did bring their projects and presented to the committee and they have the support of the committee. Discussion followed on the loader prices and Mr. Couch stated we can use the GSA contract and receive a discount of around \$100,000. A used 2009 loader is around \$169,000 and is it worth buying a used for the difference. The current loader is breaking down all the time, needs new tires and we are hoping not to lose the motor, there would be no value in it then. Mary Cordova stated that we will be taken the loader out of the streets unencumbered funds. The water department is replacing one employee that will be retiring and we will pay out vacation to that individual.

Barbara Choate asked about unencumbered funds. She is looking at a balanced budget. The loader is what will come out of those funds. She also asked about the levy rate.

Linda Pollock addressed the Council. She stated that she owns her own business and has 6 rental homes and times are tough. A wage increase of 5% seems like a lot. Last year the county laid off and consolidated.

Sherry Kendal stated that it is not about wanting the employees to have raises, if you can't afford, you can't afford, the city will have to make choices, but you can't keep raising fees.

Mike Phillips stated that he was worked many years for municipalities. When you give a raise it stays forever. We are in tough times, he owns 11 rentals and with tax values going down, it will put more money in his pocket.

Mary Cordova went over several scenarios on the tax levy. Mr. Jensen stated that most residential tax bills should go down. Mr. Sands asked about the building permit expenses versus revenue, he stated that we are not even paying for the building permits. Ms. Cordova stated that we are in the black and this was brought to the Council awhile ago in a work session, but will look at it again. Keep in mind that some permits are issued before budget year. Mr. Argo stated that 3 large projects have come out

of the building expenses this year that included the fire station, ROSE Advocates and the library that a fee was not collected on.

Sandy Massey stated that she is a former department chair from a large school district and has been in this situation, fighting for her department. She totally supports a balanced budget. If we raise taxes and everything costs more and the citizens don't get anything more, then people read that employees received a 5% increase in pay, this is bad public relations.

Chief Clark addressed the Council. He discussed the police budget and explained what the citizens receive. The police department supports 12 certified officers, and 2 civilians. There is a full-time member in the drug task force that is now ran in the old fire station. He has a K-9 officer, 4 on the swat team of which one runs the swat team, a resource office for the schools and one officer is now affiliated with ROSE Advocates. They receive 250-350 calls every month and 90% of those require a follow up visit. He did not ask for a new vehicle this year. He understands the short falls and has made other cuts. The Mayor asked about the proposed wage increase and Mr. Clark stated that he would support it. He knows the concerns, but he has professional well trained employees. If you take care of your people and retain quality people you retain the best of the best. Mr. Sands asked if we are competitive to other departments and Mr. Clark stated we are mid-line in the state. Mayor Williams commented that he likes having strong police presence and appreciates all the police department does. The last time he hired an officer was in 2008. The City pays for wages and benefits while in post. He will lose  $\frac{1}{4}$  of his force in 2 years and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in 5 years due to retirement. Anything we can offer to retain, we need to do.

Colleen Bonnell, Library Director, addressed the Council. She stated the library is progressing and is pleased with the building. She has not hired a new employee in 6 years. Their circulation has doubled. She wants her employees to know they are appreciated. They love what they do. Her capital includes more shelves and tables. The budget reflects a 19 hour person; they have a bigger building and are much busier. There are between 120-150 people each day that use the library. She doesn't allow overtime for her employees; she works the extra shifts if needed.

Mayor Williams discussed the health insurance fund. The city has money in this fund to do buy downs and reimbursements, but the city has not been funding this fund. We need to start putting money away. The fund will be gone in 4 years. Ms. Cordova stated that we also should be putting funds into the capital improvement fund for the future; we are not saving when we should be.

John Held addressed the Council. He wanted the Council to know what the library director has been up to. Almost 2 years ago she started working on receiving her masters in library science. She has been doing this on her own time and will be receiving her masters very soon.

Ray Wickersham from the Admin & Finance Committee addressed the Council. He doesn't know if they have enough information on the budget. The raises are not good and will be a hard sell in this tough economy. Don't balance the budget on taxpayers backs, he understand the short fall. Mr. Jensen stated the budget is a balancing act. It is important to have revenue to do the services we normally do, but our responsibility is to look out for the taxpayers. Mr. Wickersham thanked the mayor for adding citizens to the committees.

Kelly Franek addressed the Council. She tried to lower her budget and is only asking for grids and filters this year. She orders 19 at once to make sure they fit properly. The pool has made \$13,000 more this year than last year. There are more people using this year also. She has asked for an increase in some of the guards salaries. The snack shack is doing well.

Chief Castenada stated that his big ticket item is for turnouts. He needs to replace 14 sets. It will just include a coat, pants and suspenders. The rural has purchased the nomax hoods, structure gloves and some boots. Most of the turnouts are 8 years or older and have rips and tears in them. He is not able to add a firefighter, due to not having a set of turnouts for them. He raised the utilities, but the

rural will pay 35% of them and that is not reflected in his budget. He is also asking for a 24" spreader. He has applied for grants for extraction equipment. He was asked if 35% is fair for the rural and he stated the city is the big player, they are there every day where the rural is not. He added a repair equipment line, which will include ladders, hoses and pumps. Mr. Sands asked why his employees aren't doing the pump tests and Chief Castenada stated that he had found out that it has been done wrong in previous years. He stated that he increased the fuel for the generator.

Mr. Fales addressed the Council. He stated that he increased his utilities. He has 6 pumps running and a new pump at the Y. He has asked for a new lawn mower. He has saved the city money by installing the pump at the fire station and a new motor for the pool. He doesn't feel bad about asking for a 5% wage increase.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he is also replace an employee due to retirement. He increased his professional services due to the NPDES permit. He also increased his lab fees and plant maintenance line items. His capital outlay includes a TV camera, RAS VFD, replace dechlorination pumps and a sampler that is overdue to be replaced. The TV camera will cost about \$100,000 with a life expectancy of a long time. It will not be used every day as a commercial one is. When replacing his employee he would like to advertise for someone with the skill level of his employee that is leaving. The lift pump is being sandblasted soon that will come out of his capital improvement for this year.

Rob Woyak addressed the Council. He is asking to rehab a couple of wells, this will be cheaper than drilling a new well. He is also asking to purchase a Kubota. He has not purchased any new equipment since 2002. All city departments will be able to utilize this Kubota. It will have a smaller foot print and will have less damage to the streets. He would like to see the 5% raise. His department laid the line on Highway 95 saving the city money. He has to have license/certified employees and that deserves to be recognized. Mr. Sands asked about mailing the bills and stated that \$20,000 to do this seems high. He would like to see the numbers on the city doing their own bills. He stated that we put more help up front and we still don't do our bills. Discussed that we need to encourage residents to sign up for e-mail statements, which would save the city money on mailing statements.

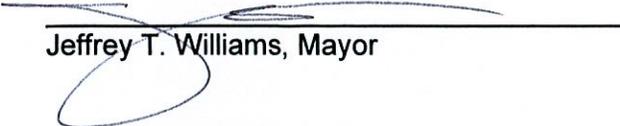
Ed Franek stated that he does a little bit of everything around the city. He works on the equipment, vehicles and maintenance of the buildings. Whatever breaks down, he tries to fix it. He took the rotor machine out of the budget, it would be a machine that wouldn't get used very often and didn't make sense to leave it in. He was asked about the street loader needed replaced and he stated that it is 15 years old and needs replaced.

## ADJOURNMENT

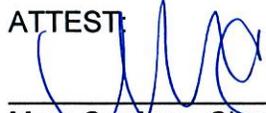
A motion was made by Heleker and seconded by Nelson to adjourn the work session at 8:20 PM.

The motion CARRIED.

Signed this 7 day of August, 2012.

  
Jeffrey T. Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Mary Cordova, City Clerk