



**CITY OF PONDERAY
REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
August 16th, 2021**

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

PRESENT: Mayor Geiger, Councilmember McNearney, Councilmember Mitton, Councilmember Osborne, Councilmember Thompson

ALSO, PRESENT: City Clerk Warren, Attorney Marshall via Telephone, City Engineer Shaw

ABSENT: Chief Cornelius, Planning Director Brubaker, Planner Miller, Deputy Clerk Peterson

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND/OR DISCLOSURES:

AMEND AGENDA:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jessie DeMers had a question for Councilmembers, if an applicant comes to the city with their site plan and they are wanting to build a commercial building adjacent to a 30-year-old existing commercial building in a commercial or industrial zone, is it a policy of the city to require that they donate 10 feet of their property adjacent to a Ponderay road for future widening and development? Mayor Geiger's response, as our city grows, we are trying to get the necessary access so we can put in the right roads and infrastructure to handle the people coming. He said there are still some roads within the city that are 40 feet wide, we are trying to get those out to 60 feet as we need better, wider roads, stormwater management and snow removal. Jessie DeMers stated there was such a delay with the site plan approval because the owner felt they were being held hostage by the City and they weren't ready to release the 10 feet without any monetary compensation, it's been resolved but not on a good note. Mayor said he fell into the same situation on Piehl Road when it was narrower, he was asked by the City to give property because of the same reasons, and he also shared those same concerns. Councilmember Mitton noted he didn't see anywhere where it says they have to give or donate property and if we don't have a plan for that, then we shouldn't be delaying projects. Jessie DeMers then stated their application was submitted in July and they are really wanting to get the building up. She said it's almost like you donate or relinquish this land or the City is going to stall your site plan approval. She said we as business owners need to know ahead of time that this is a requirement, has the city passed it, is it in the ordinance or is it a case by case. Mayor stated that it is a case by case, and it is not an Ordinance, and it is not mandatory. Justin Shaw City Engineer stated that he is familiar with this case, and it has not been delayed, they are still working on drainage issues and are trying to bring them up to City Code, the site plan was approved last Wednesday based on conditions. There was further discussion between Jessie DeMers and Engineer Shaw regarding the parking lot issues. Mayor said if these folks have an issue with any of this, they should come in. He said they can ask to talk to the mayor, or they can come in front of the Council if they feel there is an injustice, like anyone can. He also said we wouldn't have known this if you had not said anything. Jessie DeMers said Planning & Zoning is where it came from, she's the party that hears it all. Mayor said that Planning & Zoning are really looking out for our city, they are looking far into the future that we will have the right kinds of roads.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve Bills \$ 75,083.97
- B. Approve August 2nd, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes
- C. Acknowledge Attorney Report
- D. Acknowledge Police Report

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Thompson/Osborne. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/UPDATES

MAYOR:

- Mayor noted the roof is in process after 27 years of being up there.
- We are looking to put a cover over the stage at Harbison Field, SOK donated all the designs for us. Thank you! He also noted that we live in such a gifted community, they really take care of our city. Folks like Tim at Mountain

Metals, Jesse Gardner donating his time to build it, and the mayor is working with Mike at Sandpoint Building Supply to get the lumber at cost. We have had many local donations. Thank you to HMH, and our community businesses!

- Mayor Geiger mentioned he had a meeting with Russ Fulcher's Staff at the Best Western, and in speaking with them he beat the drum about the unfairness of Ponderay's treatment in regard to revenue sharing and tax dollars. Our community produces nearly \$20 million in sales tax for our state and we get back \$125,000.

CLERK:

POLICE:

- Sergeant Deal presented Officer Kaufman with his Basic Certificate from Idaho. Congratulations!
- Sergeant Deal then spoke of an accident that occurred in July where Zac was using a tool to burn wood that caused an electrocution. His relatives were able to call 911. Officer Kaufman hearing the call and knowing he was the closest, responded to the call, along with Paramedics. Upon his arrival he began CPR, taking over for a family member who was tired. Zac was clinically dead. Paramedics ended up shocking him several times and ended up taking him by helicopter to a medical facility where he remained for several days. Thanks to Officer Kaufman, Paramedics, and Firefighters Zac is here today. Both Sergeant Deal and Zac presented Officer Kaufman with the Ponderay Life Saving Award. Councilmember and Fire Chief Mitton recognized and sincerely thanked his Captain and Lieutenant Parker for their hard work and dedication.
- Thank you - Ponderay Police Department, Bonner County EMS, and Northside Fire Department we appreciate you!

STREET/PUBLIC WORKS:

- City Engineer Shaw noted they are looking into upgrading the city signs.
- Field of Dreams - They are working towards widening the shoulder for the turn lane on Highway 95 and they have set a date for the sports community to get together at the end of September, construction will take place next year, so they are looking for public input.
- Kootenai Cutoff Improvements – they are working on what can be done to alleviate traffic, and sewer and water improvements.
- City Engineer Shaw introduced Shawn Metts; he will be working along side Engineer Shaw with City projects.

PLANNING, PARKS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Mayor mentioned the tour/walk with Steve Gill and noted individuals living in tents. Council expressed concerns with fires and how these situations will be handled in the future. Mayor stated we will need to get the Police Department down there more often to patrol.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:

- Sandpoint Minutes for July 21st; Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District Agenda for August 9th; Bonner County Minutes for July 20th, and July 27th.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, CONTRACTS:

- **ACTION ITEM:** Ordinance No. 152R – Appropriations Amendment 2020-2021

Clerk Warren read the title. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PONDERAY, IDAHO, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 152 THE APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020; APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONIES THAT ARE TO BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF PONDERAY, IDAHO, IN THE SUM OF \$346,600.00; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO FILE A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE WITH THE IDAHO SECRETARY OF STATE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Opened the Public Hearing at 6:32 pm.

One public comment asking for clarification on costs. Clerk Warren stated the additional amount added all together was \$346,600.00 and that is coming from Carry Forward and Reserves which is paying for the Birch Street purchase and the GIS Tech New Hire. A \$1,000.00 will come from Sales Tax and that will be used for an increase in wages for the Deputy Clerk. Mayor clarified that the Birch Street Purchase is the Schoolhouse in our Community.

Closed the Public Hearing at 6:32 pm.

Motion that the rules be suspended and that the proposed ordinance pass its first reading by Title only and its second and third readings under suspension of the rules and further that the Ordinance be adopted.

Councilmember Thompson/Mitton. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Ordinance No. 160 – 2021-2022 Budget

Clerk Warren read the title. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PONDERAY, BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, ENTITLED "THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021; APPROPRIATING \$6,014,872.00 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF PONDERAY, IDAHO, FOR SAID YEAR PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF IDAHO CODE; LEVYING A SUFFICIENT TAX UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN SAID CITY FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH APPROPRIATION IS MADE; PROVIDING FOR A COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE TO BE FILED WITH THE BONNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND, PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 pm.

Public testimony. One public comment asking too to clarify the total amount. Clerk Warren stated the total amount is \$6,014,872.00. Mayor Geiger stated this Ordinance has been published two times in the newspaper as well.

Closed the Public Hearing at 6:35 pm.

Motion that the rules be suspended and that the proposed ordinance pass its first reading by title only and its second and third readings under suspension of the rules and further that the Ordinance be adopted.

Councilmember McNearney/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

*******Executive Session – ID Code 74-206, subsection 1-c.**

c. To acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency.

Motion to enter Executive Session per ID Code 74-206 1-c.

Councilmember Osborne/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

Entered Executive Session at 6:45 pm.

Left Executive Session at 6:55 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jessie DeMers thanked the Councilmembers for addressing the weeds. She also asked if the schoolhouse was going to be restored to its original state and what plans we had with it. Councilmember McNearney mentioned restoring only the original part of the building and possibly put a kitchen in the back and use it as a Community Center.
- Rick Larkin had a question for City Engineer Shaw regarding the drainage problem along the tracks. Engineer Shaw responded they have applied for a grant and are waiting to hear from FEMA.

Councilmember McNearney/Thompson

Meeting adjourned 6:55 p.m.

City Clerk/Treasurer Su Warren-Brown

Mayor Steve Geiger