

OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Yaeger opened the remote and in person council meeting at 7:00pm. The council members present were Michelle Plumb, Dennis Chamberlain, Jessica Quinn (Zoom), Mike Schrag, Jen Verhey, and William Green. Staff members in attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle Asmussen (Zoom), Public Works Director Dave Breazeale, and City Police Chief Dave McCormick. City Fire Chief Joel Bell and City Attorney John Kragt were excused. Also, present were Linda Schrag, Brian Bothun, Jesse Bowman, Marsha Smith, Bruce Benzel, and Dale Brown from the Cheney Free Press.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Yaeger asked if there were any corrections or additions to the consent agenda. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve the consent agenda for July 16th, 2024, as presented. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS-

ACTION AGENDA

- A. **6th Street Sidewalk Project Bid Award**-The city received 5 bids for the 6th Avenue Sidewalk Project and the lowest bidder was Gongalez Underground with a bid of \$306,500.31. All the bid packets have been sent to TIB. There is a need to do an updated cost estimate for one of the bid prices. The award would be contingent upon TIB's approval of the UCE. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to accept the bid from Gonzalez Underground, LLC for work on 6th Ave sidewalk Improvements in the amount of \$306,500.31 and authorize the mayor to sign the updated cost estimate. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. **Les Schwab Water and Sewer Easement**-Mayor Yaeger stated the documents were reviewed by Attorney Kragt's office and there are no corrections. One of the agreements is for the dedication of a water line and declaration of easement between the City and Les Schwab. The other agreement is a declaration of water and sewer easements between Ritzville and Love's. There is a map on the back of each one and a legal description. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to approve the mayor to sign the Declaration of Water and Sewer Easement between Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc and Watson EWA as described in Exhibits A, B, C1 & C2. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to approve the mayor to sign the Dedication of Water and Declaration of Easement between Watson EWA and the City of Ritzville as described in Exhibits A, B1, & B2. Council Member Jen Verhey seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- C. **2025-2030 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program Plan (STIP)**-Mayor Yaeger plan is drafted for the council to review and then there will need to be a public hearing. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to set a public hearing for the 6th Ave STIP for August 6th, 2024, at 7:10pm. Council Member Jen Verhey seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Mayor Yaeger stated 1st Avenue was number 1 last year, but it's off because it is going this year. It was suggested by Council Member Michelle

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Plumb to move project #5 up to replace #2. Council Member Plumb stated she knows Division is bad all the way down and there are parts that it is the sub-structures that are failing, and it's not just a bad patch job. Chelan and Palouse are listed because some of the hills coming down the intersection of 1st Avenue are starting to crumble, and they have really bad alligating.

- D. Ward #2 Position Letters of Interest**-Mayor Yaeger stated the time has expired on letters of interest for ward #2 council position. There is a letter of interest from Brooke Scheel on June 5th. She is a registered voter, resides in ward #2, and has lived in the Ritzville community for 20 years. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain made a motion to approve Brooke Scheel to fill Ward #2 vacancy. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion. Motion Passed 6-0.
- E. Golf Course Manager**-Mayor Yaeger stated the Golf Course Manager contract was reviewed by the park & rec committee and Kragt's office. This contract will fulfill the remaining golf course managers' contract for the rest of the year. The council gave permission at the last meeting to go out for request for golf course manager proposals. Those were due Monday July 15th, and the city received two proposals. One of the proposals is from Jesse Bowman at \$4,750 per month and the second one was from David Quade and his was \$8,500 per month. Mayor Yaeger spoke to both of them over the phone a couple times. He received a text today from David that he would like to reduce his bid by \$2,800 which would still be \$5,700 per month. They both have their qualifications listed. The parks & rec committee met last night to discuss the proposals. Mayor Yaeger requested moving forward since the prior Golf Manager's last day was yesterday. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to approve the mayor to sign the golf course contract between Jesse Bowman and the City of Ritzville for the amount of \$4,750 per month. Council Member Jen Verhey seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

MAYOR UPDATES: Mayor Yaeger stated the Golf Manager Dan Duff's last day was yesterday, and the public works department is acting as the interim until there was a golf contract in place. Duff had four working rental carts at the golf course, and they will no longer be there. The RGA has worked diligently and hard to take over the cart rental service. They have purchased 10 golf carts and have taken possession of 6 carts now, but they will get the other 4 carts tomorrow. The RGA has also purchased the sand for the greens for \$2,200. Mayor Yaeger thanked the RGA for those purchases. Since we are over halfway through the season, it was decided at the finance committee to only charge half the trail fee season amount for the new rental carts, so they paid for 5 season trail fees for 10 carts.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. Public Works**-Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated the new well was fired up yesterday and it ran, produced water, and everything worked great until it was shut it off. It did exactly what well #9 did when it was shut it off. It slaps the anti-ratchet and makes a horrible sound. The difference between well #9 and well #8 is that well #9 is an oil lube and well #8 is water lubed. We are trying to get away from having to purchase oil and putting oil in our water to lube our bearings. Now you can't take the anti-ratchet off because there is no constant lube to the bearings because it doesn't lube unless the water is running. We are waiting for a call back from the manufacturer of the pump. Breazeale got a response back from POW today about the lift station. He went down

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there yesterday when Varela was in town and the electrical engineer was in town to look at the wiring on the generator. Midland Electric wants to come and inspect the pumps at the end of this week or next week. The guys were down working on 1st street today, but we got a little sidetracked with the generator training and well #8.

- B. Police-**Chief Dave McCormick stated they have been fielding calls on an individual who has been staying under the picnic table by Zips. Officer Dew went up and had a talk with him today, and he said he has funds, and he is trying to get to the coast. He said he would move on, which he did, but he made it about 5 miles west along the freeway. He was hiding behind the sagebrush jumping up pretending to use his fingers like he was shooting at cars. That didn't last long, and the State Patrol went and got him and brought him back. A couple weeks ago Officer Dew's car was taken back to Spokane because it had codes and terrible smells out of the exhaust system, which indicated a problem with the catalytic converters. While one of the mechanics was on a test drive, someone failed to yield and took out the whole front of Officer Dew's patrol car. The insurance company for the shop has spoken with the man that failed to yield and they are trying to come to some sort of agreement. There is substantial damage to the car, and it may be totaled, but we don't know for sure yet. We had to go get Officer Beck-Gmeiner's car from the academy and drop another car off for him. In the meantime, Chief McCormick has spoken to Allen from FCI. Chief McCormick reported a few meetings ago that when Allen had ordered his police replacement stock, he had ordered an extra SUV. I asked him to go ahead and price out the SUV in case the car is totaled. Chief McCormick spoke to the project manager yesterday from Maverik about the sign that needs to be placed on Highway 261. He assured him they put it up, but it keeps blowing over.
- C. Clerk/Treasurer-**Clerk Treasurer Julie Flyckt stated tomorrow Les Schwab's building permit will be issued. They have met all the requirements, making sure they have access to Highway 261. They will have to submit final plans on how that's going to be updated. Flyckt submitted the cemetery and solar projects quarterly reports, and she is working on the reimbursements done as well. At the finance committee meeting, the city's financial consultant Tara Dunford reviewed the city's investment policy and will be working on some cash flow reports. Since there is no golf manager, Flyckt is currently doing the daily deposit at the golf course every day.

ADJOURNMENT-With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Yaeger adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 7:58pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II