



CITY OF DRIGGS  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
MARCH 20, 2012

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Pursuant to adjournment of the City Council meeting held March 6, 2012, and to the call of the Mayor, the Driggs City Council met on March 20, 2012 at 7:15 p.m. Present: Council President Mosher; Council Members Dye, Jones, Mossman; Mayor Powers. Also present: Planning & Zoning Director Self and Public Works Director Gunderson. Excused: City Attorney Zollinger. Powers led in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

#### Approval of Minutes

- February 21, 2012: **Mossman moved to accept the February 21, 2012 minutes as corrected. Jones seconded.** Motion carried.
- March 6, 2012: **Jones moved to accept the March 6, 2012 minutes as corrected. Mosher seconded.** Motion carried.

#### Approval of Claims

- Questions:
  - Teton Valley News: Huntsman Spring Public Hearing Charge
  - Wy-Idaho: Senior Circulator Line Repair (will bill back to Senior Center)
  - US Chemical/Pump Tech: SW Lift Repair
  - Treasure Valley: Water Charges
  - Freedom Mailing
- **Mosher moved to approve Claims dated March 06-20, 2012 as presented. Mossman seconded.** Motion carried.

#### 7:32 p.m. Public Hearing to Increase Sewer Rates by Resolution # 269-12

Powers opened the Public Hearing with a brief history of how the rate change was determined. Two-thirds of sewer costs are associated with providing capacity while one-third is associated with actual operations costs. By moving rates proportionally with line size, users will be billed more accurately i.e. 2/3 base and 1/3 usage. Mossman asked that a fourth "whereas" statement be added to read: "WHEREAS, the City endeavors to make user fees as equitable as possible." The floor was opened for comments:

- FOR
  - Greg Freebish spoke on behalf of the Creekside Condominiums HOA at Teton Creek Resort. He stated that past billing practice "was not equitable," with each homeowner being billed individually versus per building. He asked for clarification that each building will be billed base plus consumption above base. Powers confirmed that the HOA will be billed per line size per building. Freebish went on to state that he "hopes that is how this [billing] will fall out" as he and the other HOA members are all in favor of the change.
- NEUTRAL = none
- AGAINST = none

Powers stated that no written comments were received. With no further discussion, the public hearing was closed.

**7:50 p.m. The regular session was rejoined.**

**Mosher moved to approve the first reading of Resolution #269-12 noting corrections: May 1<sup>st</sup> effective date, adding a fourth whereas statement, and minor typographical corrections. Jones seconded. Motion carried.**

**Ratification of Grant Agreement and approval of Resolution # 271-12 accepting the grant offer of the State of Idaho for the Airport Master Plan Update**

Mossman questioned what project was associated with this grant. Powers clarified that there is no specific project associated with this grant. Funds will be used to help pay for updating the airport's master plan. An example of a required update is the anticipated move of 1000 North in fiscal year 2012. The change will need to be included in the master plan. **Mosher moved to ratify the grant agreement with the Idaho Transportation Department, Division of Aeronautics for the Project: Master Plan Update, Program number FAA8DIJ, Project number 3-16-012-011. Mossman seconded. Motion carried.**

**Public Works – Jared Gunderson**

- **Snow Removal Policy:** A revised snow removal policy was presented for Council review/recommendations. Essentially, the policy outlines when and how Public Works will conduct its removal of snow and ice during winter months. It also outlines resident and business owner responsibilities for snow removal. As a policy, formal adoption by the Council is not required; however, a finalized copy will be brought back to the Council for review.
- A **"LEAK TEST" checklist** has been developed for residents & for City staff to go through with residents before requesting Public Works personnel to "check for a leak." The checklist will be included in the City's spring newsletter.
- **Chip Sealing:** Gunderson has met with Teton County Idaho Engineer Jay Mazalewski to prioritize road repair this summer with possible use of the County's chip sealer and Durapatch machine. Focus for chip sealing will be the "older part of town" including Little Avenue & 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Funds are included in this year's budget for sealing with ¼" chips instead of the 3/8" used in 2011. Although the smaller chip costs more, it remains on the road better and should decrease costs farther into the future. Discussion followed on the need for the City to be proactive with road maintenance because good maintenance will increase roadway life. Which road(s) within City limits was discussed (Harper in 2012) and how to pay for repairs. Teton County anticipates running a new road levy on the May 2012 ballot. If passed, the City will receive slightly more than the levy that ends this fiscal year. Dye questioned whether or not an LID (local improvement district) was a consideration. Consensus of the Mayor and other Council members was, "no," especially not this fiscal year.
- **State Water Grant:** Gunderson reported that the City received the #1 rating for grant funding with the State of Idaho for water repairs. He has the grant application completed and will be submitting it soon for fiscal year 2013. Anticipated work includes repair on the

300,000 gallon water tank, State Line pressure issues, High School well repair, and installation of a "green" micro-hydro generator on the Spring line.

- **Council Public Works Questions:** Dye asked whether or not highway funds may be used to install school zone flashing lights. Gunderson has spoken with Superintendent Woolstenhulme. The School District will "go in" with the City on cost of installation. Dye also reported heavy road break-up on Howard, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Powers responded that he will be negotiating with Teton Valley Hospital and the School District for financial assistance to repair these high use streets.

#### **Mayor's Report:** Daniel J Powers

- **Airport Board Appointment:** With Mike Etchemendy's resignation there is an opening on the Airport Board. Lou Christensen, Airport Board chair, was appointed as an alternate, Powers recommended that Christensen be appointed as a full member with no alternate appointed. **Dye moved to change Lou Christensen's Airport Board status to that of full member. Mossman seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Council Representative:** Powers reported that Dye will no longer be serving as Council representative to the Airport Board. **Mosher agreed to serve effective with the March 21, 2012 Airport Board meeting.**
- **Council Activity on Boards & Committees:** Powers encouraged members of the City Council to "come to me with ideas and things you want to do." He would like to see stronger participation by the Council on other City boards and committees. After discussion, **Mosher agreed to serve on the Tree and the Arbor Day Committees. Jones will serve on the Parks Committee.**

#### **Planning & Zoning:** Doug Self

- **Policy on Public Lighting Standards:** Self handed out a copy of a memorandum he received from Carl Jordan. Jordan provided background information on why outdoor lighting should be important, why light color is important, and whether or not a 3200 kelvins limitation would exclude future LED applications. Jordan's memorandum listed a number of web-sites and video links in favor of the "Dark Skies Initiative" which promotes efficient and effective lighting (illumination) consistent with public policy while preventing "the degradation of the night sky from light pollution."

In response to Council questions, a copy of the draft Public Lighting Policy for the City of Driggs was provided. Council members expressed concerns connected with street light placement, pathway lighting, vandalism, and City needs versus residents' desires. In response to these concerns, Jordan reviewed each of the ten recommendations listed in the draft policy. Mossman pointed out that studies have shown that street lights are not as important to public safety as most people assume. Jones expressed his concern for resident safety. Powers stated his preference to use well lighted streets when biking or walking in the City.

Self wrapped up this portion of the meeting by stating the he would like to bring the policy back to the Council in April for approval in the form of a resolution. The Lighting Committee plans on holding a public workshop in May to inform residents of the policy and what it will mean to them and to the City. Powers reinforced the fact that the policy does not mean

that the City is going to move to all LED lighting; rather, the policy is an attempt to ensure that LED lighting is not specifically excluded.

- **Activity Update:** Self provided the following activity update:
  - **5<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk Bid:** Action Excavation was the low bidder on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk. CM Concrete will serve as one of the sub-contractors. Bids were received from Action, MD Nursery, and HK Construction. With dry weather a May start date is anticipated.
  - **The Tiger IV Grant** application has been submitted. If awarded, funds will be used on the proposed Transportation Center (along with 5309 Grant funds) and the Park & Ride Lot.
  - **Willows Re-plat** will be ready for Council review at the April 17 meeting
  - **Design Review** has been done for the Law Enforcement Center concept and the Pet Center. Design/Height review for the proposed vodka distillery north of Driggs has been completed.
  - A review of the **City's nuisance code** is underway to bring it up to date and make it more comprehensive. Once adopted, a City wide cleanup effort will be conducted.
  - Dye asked about the status of the **Rails-to-Trails** pathway from Tetonia to Driggs. Self responded that the Teton Valley Trails and Pathways organization is working on the project, including determining landowners and then notifying them. There is some land along the proposed pathway owned by the State but most is in private hands.

#### **Council Discussion:**

- **Geo-Tourism Center:** Jones relayed concerns he has, and concerns he has received from City residents, on the proposed facility at City Hall:
  - The inclusion of a retail space when initial concept was no competition with established businesses.
  - The purchase of art work when there is no building for displaying it.
  - No financial accounting from Reid Rodgers.
  - The large increase in building size requiring increased funding.
  - The City's financial obligation once the building is complete.
  - Recreation plans for the North-end of City Hall targeted at kids.
    - Powers responded that a meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 26 in which a cut-off timeline will be discussed to move forward on the project. He went on to give some history concerning the building and original concept and changes that have been proposed. One major change is in the estimated project cost. Originally at \$800,000, the latest estimate is at \$1.8 Million. To meet minimal grant requirements, the project can be scaled down to 3,000 sq. ft. with public restrooms. If scaled down, the City Council will have to prioritize which projects it wants to continue/support as the smaller scale will intrude into existing north-end space. Powers reinforced that, "the City will not approve any thing [building] that is not fully funded."
    - Gunderson questioned why the art work purchased could not be displayed at City Hall or other sites around town. Powers responded that the 'Buffalo Building' downtown has been mentioned as a temporary facility

- Aaron Little, Urban Renewal Board member, responded that no design has been presented for the exterior plaza because there is no finalized plan on what the building will be. He emphasized that “once the building is given over to the City, decisions will not be up to the URA.” Little pointed out that National Geographic is anticipated to be involved with the center and that National Geographic retail will be expected in the building. He went on to say, “Receiving that logo on the door at no additional cost will save the City thousands of dollars [in franchise fees].” Powers concurred stating, “If National Geographic comes in, and expects retail, there will be retail.” Little also pointed out that the City would determine which non-profit/agency would be responsible for operating the facility and deciding what would or would not be offered at retail. Finally, Little expressed his and other URA members’ frustration with the lack of action surrounding the Geo-tourism Center; “We love the project we love - because we have been doing it for five years.”
- Mossman expressed his opinion that the Geo-tourism Center is “a great concept”; however, he believes that there has not been one group or person taking the lead to manage such a big project
- **Skyliner Club:** Dye briefly discussed the new Skyliner Club and its members’ interest in participating in *The Great Snow Fest* next year by sponsoring a snow machine race. Dye will serve as the Club’s representative to the Council and will keep the Council informed of activities.

**9:40 p.m. Adjournment**

With no further business, **Dye moved to adjourn. Jones seconded.** Motion carried.

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Mayor: Daniel J Powers

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Attest: Carol Lenz, Finance Officer

Dated this 3rd Day of April, 2012.