



**CITY OF PONDERAY  
REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 15th 2019**

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

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

**ALSO PRESENT: ATTORNEY MARSHALL, ENGINEER HERNDEN, CHIEF CORNELIUS, PLANNER BRUBAKER**

**ABSENT: CLERK WARREN**

**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 \$12,765.23**
  - B. Approve minutes of July 1st regular council meeting**
  - C. Acknowledge Attorney Report June 2019**
  - D. Acknowledge Police Report June 2019**
- Motion to approve consent agenda**

**Councilmember Thompson/Osborne. Roll Call Vote. All voted in favor. Motion approved.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS/UPDATES:**

**POLICE:** Chief Cornelius reported that he has two patrol vehicles ordered. They will be ready in two to four months.

**STREETS/PUBLIC WORKS:** Justin Shaw reported that he had a pre-construction meeting with Kootenai Cut-Off crossing improvements on Thursday. We plan to start construction the following week. Interstate is doing the construction.

We have been working on the Urban Area Transportation Plan with Sandpoint, Dover and Kootenai. It is in the early stages.

**PLANNING, PARKS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** Planner Brubaker reported that the POBT markers are ready. They will be picked up and put in as soon as we can. He described how the plates would be mounted.

Historic School House, here is potential opportunity to the Council. What is the level of interest in preserving the old School House as a City project? What is happening is the property is coming up for sale. The new owners do not want the School House. They are offering it to the City at no cost for the building. But we would have to move it. I know there are grants through the Historical Society. We do not have enough time to pursue that. We did get one quote of thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) to move the building. Not including moving the utility lines. We have more research to do. Have someone come in and look at the structure integrity. Have someone from the Historical Society come up and look at it. There is a lot of expense there that the City has not budgeted for. It would have to be moved by early August. Several people wanted to look at the inside of the building to see if it is even feasible. Do we want to put it on the agenda for next council meeting? Planner Miller will try to get the keys so we can all go in and look at it. Then we can put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Community Development-Residential Design Assistance: This is kind of a related note, in that there will be some community development on that piece of property and also a couple other properties in town. Housing is really in demand right now and there are lots that have been vacant for years, that are now being sold for residences. One of the things that happens is on the substandard lots of record is to build on an old lot meeting our setback requirements, means the structure can only be fifteen feet wide. One of the things that Planner Brubaker is interested in, as a City, is that we do some sort of project, as a demonstration to incentivize someone coming through architectural plans and finding smaller homes, which would be stick built on site. Can we get a set of stock plans that the City then owns and we can make available to other developers? Or could we help someone if they have an interest in doing this, but they don't want to spend the money to go out and hire an architect to create a custom set of plans. If we could help take some of that cost off of the initial design work, we could help guide the residents with their building plans. We do have Community Developments dollars in the budget for this kind of program. Does the council support us putting a package together and working on this project? There was discussion. Parking on those twenty five foot lots is going to be an issue. There will be more people parking on the street. Planner Brubaker thinks this might be about three to four thousand dollars per design. Council would like them to move forward with this.

Community Projects Presentation, workshop, discussion on Lake Access, parks, pathways and Field of Dreams: Mayor talked about the Field of Dreams. What kick started this whole thing is the LOR Foundation Grant that we received of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for planning and four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) for development. We have had numerous planning workshops; we engaged the public in coming to six to eight meetings over the last six to eight months. What we have been hearing is that our community is lacking in indoor recreation facilities. The City, in 2011 purchased the Field of Dreams 50 acres of property. We are trying to figure out the direction that we will go. There is a lot of interest in a community type center for folks of all ages. An indoor facility seems to be what we need, given the climate here. Hockey, indoor field house, basketball, walking tracks, tennis, soccer. We visited several other facilities in the area and they are all very highly used. We would probably have to use a phased in approach over the course of a few years, to do this project as all these things are very costly. There was more discussion. The Field of Dreams could be something that could really be a help for the northern part of our City to get the infrastructure to help with expansion and residential development to the North. The sewer is our biggest issue.

We have no public access over/under the railroad. We were successful in submitting our grant application today. One of our challenges is highway 200 and how we tie that in. We do have the Brownsfield-Blackrock smelter clean-up and how that can tie in. This is a long-term project with a five year time frame. The results will be out in November or December.

Mayor gave information on how the Sales tax-revenue sharing works and how it needs changed. He is bringing this to the attention of the state legislators and hopes that we can make the state formula fairer. We have these big projects and where is the money going to come from? So we are looking at a local option tax. We have gone to the businesses and let them know what we are thinking. Any item over nine hundred ninety nine dollars (\$999.00) would not have the additional 1% tax. This could help us to eliminate the safety issues getting to the lake. It could help with major infrastructure and expansions to the North and could help with some recreation projects. What we are looking at doing is a five year local options tax to try to pull off some of these projects and show the community that we can be responsible with the money and help our City out. There was discussion on how we need the underpass because of the safety issues. Having safe access to the lake is a huge benefit to this community. And the desire to have a recreation facility that is accessible and affordable for all citizens.

**Councilmember Thompson/McNearney.**  
**Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.**

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City Clerk/Treasurer Su Warren-Brown

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Mayor Steve Geiger