

MINUTES
PAYETTE CITY COUNCIL
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
August 17, 2015

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Williams, Ray Wickersham, Craig Jensen, Jeff Sands, Lee Nelson and Nancy Dale

Members Absent: Mark Heleker

Staff Present: Mary Cordova, City Coordinator; Steve Castenada, Fire Chief; Jake Hust, Water Superintendent; Jamie Couch, Street Superintendent; Erin Haley, Library Director; Randy Fales, Park Superintendent; Bert Osborn, City Attorney ; Mark Clark , Chief of Police; Ed Franek, Shop Superintendent; John Plaza, Gary Marshall, Cody May-Miller, Randall Yates and Bobbie Black, Deputy City Clerk.

6:10 PM – Budget 2015-2016

Bert Osborn conducted public hearing.

Ms. Cordova presented a power point presentation on the FY 16 Budget. There is a slight increase in real estate and revenues from the state. The big expense in the proposed budget, is the increase in workman comp and health insurance. There has been no salary adjustments over past year, but we are providing training and development to our employees. We are trying to maintain our current programs, and there is not much in capital outlay. Property taxes make up 59% of our revenue and local revenue are 16%. Of the tax supported funds, the police department is almost half and the fire department is 20%. Our priorities are in the strategic planning and our goal is to foster economic self-sufficiency, downtown revitalization. This year's proposed budget has money for downtown revitalization. We cannot provide tax incentives, but can provide benefits. You have great bunch of employees that care about the City. Council is supportive of public safety departments. The police has tech projects and two police cars. In the fire we don't have upgrade to equipment, but we are adding 1 full-time fire fighter, budget for 28 paid call. We are funding the rescue program with a used rescue rig and have ear marked money for new truck. Park department is status quo. Boat ramp project has been completed over last two budget years. This year there is three new drinking fountains and forestry has funding for trees. Street department is just everyday maintenance. The big thing is used dump truck to replace 1983 Ford with 256,804 miles. We do have an adopt a truck program for our citizens. Library in this budget year, books are at \$21,000, children's program has \$5,000 and only big project is re-labeling and ADA counter. They do have an additional full-time employee in proposed budget. The pool's revenues have increased, and we are open year round now. We have more people using the pool and which means more maintenance. They are asking for a robot pool cleaner and new lane lines and looking to put one more adult full-time, which will be funded out of reserves this year. The enterprise funds which include water, sewer and sanitation are not tax supported. The water department is replacing meters with radio read meters and replacing an old used dump truck. Sewer is looking for new jet truck, we have some in reserve and the cost is around \$400,000. There will be more testing with NPDES permit. In the sanitation fund, the Council did approve a 2% increase effective October 1, 2015. The water fund will be updating their SCADA system, doing well rehab, radio read meters and reservoir tank mixer and testing. Airport's big project is the runway extension project, we have received grant funding over last three years. It does have a required match that can be in-kind or match. We have \$92,000 match in proposed budget. This project has been planned since 2000 and has grant money. The special funds are same as last year. Liability insurance would be more if employees didn't do programs. Health insurance is up 18%, vision is up 3.9%, no change to dental, and workman's comp is up 29%. Idaho's economy is

looking up. The City will ensure long term financial stability. We have the urban renewal that will help bring business to our city. Unencumbered funds are getting low in several departments.

Bruce DeGraff, 1122 2nd Ave South addressed the Council. Has never attended a meeting. His wife fixes balanced meals and he fixes balanced budgets. It seems wrong and unethical on hitting a taxpayer with more taxes. The city needs to be more aggressive and have each department look for deviancies. Why do we have nine parks for a population of 7,000? He doesn't understand why we keep and maintain all those parks. Why do we maintain one we don't own, the Hanigan Park? He would like to see a city that demonstrates that they are for the people. He would like to see men and women that deliver the product. He told a story about Alexander the Great. He would like the Council to be great and find the deficiencies. He asked what population have ever stepped foot at the airport. Mayor Williams stated we always hear every year all the services we provide and how much the public enjoys. Some of these amenities have had to expand. He asked Mr. DeGraff if he had any thoughts on what services we might cut. Mr. DeGraff stated do we really need ten parks that seems excessive to him. He stated his neighbor that has a supervisor next door to him and sees the city's effort to have beautiful yards, and we have to make a choice do I eat or have a nice yard. Mayor Williams stated most resident's water with irrigation and not city water. We like our parks, and if did away with one we would hear about it. Mr. DeGraff stated there will always be someone that will not be happy with the decision. The Council needs to come together for the good of the whole, doesn't work for me, but works for the whole. Asked how we get growth if we keep raising taxes. The City has a population 65% who are over 65 years of age. He has seen subdivisions that are not full, asked what are we doing that we are not attracting development.

Frasier Peterson, 2705 Killebrew Drive, addressed the Commission. He is Chairman of the Airport Commission. He stated just because you don't use something the city provides doesn't mean it is not valuable. The library and pool are examples of that. He was asked what the airport for the average person that doesn't fly does for them. Mr. Peterson stated a lot, we have people flying in every week. We have been trying for 15 years to add another 500 feet to the runway. This adds to safety factor and bigger planes being able to land at the airport. He thanked staff on helping with grant. The feeling has changed with the county commissioners and they seem very supportive. We have made great changes to the airport. We were the only ones around that sold mo-gas. Every hangar is full and becoming self-sustaining. Once you lose an air strip you will never get it back. Sands asked what the 500 feet will bring us if all the hangars are full. Mr. Peterson stated we have a 3,000' runway and you cannot land on 250' displacement that the golf course took, so we only have a 2,750' strip. The extra will allow more twin engines to land, more fuel sales and we can be competitive. It will increase the dynamics. Mayor Williams stated all the hangars are full, will the new runway bring more hangars, Mr. Peterson stated yes. He knows of people that came to Payette due to our airport. Having fuel at our airport is huge. Jensen commented when have big project and you can get ¾ of it paid by another party that is great, kudos for getting grant money. Mr. Peterson stated when Bill Statham from the Idaho Aeronautics was here, he had an opportunity to provide us more money and it could have gone to any other airport in Idaho, but he gave it to us. He thanked the city for turning dust bowl in a beautiful parking lot.

Sonja Strong, 1323 North 6th Street, addressed the Council. She asked about the power point and the 15%. She also wanted to know if there is going to be another public hearing. Mayor Williams stated they set the tentative budget and they can lower it, but not raise it. Ms. Strong asked about parks, some are not parks, some are just land the City owns. What can we do to unload and not have the liability for that so we are not paying for that? She stated when you look on the internet, most recent salaries are from 2012. She was astonished to see what some of the employees are making. Ms. Cordova is making a large salary and if she worked for county she would make about 1/3 less. Mr. Strong is fine with police officers are making. She is concerned about how high

some of the salaries are. When look at what the average person makes, it is considerably lower than the rest of town. She doesn't feel we need to be adding more to it. The Council needs to be bringing down increases in pay and department budgets. She does appreciate several amenities we offer, but does see places we can tightening our belt.

Scott McDonald, 1012 1st Avenue South addressed the Council. He stated his kids are wanting to leave. He has only been here for two years. Asked if there is a program to get more businesses here. If keeps getting drained, his kids are taking about going someplace else. We need to make choices to keep kids here. People are barely making it now, and people will get to the point of making the decision to leave. People are being taxed heavy. The Library is excellent and he supports the library and supports some of the parks, but they are empty. The City should focus on the ones that are used the most, is that something we should tweak a little bit. Will his kids want to buy a house and raise a family here, came from Utah where it is very urban. This is very quiet here. Growth is going to happen and how do we manage it. Mayor Williams stated part of the proposed budget are funds for downtown revitalization. The Mayor stated he has five kids, some went away and some came back, need to let them flap their wings. Dale stated since parks have come up several times she wanted to inform him that families have gave them to the City. We are pen for suggestions from our citizens. Jensen concerns are if the kids don't like the town or don't have a future that is the feeling he is getting. Wickersham stated that is true of all small towns. Sands stated jobs have slowly vanished and it is not the city's job to fill the downtown businesses. Have to have the jobs and they will fill. The only thing we can do is keep the taxes low so the businesses will come. Mr. McDonald stated growth is going to happen, but need to control it. Sands stated we provide police, fire, street, water and sewer and the others are amenities we have. We can't fix all of it, but we can fix some of it.

Amy Brown, 320 S. 20th Street, addressed the Council. She is president of the Friends of the Library. As a city you are only required to provide basics, but what keeps people in a town is all the other amenities. They could live anywhere and what choices them to stay in Payette. What are we offer are the amenities, that is what has kept them here. It is one of the best libraries in the valley. We live in a town that children receive free lunches, we are a low income town, the library is essential. We have children that come and use the internet and get books, they can't afford to go to movies, and our library now provides movies. The library is absolutely necessary to make our town a better place.

Ms. Cordova addressed questions. Mayor Williams state the 15% includes SEREDA, Snake River Transit, marketing and downtown revitalization, salary and benefits are also included. Jensen address a question to Mr. DeGraff, we are balancing budget by balancing the levy. Mr. DeGraff stated doesn't want to live in a community that can't balance their budget. He balances his budget and doesn't know why the city can't do the same. He stated that Mr. Peterson enlightened him about the airport. If we are spending this much on salaries, how much do we get in return for marketing? Dale encouraged him to attend meetings and by getting feedback from citizens, it makes a better community. Wickersham stated there are committees that citizens can get involved with.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:17 PM

7:18 PM – Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Payette City Council was called to order at 7:18 PM by Mayor Jeff Williams in the City Council Chambers of Payette City Hall, 700 Center Avenue.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Williams, Ray Wickersham, Craig Jensen, Jeff Sands, Lee Nelson and Nancy Dale
Members Absent: Mark Heleker
Staff Present: Mary Cordova, City Coordinator; Steve Castenada, Fire Chief; Jake Hust, Water Superintendent; Jamie Couch, Street Superintendent; Erin Haley, Library Director; Randy Fales, Park Superintendent; Bert Osborn, City Attorney ; Mark Clark , Chief of Police; Ed Franek, Shop Superintendent; John Plaza, Gary Marshall, Cody May-Miller, Randall Yates, Greg Speulda and Bobbie Black, Deputy City Clerk.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by April Ehrlich.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

April Ehrlich from the Independent Enterprise addressed the Council. She stated last week she walked past Kiwanis Park and had numerous mosquito bites. Her co-worker stated they are always awful in the parks. Ms. Ehrlich suggested maybe not water so much.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 08-03-2015 Public Hearing & Regular Meeting:

A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Wickersham to approve the minutes of 08-03-2015 Public Hearing & Regular with the following changes on page 4 remove sentence "Dale stated that the planning and zoning has already looked over this ordinance and gather that they are not taking over this ordinance and on Page 3 under communications last sentence to read Hispanics are becoming a larger percentage of our community.

After a voice vote by the Council, the motion CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF BILLS & PAYROLL

A motion was made by Sands and seconded by Nelson to approve the City Bills & Payroll in the amount of \$343,127.13.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Wickersham, Sands, Jensen, Nelson and Dale.

The motion CARRIED.

SPECIAL ORDERS

A. Oath of Office – Michael Boudreau

Chief Clark introduced Officer Boudreau to the Council. He will go to police academy in January and has 10 weeks of FTO to complete. Mayor Williams administered oath of office to Michael Boudreau

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Thank You – Connie Traugher
- B. Crapo Town Meeting – August 25th
- C. Thank You – Cline Family
- D. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

At the roll call:

Ayes: Wickersham, Sands, Jensen, Nelson and Dale.

The motion CARRIED.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

- A. Police Department – July 2015: Chief Clark discussed his July report. The department has been very busy. They have had an opportunity to talk to schools on safety. Brent Arms had a citizen's night out and they participated. He is still conducting interviews for one more position on department. He has made an offer to someone, but is still early on. He informed the Council about the Miracle Field being burglarized and vandalized. They arrested 3 juveniles in connection with that. His department is getting ready for Cruise Night, and they will handle on their own this year with the County's help
- B. Fire Department – July 2015: Ms. Black informed the Council that the Spaghetti feed did well and served approximately 375 people.
- C. Airport Commission – August 10th:
- D. Library Commission – August 13th: Erin Haley addressed the Council. She stated their numbers are increasing and they are very busy. Library is looking ahead for the future and working towards the fall fundraiser.
- E. Historical Commission – August 17th:

MAYORS COMMENTS:

Mayor Williams informed the Council that tomorrow is a meeting with ITD regarding Highway 95 between Payette and Weiser at 1:30 in Weiser.

The Council was provided with conflict of interest and ethics manual for city officials from AIC. Mayor Williams stated he does appreciate all the comments from the public and encourages everyone to attend council meetings.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

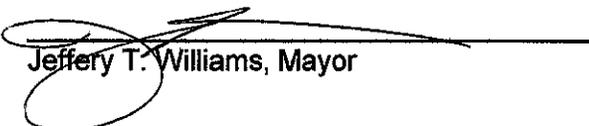
Sands asked about crosswalk on Highway 52, and Jamie Couch stated there will be a crosswalk and signs so they can use it. We had to use the ones we had when someone ran over the ones on Center Avenue, or would have been done.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jensen and seconded by Dale to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:45 pm

After a voice vote by the Council, the motion CARRIED.

Signed this 17th day of August, 2015.


Jeffery T. Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:


Bobbie Black
Deputy City Clerk