



**CITY OF PONDERAY
REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15th 2017**

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

PRESENT: MAYOR STEVE GEIGER, COUNCIL MEMBER KUNZEMAN, COUNCILMEMBER OSBORNE, COUNCILMEMBER ENGEL, COUNCILMEMBER LARKIN

ALSO PRESENT: ATTORNEY MARSHALL, PLANNER BRUBAKER, ENGINEER LARSON AND CLERK WARREN

ABSENT: CHIEF CORNELIUS arrived at 6:15

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND/OR DISCLOSURES:

Mayor Geiger acknowledged conflict of interest and disclosures statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: We will be losing Engineer Olson as one of our Engineers. Dan Larson will now be our Engineer.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nancy Piatt-Ponderay: Do we still have an ordinance that says that you cannot park within two feet of the pavement? Hwy 200 & 4th Street is being blocked by cars of residents in the trailer park. They are way out in the lane of traffic. She also indicated that they have garbage in the driveway that needs to be moved. She said that Diane McClure needs to be commended because she was able to get rid of the undesirables at 287 Birch. They left one heck of a mess on City right-of-way. There is a lot of junk in the alley.

Ethel Carter-Ponderay: She has been experiencing garbage over her fence again from the Trailer Park, seems like the more they clean the more she gets. The place is falling down and it has no place to go except on her fence.

Mayor told her that we will be doing a City clean up week and we are going to involve them in cleaning up some of their mess. We will be getting some help from Waste Management. They will be giving us a couple roll-offs, one of which will be at the S&W. S&W will be filling that up on June 10th & 11th. This is a City wide clean-up. S&W has rented out the rooms knowing that they would have to share a bathroom. Mayor believes there are people living in the trailers also. Ethel said there are lights on at night. If they were evicted before, how can they now rent them? Over full dumpster is a big issue all the time. Is there a way for the Mayor, Attorney and Fire Chief Mitton to get together and condemn property? At what point do we say we need to turn off the gas and electricity to the trailer park because it is not safe? Is there a way that we can do something City wide to condemn a building and the owner would have a period of time to get rid of it? Attorney said that this is governed by State Code and there is no specific time period. What we are dealing with is the International Building Code which the City enforces. And the International Fire Code which Fire Chief enforces in conjunction with the City because potentially some violations of the fire code are misdemeanors and he would have to prosecute those and Chief Cornelius would have to write the tickets.

Jim-Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District: Said that as far as they know someone should have capped off the section that they were concerned about and had required to be capped off because it was failing. All of those trailers and parts of the motel are being used like bedrooms without plumbing and they all share a common bathroom. They still have concerns but there is nothing that they can use to require shutting it down. Their approach is to get the critical stuff dealt with and then the next step is to go and now address the next part with them, the parts that they are concerned about.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. *Approve Minutes of May1st 2017, Regular Council Meeting with additions to the minutes of the Workshop*
- B. *Approve Bills in the amount of \$19,879.24*
- C. *Acknowledge Police Report*

Motion to approve consent agenda

Councilmember Larkin/Osborne. Roll Call vote. All voted in favor. Motion approved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/UPDATES:

MAYOR: Mayor Geiger commented that he is not a person that wants to impose a tax. However, a bed tax, the target is tourists that come and stay in our City, is a pretty digestible tax to deal with. Currently we are at a five percent tax. Sandpoint is at seven percent. His thought is; is it an option or a possibility, even tho our bed tax doesn't expire until the end of 2018, is it something that we could consider, if that is the direction that we want to go, to match Sandpoint's 7% this year. Clerk will look into that and see if it will be alright to replace and extend it. The two percent would be in the neighborhood of seventy thousand dollars a year in revenue. We know that we are short in other areas of the funding pot when it comes to revenue sharing. We would not be out doing Sandpoint but matching it. Maybe we could do some maintenance around the City. It was asked if we put it on the ballot this November and it fails can we put it on the ballot again in November of 2018? Yes, and if we lose this November does the 5% tax we have go away? No, it will stay until Dec 2018. Do we have enough time to educate voters and get it on the November ballot? ?

Mayor has been asked; since we have done the sub-area plan what happens next? It is a continuing learning process and refinement process as to what that may end up looking like in the end. It was pretty clear that we got the point across as to what we feel.

CLERK: Clerk Warren reported that PERSI will be in Sandpoint discussing 401K plans. There are times and phone numbers to sign up.

Clerk drafted a simple letter to the Ponderay Business owners regarding Sandpoint's Resort City Local Option Sales Tax of 1%. Please give me changes, corrections, additions, or rewrite the whole thing. This is just a starting point.

POLICE: Chief Cornelius reported that he was late because of the Peace Officer Memorial Dedication at the Sherriff's Office. There were 40 to 50 people there.

Upgrade encryption computer system box. The FBI has required an upgrade for the entire County. It will cost about twelve to thirteen hundred dollars (\$12-13,000.00) every three years and another four to five hundred (\$400,00 – \$500.00) on the years in-between for maintenance and update package. They gave dispatch ninety days to correct the problem or they start levying fines.

The crime report is back from the Federal Government as far as crime in Ponderay, over the course of the last year, and our offensive and our clearance rates were up in the past year by about seven percent, so there is more crime in Ponderay but we are clearing the same amount of cases. What takes more time and paper work is arrests which went up by almost twenty seven percent in the last year.

We have been working on paper work with the State for Officer Watkins certification. We finally have everything to the point where they say that he is now qualified to take the exams. So he is reviewing material. The hiring process, we are down to three people and we are doing background investigations on those three before we proceed.

STREETS/PUBLIC WORKS: Dan Larson reported that Schweitzer Bridge pre-construction meeting last week. Already two change orders are being discussed. We tried to ensure that we would be an equal voice with the City of Sandpoint in those change orders prior to them approving them. They have the only voice as far as the contract is concerned.

Triangle sidewalk change order #7-For and extra one thousand three hundred forty two dollars (\$1,342.00). There was a pedestrian ramp that was installed last year that was damaged over the winter. We would like to have it replaced. Is there anything we can do to get people from cutting that corner? There are really two of them; one by the old Yamaha shop is cracked up as well. It was recommended that we put up reflective markers because the plowing happens in the early morning.

Motion to authorize change order and approve Mayor to sign

Councilmember Engel/Larkin. Roll Call vote. All voted in favor. Motion approved.

PLANNING, PARKS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Planner Brubaker had an update on the Lease agreement with Burlington Northern Rail Road for the Pend Oreille Bay Trail. When we purchased the Hall property the Hall family had agreed to turn over the lease to the City. The past few years we have been paying the lease amount to the Halls since it was still in his name. Planner Brubaker is working through the process to transfer it to the City, which is pretty important for the long term protection of that rail corridor. It is a one hundred fifty foot lease across the entire corridor. By defacto the lease holder tends to have a right to first refusal if sometime down the road there is some money to acquire it or something else we can do to protect it from development. If we are the lease holder, the Friends of the POBT agreed to split the cost of that annual lease with us. So the cost will go down to about two thousand five hundred a year for the City. There is a onetime lease application fee of six hundred dollars. We have increased our workman's comp from one hundred thousand to five hundred thousand for each of the three categories. That had a cost of one hundred two dollars more annually. Fire Chief would like the trail marked for emergency personnel. The Friends do not want to be involved in this. So the City will probably do it ourselves they had no problems with that.

Motion to approve taking over the BNRR Lease

Councilmember Engel/Kunzeman. Roll Call vote. All voted in favor. Motion approved.

Planner Brubaker went to the Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District and we worked through the paper work to transfer an extra sewer capacity on the Triangle property. We needed one for McNearney Park so we were able to transfer that capacity to the park. It will reduce the cost of our hook-up fee from about eight thousand to four thousand. So we still have one on the Triangle property. We also consolidated the two Harbison properties into one.

Budget Workshop postponed due to the Mayor not having meetings with department heads yet.

Councilmember Engel/Kunzeman to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned 6:51 p.m.

City Clerk/Treasurer Su Warren

Mayor Steve Geiger