



**CITY OF PONDERAY
REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 6th 2019**

MAYOR GEIGER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: MAYOR STEVE GEIGER, COUNCILMEMBER McNEARNEY, COUNCIL MEMBER KUNZEMAN, COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON, COUNCILMEMBER OSBORNE

ALSO PRESENT: ATTORNEY MARSHALL, CLERK WARREN, CHIEF CORNELIUS, ENGINEER HERNDEN, PLANNER MILLER

ABSENT: PLANANER BRUBAKER

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND/OR DISCLOSURES:

Mayor Geiger acknowledged conflict of interest and disclosures statement.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approve Bill \$11,840.08

B. Approve Minutes for April 15th 2019 regular council meeting

C. Acknowledge Treasurers Report

Motion to approve consent agenda

Councilmember Kunzeman/McNearney. All voted in favor. Motion approved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/UPDATES:

MAYOR: -Dogs at large – Brad Mitton-371 Ash, Ponderay: He has been walking around in the evenings and there are a lot of dogs at large. Would the City put something in the paper reminding people that there is an Ordinance in Ponderay requiring people to keep dogs confined so that everyone will be safer. And ask them to pick up after their dogs too.

We had some bids come in for repainting the exterior of City Hall. Two painting bids, the lowest is \$9,850.00- John Williams. We also got two bids for the rain gutters, down spouts and heat tape, the lowest bid was \$2,420.00- Elkhorn Rain Gutters. And replacing support beams and fascia, the low bid was \$2,497.00-Colin Construction. Total is \$14,767.00. ***Motion to fund City Hall improvements as listed***

Councilmember Thompson/Osborne. All voted in favor. Motion approved

Mark Sauter-current president of the Bonner County Fire Chiefs Assoc. – he gave the council a brief breakdown of a community issue that needs to be addresses. Last fall, public became aware that one of our commissioners was interested in looking into how our emergency medical services were delivered across the County. In December, the commissioners sent out a letter to the Chiefs of the fire districts and said that they wanted a public meeting to take input on January 18th. The chiefs wrote a letter back to the commissioners about some EMS issues. There was a pretty good gathering at the meeting. For the most part the Chiefs asked if they could be involved in what the commissioners were going to do with EMS since a number of the departments in the area are first responders, and certainly all the fire districts and volunteer ambulance districts assist with all of our EMS needs. We thought it was important that we somehow be involved in the process. The commissioners, essentially, did not answer. We were never involved in the process. He was approached by some that said, “why don’t you do your own plan?” And present it to the commissioners and see what happens. With some feedback from our group, over the next couple of day they embarked on that and delivered a resolution to the Board of Commissioners on February 12th and said that we would have something to them with in sixty to ninety days with a plan that answered a few of our points that we wanted to stick to. He gave a list of things that they would like to see as a guideline. Our goal is to present our plan to the commissioners.

STREETS/PUBLIC WORKS: Jessie gave an update on Kootenai Cut-Off Road, stamped concrete. Doyle Reader will replace the failing stamped concrete he will also retain and seal the old stamped concrete, so it all looks new. He will honor the bid he gave us last fall.

Striping, they have started. They will do the City parking lot in a couple weeks.

The Anvil Trail bids are back, and the low bidder is C.E. Cramer, under one hundred thousand. Jessie is recommending that we go ahead and use them. Then we will need to wait until we get the easement approved from the property owners. There were citizen questions on the Anvil Trail and how it comes onto highway 200 and if the State will build bike paths or build out for parking. ***Motion to approve C.E. Cramer bid for the Anvil Trail***
Councilmember McNearney/ Kunzeman. All voted in favor. Motion approved

Cedar & Elm repairs: we got a very rough estimate on what it would cost to do some patching on Cedar Street. What Jessie is asking is would council like him to get some bids to reconstruct Cedar street just to see what it would cost from 4th St. to Hwy 200. We will have to see how much money we still have in the budget after we get KCOR and Anvil trail done. ***Motion to approve Jessie to get bids***

Councilmember Osborne/Thompson. All voted in favor. Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS: Sarah Hines-co-founder & President of Planted Roots Foundation. We have been operating since 2010. Our direct goal is to build a recreation center and Hockey Rink for Bonner County. We want to go over the state-of-the-art recreation center that won't just serve one community but will big enough and state of the art to serve our entire community as well as some neighboring communities who do not have access to community centers. Her goal is to spark some interest in joining my project with the current Ponderay LOR Grant. Some of the benefits of a Hockey Rink are: Provides a community safe activity. There are a lot of health benefits. Studies show that youth participating in sports can increase self-esteem, reduce risk of obesity, youth build stronger community ties when involved in sports, they are better communicators, learn leadership skills, learn to respect others and lower drug use and crime rates. We want to build two separate facilities, the Hockey rink, phase one and the recreation center, phase two. Our goal is to find a piece of property that is big enough to fit both together. They do have a piece of property that they are working with Lite House on. It is a twenty one and a half acre piece on Great Northern Road and Woodland Drive. What we have going on with Lite House right now is we have started a dialogue that they would gift us the property, we would have to pay the closing costs. So we would be getting a two and half million dollar property for about one hundred seventy thousand dollars. She presented some statistics from our area. Our Goal is a Bonner County Community membership program. We want to get a recreation center built and we want to partner with the community's, school districts, Cities and businesses to provide an extremely low-priced membership to Bonner County residents. If we could provide a membership to every single student in our school district and their families, it would only cost about one million (\$1,000,000.00) per year. With the Hockey rink and rec center we are hoping to provide about one hundred jobs by the second year of operation. The facility would have a day care, theatre for concerts and stage productions, lap pool, rock climbing wall, a commercial sized kitchen. We will do a solar food truck, solar sidewalks that will be lighted and some solar playgrounds. The solar panels can be programed to display different designs in different colors. The biggest reason that I was hoping the LOR committee will be open to working with us. Because we are already established and have done our footwork we have met with a lot of people getting involved and wanting to help with this project. I know that the LOR grant that was given to Ponderay is a five hundred thousand dollar (\$500,000.00) grant. A hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for planning and four hundred thousand (\$400,000.00) for implementation. That four hundred thousand (\$400,000.00) dollar piece would pay for the entire property and infrastructure, land scaping to reurbanize the property that is on Woodland Drive and Great Northern as well as the drainage and everything that would have to be put in. It would get us moving forward which is a huge thing for us. It was asked if they had raised any other money for construction or beyond? She said no, but currently they do have some investors that have said that if you start, we will help. As a non-profit we have a lot of access to Federal and State grants. One of the projects that we are proposing is an extensive program for all of the disabled adults and children in the community and providing a free membership. We are hoping that this can be funded primarily by private donations. I think it will get done faster especially with the people we have on board who are already interested in helping with the funding.

Person in the audience interrupted and asked if it would be more helpful to hear from the rest of the council because you guys are elected and maybe some other input as part of this discussion and process. Mayor said “absolutely, I always”. Then she interrupted again and said “Just a moment, please.” Everyone here, if you are all elected, maybe it could be more of a dialoge where there is an exchange of information. Because I think we need to be explicitly clear that there are two parallel projects running now for a rec center. LOR’s mission statement is to preserve the rural character of a place. They simply gave one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for the planning process to the City of Ponderay because Jeremy Grimm, who is no longer with LOR but is a local resident and who is friends with Erik Brubaker, and that is how this works. Then Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) is the seed money to start a potential rec center project out of the Field off Dreams. What’s happening at the Field of Dreams is still open to interpretation and that needs to be a process where all the Ponderay residents are giving input back into that. That really did not happen with the planning committee. There was like thirty seven members and less than five of them were residents of Ponderay. I think we should be clear here; Sarah is explicitly, basically ahead of our project that is very similar. She communicated with our City Planner in November before those meetings even started and was excluded. Mayor said that he did not want to be here all night. I really do appreciate it and... She then interrupted the Mayor again said. “ This is what the democratic public input process is Steve and.... Mayor said that you are not on the agenda right now and I always ask the council if they have any questions or comments. She said, “really because i didn’t here that”. Mayor said, “You didn’t let me get to that point.” She continued talking while the Mayor was speaking and said that these are elected people. You were refuting what Sarah is saying and she is presenting to all of you..... Mayor said “First of all, You are not here for recreation anyway. That Field of Dreams has been something that has been known that it is going not be a recreational... She interrupted and said:,” It is a site that is open to interpretation that the people of Ponderay own. That is what Field of Dreams is. Jeremy Grimm, who is not from our community, doesn’t come in and say, Here’s the rec center and here’s more money because we need soccer fields because my kid plays soccer and he is privileged and they bring in a ton of Money.” No kid in our community is going to play soccer out there because it’s about organized sports that start early for privileged people. She kept talking. Mayor said, “well, it’s a good thing that most of our people on the committee.... “Hold on Tara, I’ll end the meeting right now, Ok. Most of the community that you just said..... She said, “were not residents anyway.” Mayor said, “Right, exactly!”. So we are reaching out to the community. Tara asked, “Does the City of Ponderay own the Field of Dreams? Mayor said that is right. Tara said sorry Sarah.

Mayor spoke to Sarah and said, “ I really appreciate all your interest and passion and everything that you are trying to do. I think it is a very honorable thing. I appreciate you coming and sharing with us. Sarah said that when she met with Erik he did not say anything about a rec center being on the board at that time so I didn’t know that you guys were working on any kind of a recreation center. From what he told me the Field of Dreams was literally just going to be soccer and baseball fields. Mayor said that we are just listening to the community. They want indoor recreation. It is not one person just interjecting what is going to happen out there. That is why we are going through this process. Sarah said that our foundation could be working with that planning committee and with Ponderay. We just want to see it come to fruition. Mayor said that we do too. Things are starting to fall into place and that is where we are at with the whole thing. I never knew anything about you until I read the paper. Mayor asked the council if they had any questions? Councilmember McNearney said that we need to take our time and go through this stuff. At this time, we are still trying to decide what the Field of Dreams is going to be. We have taken a lot of public input. We did a questionnaire at Neighbor Days last year and must have gotten over a hundred replies from residents and others. Question from the audience: The Field of Dreams is a potential piece of property where the rec center could potentially come to fruition? It is not tied up in some sort of litigation. Mayor said that we are in an exploratory process at this point is time. That is what we have been doing for the last year since we received the grant. We bought the property specifically for recreation. She said that she thought it was privately owned. She was told some of the history about buying it from the soccer assoc.

Tara Tribbett-bike program: She has been a resident of Ponderay on and off for seven years. My boyfriend was born and raised here. I would just like to add something on the tail end of that: I don’t think that soccer fields, I didn’t know that Sandpoint Soccer Assoc. was trying to purchase the Field of Dreams project, it’s forty acres but we used tax payers money in Ponderay to purchase that land. I do believe that land is open to interpretation. I am currently looking at farming projects for the community. How we can put our young people to work on that land and also, carbon storage so

we can pay our people a universal basic income and leverage them out of poverty here in Ponderay. Poverty is our main government, should be our main government concern here. We are not seeing that. So I do believe that Field of Dreams is open to interpretation and just to be explicitly clear I play organized sports as a child and it is about privilege. So, for example Sandpoint Strikers is a local club and you have to pay to play. You have to pay for new uniforms and your parents have to have cars that are insured and when you travel you stay in a hotel not a motel and it is all about privilege. So soccer fields at Field of Dreams that the residents of Ponderay own have nothing to do with the youth of our community. Therefore, are not even involved in creating governmental sports programs. I know because I play basketball with a little group of boys, here on the court behind the fire station. They are about junior high and they have never played organized sports nor will they, ever. It is about privilege. I believe that Field of Dreams is still open to interpretation. Councilmember Kunzeman asked if she had something to say about bicycles? She said, "this is about private public input process, Gary." Councilmember Kunzeman said that you are on the agenda to talk about a bike program, you need to get on with that. She said, "You are elected to an, Idaho is part of a citizens legislature, which means that you have to be present to publicly get this and not be rude, either." Being a voting member and resident of Ponderay. So the bike program..... Can I have everyone's attention! You guys have seen the infrastructure for it. Just for the people who don't know I am pitching that we start a youth bike program where we work with Waste Management at the Colburn Dump to pull bike out of the metal pile there and I talked to Mellissa Libbers, operations director, and she is interested in the program. She talked to the director, Bob Howard of the whole thing and he said yeah! OK, let's talk about it. I need something from your City government to go forward with that. I thought how that was interesting how receptive they were to that and I think it would be interesting to breach what is happening here in our City government in little old Ponderay with the County. Anybody who uses the Colburn Culver Dump knows that there is bikes and all kind of things of value that get dumped in the metal pile there. Mayor Geiger asked, "What can Ponderay do? I have read all your stuff and I am asking You, right here, in public, to tell us, What can Ponderay do?" OK. If you have read the bike plan, cuz Su told me that the information was submitted to everyone on Thursday, so you had the whole weekend to read everything in the agenda. Then Mellissa said that they can pull the bikes from the dump pile that are donated and set them aside and then bring them here so you can rehab them. We have a bike shop on the other side of 95, Sandpoint sports. They have been there about ten years and I suggested in the outlay that I distributed to everyone and that Su made copies for that we open an account there so kid take those bikes that we bring here, that we pulled from the metal pile and they can rehab them on an account there. Then work in any capacity they want, open to interpretation, working on bikes. So for themselves, their families and then any entrepreneurial capacity. So if they want to fix a bikes and could sell them or whatever. The program is open, it is not linear. So it doesn't start and stop. First of all, I wanted for us to establish a relationship with the County. To have our youth engage with the City government in a capacity, What I hear coming out the mouth of the City Council is not about the youth here and the actual residents of Ponderay. Not in an abstract way, like to ergonomic appropriate a rec center. But they can rehab bikes and break down rebuilt from Waste Management. Mayor asked, "When you say, 'We can open up an account.' Who pays for that? The Tax payers?" Tara said yes, they do. Just like the tax payers, you said that there is, earlier, I didn't know that was how budgeting worked cuz I understood, through Su, like, if you want to find money in the budget you have to re-post the budget and then go through a process where she puts it in the paper and on the windows and then you look for money in the budgeting process because, with, we are going through the meeting after this the budget workshop. Everything is already in play but you said in the meeting, just today, that you could find money in your budget for whatever, painting City Hall. Mayor said for whatever is a needed thing, absolutely. Tara, said yeah this is needed. Like tangible projects. This is a small step, OK! I'm trying to recenter the youth in our community, recenter the people of Ponderay and their actual needs. Mayor said, just not with recreation activities, baseball, soccer, all of that stuff. WAIT! Steve, I have given a large part of my doctoral research program to study issues in public education for children in poverty. So I don't know if you read a recent article about Kootenai elementary school. They are out there saying, Kootenai is trauma informed. They have over four hundred kids so that elementary school so it is already at capacity. Those are our kids from Ponderay and Kootenai that are going to Kootenai elementary school and is trauma informed because those kids are in poverty. Sometimes I think about, Why does a kid that is born and raised in Ponderay. There is many of them that I can name here, but I wont. Many of them are in alternative school or as drop outs. Or are seeing Mr. Marshall and he has to come into play simply because they are raised here and we have a dire issue that is about poverty. So this is a program to recenter the youth. It is like a small step to help us reset our value systems, and budgeting is an immoral document. There are people out there saying that. So, roads over a youth

program. I'm trying to say like, a youth program, let's do it, why not? Especially, I think it's interesting that the County is interested. Mayor said, I think the County should do it. I think we have a great relationship with the County. There are five people that sell and fix bikes in this town and in Sandpoint. Have you talked to Bonner County bicycles at all? Because they do a program very similar to what you are talking about. I encourage everybody to go on the web and look up Bonner County bicycle and you will hear about a lot of this stuff. I went and talked to the guy. They set up the whole system to allow kids to come in there for free to fix their bikes and do these types of things that you are talking about. Tara said that doesn't work with kids in poverty. You have to bring the bikes here. We say that there is an account over at Sandpoint Sports. We figure out how to get the bike over there, so we create some growth mindset, right. Then they can rehab the bikes on their own. Mayor: I don't know if it is as bad as you are making it out to be, Tara. Tara: What the poverty in our community, is not as bad as I am making it out to be? Mayor: yes. Tara: Does it offend you? Mayor: No, not at all. I am a very charitable giving person. I go out and help if I see need. Tara: but the government is to structurally leverage our resources to eradicate poverty here. So our kids don't end up in a trauma informed school and as drop outs. Mayor: where are they going to fix these bikes? Tara: they'll figure it out. They get the parts there and fix them up at home. We don't have like a site and an adult that monitors the program. It's like indigenous, so they pier teach each other how to rehab the bikes. You read the proposal, Right? It is pier led by program and we hire one person. Su says that there is one man that keeps coming in here that says, I've done everything that society has asked me to do and I can't find a job. So I propose to the Mayor, or if I didn't, I think I have communicated to some council members here that, we hire that person to go once a week or twice a week to figure it out to transport the bikes back here. Then we will let the kids interpret the bike program. It's not like, we need a new format for unanswered questions. We can yell that all day, right? Is this that this is not your idea Steve? You are the Mayor and you are suppose to be leading this. Mayor: no, not at all. Because I feel the tax payer money should not just go somewhere because one person has this idea. One person that comes in, that we should just say here let's give you a ten thousand dollar credit over at the store. Tara: (over the Mayor speaking) it's not me, it's for the youth. You think I am in here doing this for myself? Every single day I am doing this for the poor here. And I am not going around saying "I'm a giving person". So I will paint a house for free, I'm saying, help me structurally leverage government resources to help kids to have some of their own agency. What if a kid wants to rehab a bike and it costs a couple bucks and the tax payers pay for it. Then they can flip it and sell it. Mayor: Where are these kids at? I would like to see them because..... Tara:(interrupting) They are in our streets already, they are everywhere. All the kids of Ponderay, sure, it's for a kid program and they can rehab them for their..... What, You don't think there are any kids in Ponderay? Is that what you are telling me, or what? Mayor: I've seen them riding bike, I've seen playing, I don't see the issues. I don't see..... Tara: (interrupting) They are not poor either, right? The community is not trauma informed? You didn't witness poverty. Mayor: I think we are done. Tara: (interrupting) next time will you vote on it or how does this work? Mayor: We are going to adjourn this meeting and we are just going to do our budget stuff next time. Does that work for everybody?

Motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Thompson/McNearney.

Meeting adjourned 7:16 p.m.

Tara: This is predictable witnessing of your dying democracy right here. Henry Thoreau called this.....(she kept talking).

City Clerk/Treasurer Su Warren-Brown

Mayor Steve Geiger