



Moscow City Council

Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

www.ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7015

**Tuesday
January 2, 2018**

7:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Jim Boland Council President, Kathryn Bonzo Council Vice President, Art Bettge Councilmember, Walter Steed Councilmember, Brandy Sullivan Councilmember, Gina Taruscio Councilmember, Bill Lambert Mayor

STAFF: Gary J. Riedner, Bill Belknap, Tyler Palmer, Laurie M. Hopkins

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Steed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Approval of Moscow City Council December 18, 2017 Minutes – Laurie M. Hopkins

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Walter Steed, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Kathryn Bonzo, Council Vice President
AYES:	Boland, Bonzo, Bettge, Steed, Sullivan, Taruscio

2. Staff Recognition Report - Gary J. Riedner

Staff offered no report. Steed revealed City Supervisor Gary Riedner was beginning his 27th year at the City on this day.

3. Acknowledgement of Corrected Canvassed Election Results - Gary J. Riedner

Per Idaho Code, the City Council is required to accept the canvassed election results from Latah County, including the breakdown by precinct. The acceptance must be included in the Council meeting minutes. The certified motion and order the Board of Latah County Commissioners originally approved had a clerical error and has been corrected and re-certified by the Commissioners.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Accept corrected canvassed election results from Latah County or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Riedner introduced the item as written above. The acknowledgement of the corrected election results was approved by roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jim Boland, Council President
SECONDER:	Gina Taruscio, Councilmember
AYES:	Boland, Bonzo, Bettge, Steed, Sullivan, Taruscio

4. Committee/Commission Reports

Farmers Market Commission - Boland reported the Commission is working on policies which should be forward to Council by the end of February.

Transportation Commission - Bonzo said the Third Street corridor improvements are set up outside Council Chambers and public meetings are coming up.

5. Recognition of and Comments from Outgoing Councilmember Walter Steed

Steed said he began his interactions with the City in January 1990 during an appeal to the City Council regarding asphalt. He has driven around Moscow the last few months looking at the many things the City Council and staff have accomplished. Thank you to staff as they are hardworking dedicated people, especially the department heads. Over the years he has harassed them with questions and details and they are always prompt and helpful and courteous. Steed thanks the former council members and current as well as the past mayors. During his tenure, the entrances to Moscow were supposed to be improved and that project has not begun. He asked Council to continue prioritizing the entrance beautification project. From the time Steed ran for office he has talked about the condition of the streets in Moscow. Over the last 2-3 years, the budget for streets has been four times more than previous years. In 2020, the City will not have a \$500,000 payment for the airport realignment project. Steed suggests keeping the \$500,000 in the budget to continue reaching towards the needed \$1 million.

The Mayor and each Councilmember said a few words complimenting Steed and thanking him for his service.

6. Oath of Office Administered by City Clerk and Certificate of Election Presented to Bill Lambert, Arthur Bettge, Brandy Sullivan, Gina Taruscio and Anne Zabala

The Oath of Office was administered to Bill Lambert, Art Bettge, Brandy Sullivan, Gina Taruscio and Anne Zabala.

Reconvene with 2018 Council

The City Council took their new seats and the meeting was reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

7. Council Organization - Jim Boland, 2017 Council President

Boland read and moved the proposed list of Council liaison assignments for consideration which included Bonzo as Council President and Taruscio as Vice President. Bonzo seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

8. Mayors Appointments

Mayor Lambert put forward the following appointments: Sandra Kelly, Historic Preservation Commission; Caitlin Wikel, Moscow Arts Commission; Cassie Seubert, Human Rights Commission; and Melanie Neuilly, Fair & Affordable Housing Commission. The appointments were approved by roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Art Bettge, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Gina Taruscio, Councilmember
AYES:	Boland, Bonzo, Bettge, Steed, Sullivan, Taruscio

9. Public Comment and Mayor's Response Period (limit 15 minutes)

David Hall, 1334 Wallen Rd, Moscow, part of the Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition, handed out a background and his thoughts on the US Highway realignment project as well as the current status. He asked the City Council to support option C3, rather than E-2.

David Nelson, 804 E E St, Moscow, said the Idaho Legislature starts up this month and he is going to run for office in the fall. He offered to have a conversation on how he can help Moscow City Council and congratulated the new elected officials.

Tyler Palmer, 927 Orchard Ave, Moscow, said he appreciated the way Steed did his job as a councilmember. He told a story of when Steed was at a flood event and how a citizen was impressed with Steed encouraging staff.

David Pierce, 716 E F St, Moscow, agreed with the compliments to Steed and thanked him for his service.

Pierce believes the most important thing Steed did was being in favor of additional water supplies and being involved in the water summit. He was impressed with Steeds comprehensive knowledge and felt his questions weren't for his clarification, but the citizens understanding.

Victoria Seever, 121 Lilly St, Moscow, also agreed with the compliments to Steed. She added, she spoke to many people during the election and what she heard the most was he was the one that got back to them immediately. The thanked him for his service.

10. Change in Meeting Schedule Due to Idaho Human Rights Day - Gary J. Riedner

Due to Idaho Human Rights Day holiday falling on a Monday, per Moscow City Code Title 2, Section 2-1, the next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2017.

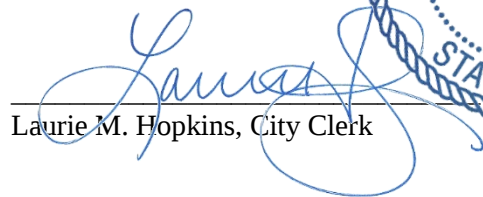
ACTION: Confirm January 16, 2017 Council meeting date.

The City Council confirmed the changed in meeting schedule.

Adjourn to Reception Honoring Newly Elected and Outgoing City Councilmembers

The meeting was closed at 7:39 PM

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk




Bill Lambert, Mayor

Why will Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) not back down?

Background

ITD proposed work on US Highway 95 top of Lewiston Hill to Moscow to reconstruct it to current standards.

- An Environmental Assessment (EA) was done
- Rules stipulate that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be done if the alignment diverges from the current alignment, which the proposed alignment for the northern six miles did
- Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition took ITD/FHWA to court, and easily won. Judge B. Lynn Winmill determined that the project could be separated; the Lewiston Hill to Thorn Creek (essentially Genesee) section could proceed under the EA, but the northern part, Thorn Creek to Moscow, would need an EIS.

Idaho Transportation Department prepared an Environmental Impact Statement for Thorn Creek to Moscow. Three oddly-selected action alternatives, labeled “E2,” “C3,” and “W4,” were studied in detail.

Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition challenged the EIS and Record of Decision

Judge B. Lynn Winmill determined that ITD did their job developing the EIS by “the slimmest of margins.”

Why does ITD want E2?

- ITD claims that “E2 is the safest” – based essentially on traffic turning and accesses only. It has not been adequately shown that the difference in safety between alternatives is statistically significant. But,
 - More big game along E2 will decrease driver safety (fencing, vegetative clearing has been proposed)
 - E2 is the only alignment that proposed a need for truck escape ramps on entry into Moscow.
 - Anecdotally, E2 would have worse weather conditions (snow drifts and ice-fog, etc.)
- ITD thinks that “E2 is shorter” – by 0.09 mile, on a preliminary design.
- There would be sprawl development potential along “old US 95”

Current status

ITD needs a Clean Water Act permit from the EPA/Army Corps before they can damage wetlands (Waters of the US)

ITD recently applied for this permit, and the Corps has requested more information from ITD (as of early December, they are still waiting)

The Corps can award a Clean Water Act permit only for the alternative which is the “Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.”

Data and statements in the EIS and Record of Decision clearly show that E2 is not the least damaging alternative

- E2 damages more and better wetlands than does C3
- E2 is closer to good Palouse prairie (including that of a business that received a City of Moscow Earth Day Award last year) than is C3
- E2 bisects better big game habitat than does C3

All action alternatives meet the project needs. All alternatives are practicable.

E2 is not the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative. Yet ITD remains committed to E2.

Clean Water Act permitting is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) function carried out by the Corps, thus EPA has authority. The EPA has been against E2 throughout the process and states that E2 has not been determined to be the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.

Meanwhile, the decision by Judge Winmill is being appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court. At the required mediation meeting in December ITD declared that it will not consider anything but E2.

Remedy

ITD should work on Reisenauer Hill and other particularly dangerous parts **now**. Consider signage, speed limits, rumble strips, etc.

ITD should apply for a Clean Water Act permit for C3, or bring the existing alignment to current safety standards.

David Hall
1334 Wallen Road
Moscow

for Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition

2018 CITY COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

Council President – Kathryn Bonzo
Council Vice President – Gina Taruscio

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2nd & 4th MONDAYS, 3:00 P.M.

Chair – Gina Taruscio
Vice Chair – Art Bettge
Member – Anne Zabala

PUBLIC WORKS/FINANCE COMMITTEE 2nd & 4th MONDAYS, 4:30 P.M.

Chair – Kathryn Bonzo
Vice Chair – Brandy Sullivan
Member – Jim Boland

City Standing Commissions and Committees:

Arts Commission.....	<u>Kathryn Bonzo</u>
Building Code Advisory Committee.....	<u>Art Bettge</u>
Fair & Affordable Housing Commission.....	<u>Anne Zabala</u>
Farmers Market Commission.....	<u>Kathryn Bonzo</u>
Historic Preservation Commission.....	<u>Brandy Sullivan</u>
Human Rights Commission.....	<u>Jim Boland</u>
Moscow Pathways Commission.....	<u>Brandy Sullivan</u>
Parks & Recreation Commission.....	<u>Art Bettge</u>
Planning and Zoning Commission.....	<u>Anne Zabala</u>
Sustainable Environment Commission.....	<u>Brandy Sullivan</u>
Transportation Commission.....	<u>Gina Taruscio</u>
Tree Commission.....	<u>Gina Taruscio</u>

Other Appointments:

1912 Center Facility Committee.....	Mayor Appoints/Council Confirm	<u>Jim Boland</u>
1912 Center Use Committee.....	Mayor Appoints/Council Confirm	<u>Art Bettge</u>
Airport Board.....	Mayor Appoints/Council Confirm	<u>Jon Kimberling</u>
Airport Board Vice Chair.....		<u>Mayor Lambert</u>
CEDA.....		<u>Gina Taruscio</u>
Chamber of Commerce Board.....		<u>Mayor Lambert</u>
Clearwater RC&D.....		<u>Brandy Sullivan</u>
Moscow Volunteer Fire Department.....		<u>Gina Taruscio</u>
Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee.....		<u>Jim Boland</u>
Palouse Knowledge Corridor.....		<u>Art Bettge</u>
SMART Board.....		<u>Anne Zabala</u>
Urban Renewal Agency Board Member.....	Mayor Appoints/Council Confirm	<u>Art Bettge</u> (2 yr term expiring 2018 – remainder of Weber’s term)
Urban Renewal Agency Board Member.....	Mayor Appoints/Council Confirm	<u>Brandy Sullivan</u> (2 yr term expiring 2019)
WHITCOM Executive Board.....		<u>Police Chief</u>