

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF DRIGGS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2009**

Pursuant to adjournment of the Special City Council meeting held November 12, 2009, and the call of the Mayor, the Driggs City Council met in regular session **Tuesday November 17, 2009**, at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken and present were council members: George Mosher, Dan Powers, Greer Jones and Colin Dye, Mayor Louis Christensen, City Attorney Stephen Zollinger, Planning and Zoning Administrator Doug Self, Financial Official Officer Amy Smith, and Public Works Director Jared Gunderson. Council Member Mosher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES TO REVIEW

Council Members reviewed the minute from the City Council Meeting.

Council Member Mosher made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2009 City Council Meeting. Council Member Dye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS REVIEW

Council members reviewed the claims.

Council Member Mosher made a motion to approve the claims as presented dated November 4, 2009 through November 17, 2009. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5-YEAR TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN/2011 LRHIP APPLICATION

Doug Self stated the LRHIP (Local Rural Highway Improvement Project) Grant was due December 1, 2009 and that the CIP (Capital Improvements Plan) should accompany the submittal for a higher score. He further stated that because other items were of greater importance on the CIP, the amount of money for the Johnson Avenue project would be reduced. If paving took place between Main Street and Ruby Street on Johnson Avenue, other projects, such as obtaining a plow truck and replacing the water lines on Main Street in 2011, would have to be on hold. Mr. Self stated that the gravel road should be rebuilt properly and the drainage issues should be fixed on Johnson.

Council Member Mosher did not feel the magnesium-chloride lasted long enough to use effectively on Johnson Avenue. Mayor Louis Christensen stated that if the application was done correctly it should last a few months. Mr. Self felt that if the drainage problems were fixed, the application of magnesium-chloride might last even longer.

Council Member Mosher stated he approved of the CIP. Council Member Powers questioned the amount of funds that would be needed. Mr. Self stated that the estimate from 5th Street to the middle school was \$85,000, which was in a similar condition to

Johnson Avenue. He felt that a grant for \$100,000 would reasonably cover the anticipated funds.

Council Member Powers questioned if the Safe Routes to School Grant could be obtained earlier. Mr. Self explained that since it was a grant, there were certain timelines that had to be followed. He thought the City could start work in 2011 but would not be reimbursed until 2012. He further stated that the Transportation Plan stated that the City should invest \$100,000 a year in maintenance or upgrade projects.

Mr. Self stated that if a used plow truck was purchased, more money could be used for the Johnson Avenue project. Jared Gunderson explained that a plow truck would not be purchased until the next fiscal year.

Council Member Mosher made a motion to approve the CIP Transportation Plan as presented covering 2010 to 2014. Council Member Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

WATER RATE DISCUSSION AND PLAN

Amy Smith explained the water rate increase as discussed at the work session. She gave a comparison of the current rates, the original rate increase and the rate increase recently discussed on November 12, 2009. Council Member Powers questioned how many consumers used over 50,000 gallons of water a month. Ms. Smith responded stating that consuming that large amount usually took place in the summer months and were more likely to be in newer developments where landscaping was required. She stated that those with the largest water bill would be the school, mobile home parks and apartments. Ms. Smith concluded stating she would recreate a year with the new water rates to show the difference.

Council Member Mosher stated that the City should create a “sales pitch” as to why this increase was needed and where the money would go. He felt a good presentation was needed and should be created in a work session.

Ms. Smith stated that to fully fund the depreciation cost, the City should bring in at least \$115,000 in revenue. Council Member Mosher stated that with the rate increase, he felt the City was “still being cut short.”

Mayor Christensen stated a letter had been sent to the City from Fred Johnson, who stated the City should replace meters with the MXU devices so they can be read every month. Council Member Powers stated that residents could purchase a MXU if they felt it was necessary.

Ms. Smith stated that as part of the “sales pitch” the Council should consider giving rebates for installing low-flow toilets or showerheads. She also felt education on “what it really takes to water a lawn” should be given to the community.

Discussion of 'stub-out' fees began. Mr. Self felt that if one own property and had the right to tap into the line at any time, with the City maintaining it, a fee should be administered. Council Member Powers also felt that a fee should be assessed, as the City had to provide capacity for those lots. Stephen Zollinger stated he was unsure if this was allowable, stating that it may have to be charged to an impact fee because a person can not get water without first coming to the City. He further stated that the current Will-Serve letters state that a development may be in an area where water could be accessed but it did not guarantee that a property would get water. After further researching this, Stephen Zollinger stated that the statue defines this as an impact and therefore must be charged as an impact fee.

Council Member Powers questioned if a standby fee should be administered. Currently \$15 was charged to turn on or off water. Discussion of \$50-\$65 for a standby fee began.

Ms. Smith suggested looking at the rates again with the fixed and variable costs in mind to cover bonds and overhead expenses. She would gather more information for the next Council meeting.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

Mr. Self asked the Council to read the Staff report in their packets. He stated there was a sign request of the Driggs Geotourism Center. Reid Rogers stated he would like to change the name to coordinate with the 100th anniversary of the City and thought the name of the plaza should be the Centennial Plaza. He further updated the Council on the RFP proposals and stated drawings for the Visitor's Center should be submitted by the end of the month.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Gunderson discussed purchasing tracks for the plow. He stated he would like to budget \$14,000 for next year to be able to do so. Council Member Powers questioned the advantage of having tracks versus tires. Mr. Gunderson stated the difference would be the distribution of the weight, which would be noticeable on asphalt and ice. Mr. Gunderson then discussed the different bids received for the tracks.

Council Member Mosher made a motion to approve the bid from Pioneer for the skid steer loader with the attachments. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Gunderson stated a sample light fixture shield was placed on a streetlight at 5th and Little Avenue. New flags and Christmas lights would be put up next week. The START bus would house buses at the Public Works building for the year. Scott Smith would continue to work on the BMX Park.

Mr. Gunderson felt the City should have a contract with a towing company so that fees were set. He would distribute an RFP for that.

During the winter months, plowing would be broken up between the Public Works employees in order to cover both day and night time snow storms.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Centennial Funding

Mayor Christensen read a list of those who are on the Centennial Committee.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the list of names for the Centennial Committee. Council Member Mosher seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mayor Christensen stated the committee was trying to raise money by selling T-shirts, mugs and various other items. They were asking for "seed money" to start marketing the Centennial and questioned if the Council would be willing to fund \$8,000 for such project for the entire year. He stated any funds that were made would be given back to the City for the Centennial Plaza or to make Main Street more appealing. Council Member Mosher questioned if the funds could be given throughout the year as opposed to giving the committee \$8,000 at once. Mayor Christensen felt that would be agreeable. Reid Rogers stated that the Chamber of Commerce might also contribute as the year goes on.

Council Member Mosher made a motion to approve \$2,000 for use by the Centennial Committee and would readdress the request quarterly. Council Member Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The Teton Valley Chamber of Commerce wants to do a Centennial Edition for the Visitors Guide and requested funds. Reid Rogers stated that a grant from the State for the publication of the guide was received and expired in December. Council Member Powers questioned if sponsorships were received from the businesses being advertised in the guide. Mr. Rogers responded stating that would take place.

Council Member Powers felt "this is worthwhile" and was an investment in resort tax revenues. Mr. Rogers explained the physical distribution of about 50,000 copies and stated that the guide would also be placed on the website.

Council Member Powers made a motion to appropriate \$1,000 to the Teton Valley Chamber of Commerce Visitors Guide. Council Member Mosher seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Mosher made a motion to go into executive session at 8:55pm pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345(f). Council Member Jones seconded the motion. Schuehler took a roll-call vote: Dan Powers, aye; Greer Jones, aye; George Mosher, aye; Colin Dye, aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council came out of executive session at 9:22pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Mosher made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

ATTEST:

Sonya Adams, City Clerk

Louis B. Christensen, Mayor