



CITY OF DRIGGS  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
April 3, 2012

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Pursuant to adjournment of the City Council meeting held March 20, 2012, and to the call of the Mayor, the Driggs City Council met on April 3, 2012 at 7:15 p.m. Present: Council President Mosher; Council Members Dye, Jones, Mossman; Mayor Powers. Also present: City Attorney Zollinger and Public Works Director Gunderson. Powers led in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

#### Agenda Amendment

- Powers requested an agenda amendment to add TRPTA. **Dye moved to amend the agenda to add a presentation from TRPTA after claims. Jones seconded.** Motion carried.

#### Approval of Minutes

- March 20, 2012: **Jones moved to accept the March 20, 2012 minutes as corrected. Mossman seconded.** Motion carried.

#### Approval of Claims

- Powers requested addition of one (1) invoice to Hally Loe for \$464.00 in payment of commission for DDCA map advertising sales. DDCA has deposited funds with the City to cover Loe's claim.
- Questions:
  - ICRMP Insurance
  - Ballard Insurance: Buydown
  - BCI: Chain Link Backstop [Lions Park]
  - Environmental Chemical: Control Board [Teton Creek Well]
- **Dye moved to approve Claims dated March 20-April 3, 2012 as presented with the addition of Hally Loe for \$464.00. Mossman seconded.** Motion carried.

#### TRPTA Presentation

- Amanda Ely, from TRPTA (Targhee Regional Public Transportation Authority), presented council members with a request for funding contribution for FY 2013 in the amount of \$5,000.00. Ely highlighted Authority programs, total funding needs, and how contribution requests were determined. She confirmed that TRPTA is part of the LINX transportation system.
- Powers and the Council thanked Ely for attending. Powers informed her that the City's FY 2013 budget process will begin in May and that TRPTA's request will be considered.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #269-12

- Powers highlighted the corrections made from the first reading. Discussion focused on 'Disconnect & Reconnect Fees'. Dye stated his belief that eliminating the disconnect fee would cause the City to lose money. Gunderson countered that people are "getting better" at uncovering their meters before Public Works arrives which takes less time. Mosher asked about inserting an "exception" clause. Zollinger discouraged inclusion of such a clause due to the vagueness of what would constitute an exception and who would determine.

- After further discussion, **Mosher moved to approve the second reading of Resolution #269-12. Mossman seconded.** Motion carried. The third and final reading of this resolution will take place on April 17 at the next Council meeting.

### Scenic Byway Center/Building Discussion

- Powers opened by talking about the 3/26 PAC (Project Advisory Committee) meeting and its members' review of the current project status. He informed the Council that the PAC has determined that the proposed construction budget is "out of line" with available funds and that waiting for additional funding is no longer an option. Questions posed to the Council were: (1) should the City continue to pursue original ITD [Idaho Transportation Department] grant funds; (2) should the City pursue grant funding in a way that incorporates the City of Victor in a broader, more regional tourism plan; and/or (3) should the City pursue a relationship with National Geographic and its proposed Geo-tourism Center?
- Original grant funds were awarded by ITD to build a road-side visitor center with public restrooms and plaza. Bill Shaw, from ITD, has notified the PAC that the original grant may need to be reviewed since it was awarded five years ago. The PAC would like to pursue these funds by scaling the plan back to the original concept of approximately 3,000 sq. ft. on the north-end of City Hall which would encroach into the existing building.
  - Jones questioned why money would be spent on a plaza and not on building updates. Powers explained that a plaza was part of the original grant application and although one has not been designed, funding would be provided for a plaza.
  - Dye is concerned about losing recreational opportunities in the rest of the north-end. He noted that the structural investigation done by Compass Consulting on April 20, 2011 does not include any cost estimates. Powers agreed that it would be a good idea to hire an engineer and get a cost estimate to ensure that the north-end of City Hall could structurally accommodate the proposed visitor center. He assured the Council that the Compass investigation confirms that the building is "structurally sound" and that it is "not unsafe" in any way. A change in use for the building may trigger unknowns which would have to be researched based on current building codes.
- The second question posed to the Council was whether or not to broaden the tourism concept to include the City of Victor in a "joint project". Zach Smith, Victor Mayor, let the Council know that he and his Council would be "behind Driggs 100%" should it decide to expand its original application. Smith mentioned the "old Depot" and the "theater" in Victor as two buildings that could/might be incorporated into an expanded project focused on tourism.
  - Powers agreed with Smith that a joint proposal may strengthen the current [and future] grant proposal(s). He warned that additional funding is "unlikely" under the current grant, even if the scope is expanded. Smith pointed out that the Victor theater would be a good fit for the geo-tourism center's proposed theater to show movies, etc. The existing Depot would be an ideal spot for a scenic by-way for tourists. Bill Knight, Victor Planning Administrator, spoke of Victor's application for a Scenic By-way grant to develop the Depot into an Interpretive Center. Victor will know in approximately one month whether or not it has been awarded the grant for \$380,000.

- Zollinger deflected concern that the ITD was “leaning” toward Victor in grant awards because of its position at a highway crossroad. “Highway 33 is considered the traffic corridor by the ITD. One intersection does not matter.”
- The third question posed to the Council was whether or not to pursue the Geo-tourism Center. Powers pointed out that at this time, the Geo-tourism Center is more of a “brand” than a building. To date there has been no firm commitment of funding from National Geographic.
- Powers answered questions from the audience about the original project scope and about the loan being sought by the Driggs Urban Renewal Agency.
- With no further questions or comments, **Jones moved to abandon expanded plans for a geo-tourism center in Driggs and to scale the project back to the original proposal of a visitor center, public restroom, and plaza when funds are available. Mossman seconded.** Motion carried.

#### Public Works – Jared Gunderson

- **Bid Schedules: Harper Avenue, Howard Avenue [2nd Block], & Howard Avenue [2<sup>nd</sup> Block]: Option A**  
Gunderson provided the Council with copies of the three bid schedules listed above. Harper Avenue will run from Main Street to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, paid for with County Road Levy; Howard Avenue #2 would run from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> past the first bus loop, paid for with funds from the City, School District #401 [still in negotiation], & Teton Valley Hospital (TVH). A signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been received from TVH; Howard #2, Option A would extend Howard #2 to the second bus loop. The additional cost for Option A may have to be paid by School District #401, depending on bids received.
  - Fall River & Silverstar will be contacted for the opportunity to lay conduit while the roadways are open. The City will lay its own 2” conduit for future use.
  - **Mosher moved to approve the MOU with TVH for road work on Howard Avenue #2. Mossman seconded.** Motion carried.
  - **Mosher moved to approve bid release for construction on Harper & Howard [#2] Avenues. Jones seconded.** Motion carried.
- **Lions Park:** A brief discussion was held on the new chain link backstop. There was also discussion on the condition of the concrete fence and non-park use of garbage cans [dumping]. Even though the fence does function as a barrier, it is crumbling and concern is that it will become a hazard. Options for replacement in next year’s park budget will be reviewed during the FY 2012 budget process. An Eagle Scout Project or a 4-H Project may be options for fence repair/replacement. Dumping garbage at the City’s parks is becoming a real problem. Gunderson will remove the cans for now and look into ‘No Dumping’ signage for future use.
- **Skate Park:** Gunderson’s recommendation to not open the restroom or have lights on at night was not accepted by the Council. If being used, amenities should be available as appropriate.
- **Street Sweeping:** Complements to Public Works for the job done so far. Powers asked for increased effort on Main Street.

## Planning & Zoning – Doug Self [absent]

- Powers answered question from the Council based on the written report provided by Self. Items in the report included: the Idaho Rural Partnership ‘Community Review’ slated for September 11 & 12; Bus Garage ITD grant application; Grand Targhee Shuttle funding award for winter 2012-2013; Gem Grant application update; 5309 Transit Center grant application update; Park Committee Notes; and the Lighting Ordinance Open House scheduled for May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

## Mayor’s Report: Daniel J Powers

- **1000 N at Airport:** Powers provided the Council with a spreadsheet of the FY 2012 Resort Tax budget noting anticipated revenue/expenses and reserve. This information was provided in light of a conversation Powers had with Lillian Bowman, Airport Board Consultant, on the reduction in funding from the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) for the planned move/upgrade of 1000 N at the Airport. In the past, the FAA has match projects at 95%. This fiscal year, the match has been reduced to 90%. The Airport’s required match has increased \$60-80 Thousand.
  - Lou Christensen, Airport Board Chair, has confirmed a \$30,000 commitment toward match. Powers recommended a match from the City between \$30 & \$37 Thousand.
  - Questions concerning School District assistance and Road Levy funds were addressed.
  - Throughout the discussion, Dye expressed his adamant opposition to spending City funds toward the move/upgrade of 1000 N.
  - **Mosher moved to authorize City payment toward FAA match for the move/upgrade of 1000 N at the Airport in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from Resort Tax. Jones seconded. Dye, nay; Jones, Mosher, Mossman, aye;** Motion carried.
- **SE Parking Lot Fence:** (1) Powers was approached by Ken Chambers to involve area 4-H Clubs as volunteer labor to install a screening fence at the SE Parking Lot with the City purchasing materials. Considerations include type of fence, pedestrian pass-through, possible landscaping, and snow removal in winter. **This item was tabled** until more information can be brought back for review/discussion. (2) Replacement of curbing will need to be done at some future date.
- **Arbor Day:** Scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. the focus this year will be on the downtown area and will include Silverstar and other businesses TBD.
- **Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC)** has expressed interest in the ‘Old Ford Garage’ as a site to hold courses of interest to the community. An information Open House to gauge public interest has been scheduled for the evening of May 10.
- **May 15 Election:** The election is the same day as the regular Council meeting. Consensus was reached to **move the Council meeting to Wednesday, May 16 at 7:15** in Council Chambers.

## 9:45 p.m. Executive Session

**Mosher moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 (f) Legal Considerations. Jones seconded.** The question was called by roll: **Dye, aye; Jones, aye; Mosher, aye; Mossman, aye.** Motion carried.

**10:25 p.m.** The Regular Session was rejoined.  
No business was conducted as a result of Executive Session.

**10:25 p.m. Adjournment**

With no further business, **Mosher moved to adjourn. Mossman seconded.** Motion carried.

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Mayor: Daniel J Powers

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Attest: Carol Lenz, Finance Officer

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2012.