

City Council Meeting  
October 22, 2013

Present: Mayor Rose Hanser, Councilpersons Evan Stewart, Tom Jankowski and Lawretta Miller

Absent: Councilperson John Williams

Also Present: Fire Chief Ryan Reid, Building/Planning Official Jan Morgan, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards, Police Chief Cory Hert and Public Works Director Bryan Swan

Mayor Hanser called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, City Clerk/Treasurer Richards called the Roll Call.

**Consent Agenda:**

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

- a. Minutes of 10/8/13 Regular Meeting
- b. Claims Roster 10/18/13
- c. September Financial Report

**Departmental Reports:**

Reports were given by Police Chief Hert, Building/Planning Official Morgan, Fire Chief Reid, Public Works Director Swan and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

**Mayor's Communications:**

The Public Works Committee met to discuss an increase in the water and sewer rates and recommended the rates be increased. The committee also asked for additional information on protested taxes, refunding the water and sewer bonds and a judgment levy to recover taxes that had to be returned to the tax protester.

**Public Comment and Participation:**

Rick Harbin, representing the Colstrip Park and Recreation District, thanked the City for supporting the Wild Horse Trail Park Project. He suggested a possibility for the remaining CTEP funds would be a sidewalk along Cherry Street going to the South Ball Fields. He also reported that CPRD did access protested taxes prior to the settlement with Puget Power and has approved a judgment levy to recoup the funds that had to be paid back due to drawing on the funds prior to the settlement. Mr. Harbin disagrees that the only way to fund water and sewer systems is with service rates. He feels that the water and sewer funds should be subsidized by property taxes since the city took on utility systems that were not in very good condition and

had lots of problems and the power plant owners pay the majority of the city's property taxes. He also feels property taxes should be used to pay down the water and sewer bond debt.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to waive the reading in its entirety and approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2013-03, restricting truck traffic on Willow Avenue. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart asked if there have been any public comments or concerns from business owners and the power plant regarding this ordinance. Mayor Hanser responded she has not received any comments and is not aware of any. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve Resolution No. 2013-R19, a resolution of intent to increase water and sewer rates. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilperson Stewart appreciates all of the public comment received but feels this is the only wise and responsible way to fund the water and sewer systems. Councilperson Jankowski commented that the city received a broken system but feels it is a disservice to the public to take money away from the general fund. Even though the city has started using state entitlement share funds to assist the water fund, there are still issues that need to be funded and the rates are not sufficient to do that. Councilperson Miller is in favor of a rate increase but is unsure at what level. Public Comment: Pam Daniels, 33 Juniper, stated although no one likes rate increases she understands the need to increase the water and sewer rates. No other public comment was received. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

**New Business:**

Councilperson Jankowski moved to approve Change Order No. 2 to the Pine Butte Drive Rehabilitation Project Phase II in the amount of \$3,600.59. Councilperson Stewart seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilperson Stewart moved to approve the Special Events Permit for the Freedom Walk on November 11, 2013. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. No discussion or public comment received. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Adjournment:**

Councilperson Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Jankowski seconded the motion. Mayor Hanser adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer