

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Agenda~

www.ci.moscow.id.us

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, July 6, 2020

7:00 PM

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

The Moscow Mayor, City Council and Staff welcome you to tonight's meeting. This meeting is open to the public, but is subject to social distancing protocols as recommended in Governor Little's Stay Healthy Guidelines, so the number of attendees at any one time may be limited, and masks will be required of attendees. If you do not have a mask, a disposable mask will be provided. We appreciate and encourage public participation. For regular agenda items, an opportunity for public comment is sometimes provided after the staff report. However, the formality of procedures varies with the purpose and subject of the agenda item; therefore, the Mayor may exercise discretion in deciding when to allow public comment during the course of the proceedings and limitations may be placed on the time allowed for comments. Citizens wishing to comment on business that is not on the agenda will be provided the opportunity to do so during the public comment item on the agenda. If you plan to address the Council, you will find a list of "Tips for Addressing the Council" in the door pocket outside the City Council Chambers. The meeting will be broadcast. Citizens wishing to comment on business on the agenda are encouraged to communicate with the Mayor and City Council by phone or email (council@ci.moscow.id.us) in order to respect social distancing protocol. Please note that Moscow City Council meetings are televised, videotaped and/or recorded. Thank you for your interest in City government.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow City Council June 15, 2020 Minutes (ACTION ITEM) - Laurie M. Hopkins

Minutes presented for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes, amend minutes, or take other such action deemed appropriate.

2. Staff Recognition Report - Gary J. Riedner

3. Mayors Appointments (ACTION ITEM)

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

5. Resolution to Extend Amended Public Health Emergency Order 20-03 (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

Pursuant to Moscow City Code Title 1, Chapter 11, Section 5(B), Mayor Lambert issued Amended Public Health Emergency Order 20-03, requiring face coverings (masks) when in a public setting and the 6-foot physical distancing cannot be maintained and maintain a 6-foot social/physical distancing from non-household members when in public settings, within the City of Moscow.

Pursuant to Idaho Code section 46-1011, and MCC 1-11-5(B), the Public Health Emergency Order

is effective for seven (7) days, unless extended by resolution of the City Council. The attached Draft Resolution extends Emergency Order 20-03 until August 4, 2020.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Adopt the Resolution extending Amended Public Health Emergency Order 20-03 until August 4, 2020, or take such other action deemed appropriate.

6. State/Local Agreement - Project Development - Public Ave. Corridor Safety Improvements (ACTION ITEM) - Alisa Anderson

City staff requested funding for the Public Avenue Corridor Safety Improvements project under Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (LHSIP) in January, 2019 and received notification of award in April, 2019. The project which qualified for funding is located on Public Avenue and will be designed to address the high rate of injury crashes and a fatality in this corridor. The 1,100-foot long project corridor on Public Avenue is located in northeastern Moscow between Polk Street and Lincoln Street. To address the corridor crashes a concrete splitter island will be installed at the intersection of Polk Avenue and Public Avenue and the road section will be upgraded to include full 12-foot vehicle lanes and 5-foot bicycle lanes. The project will also include the installation of approximately 2,200 linear feet of curb, gutter, and 5-foot sidewalk. The improvements will widen the roadway and eliminate roadside ditches creating a more navigable corridor for both vehicles and pedestrians. The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) has requested the City execute a State/Local Agreement to complete the project development phase prior to construction.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the State/Local Agreement and the corresponding Resolution for Project Development for the Public Avenue Corridor Safety Improvements Project No. A022 (402), or take other such other action deemed appropriate.

7. 2020 Water and Sewer Rate Study Recommendations (ACTION ITEM) - Tyler Palmer

In May of 2019, the City of Moscow contracted with FCS Group to assist in a Water and Sewer Utility Rate Study. Rate studies are conducted periodically to assure that the costs of services are in alignment with the revenue to the utilities, and that said costs are allocated in as equitable a manner as possible among the users of the system.

The most recent rate study was completed, and adopted by City council, in 2013. Utilities are not paid with taxes, but with rate-based fees. Idaho Code requires that those rates are equivalent to the value of services provided, which include day-to-day operations, system maintenance and repair, and capital improvement costs. Rate studies serve several important purposes, and revisiting rates every 5-7 years assures that rates are fair and equitable.

With this rate study, Staff is proposing a restructuring of the commercial sewer rates. This restructuring will simplify the categories down to three commercial rate groupings: Low, Medium, and High. This shift will better align costs with contribution to the system, as it will allow for a shift to a rate more weighted to consumption.

FCS Group will present the final report for this study which includes the revenue requirements to fund the reinvestment of the ongoing utilities and infrastructure capital plans. The report identifies the rates for each of the classifications of water and sewer that are affected by the cost of service and their individual rates over the time frame.

The structure of this study has been presented to a Citizen Rate Committee (CRC). After analyzing the data, the CRC recommended adoption of the proposed structure. In addition, an online open house has been available on the City's website (<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/845/2020-Utility-Rate-Study-Online-Open-Hous>) , and advertised to the public in the local newspaper, and on social media.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Adopt the 2020 Water and Sewer Utility Rate Study recommendations, and direct staff to implement the recommendations in conjunction with the FY2021 budget, or take such other action deemed appropriate.

8. Corona Virus Recovery Fund Public Safety Payroll Reimbursement / Property Tax Relief (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

On June 11, 2020, Governor Brad Little announced that the Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) had approved \$200 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funds to support public safety and pass property tax reductions to taxpayers. The program seeks to reimburse local government for the pay and benefits paid to public health and public safety employees from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. The exact amount of reimbursement is determined by the amount reimbursable expenses are claimed, up to an allocation determined both by population and the number of applicants for the \$200 million fund. This fund is in addition to the original CARES Act allocation to the City of Moscow in the amount of \$887,100 for reimbursement of expenses incurred in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to access the City's allocation of the \$200 million, the City would provide an amount of property tax relief to taxpayers equal to the amount reimbursed under the program. The City must issue a "letter of intent" to the state by July 17 in order to be eligible for the program. The "letter of intent" will also indicate the amount of public health and/or public safety pay and benefits for which reimbursement will be sought.

Unfortunately, in spite of repeated attempts, staff has been unable to obtain written specifics of the program at this time, including what potential impacts might result in future budget years. Staff has been advised that information will be issued during the week of July 6, which will contain specifics of the program. Staff has been advised that the "letter of intent" is non-binding, and does not obligate the City to take advantage of the program, or to commit to any property tax relief. Staff is requesting authorization for the Mayor to issue the non-binding "letter of intent" in order for the State to calculate the amount of allocation available to the City. Such allocation amount is expected to be issued by the State on July 24. Staff will seek further direction from City Council regarding whether to proceed further with the program and whether to seek reimbursement.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Authorize the Mayor to issue the non-binding "letter of intent" on or before July 17, 2020, and to seek further direction from City Council prior to further commitment to participate in the program, or take such further action deemed appropriate.

9. City of Moscow Benefits Proposal for Plan Year August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021 (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

The process for reviewing, adjusting, and developing the City's Employee Benefits Program begins in the early spring. The plan year for the City's Benefits Program is August 1 through July 31. The annual renewal process requires a considerable amount of work to evaluate renewal options,

including historical use of benefits properly, an increase in rates dictated by providers, and adjustments to benefits to meet employees' needs while continuing to fiscally responsible.

The City partners with The Murray Group, which manages and negotiates the City benefits contracts annually. For the next plan year, August 1, 2020, through July 31, 2021, an initial increase of 13.42% for medical coverage was anticipated. The Murray Group worked with Regence, the City's current medical provider to determine what plan adjustments should be considered to help reduce that significant increase in cost while providing attractive benefits for employees and their dependents. The resulting of those negotiations decreased the quote increase from 13.42% to 5.01%, which also included some plan changes, as described in the accompanying materials.

The total cost increase is a total of \$157,114, including the 5.01% increase to medical and vision benefits at \$92,114 and an increase for the proposed HRA program at \$65,000. Compared to the initial increase quoted of 13.42% (\$242,453), the program's suggested adjustments result in a cost savings of \$85,339.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve adjustment to benefits and related costs associated with those changes to the City of Moscow's Employee Benefit Program, or take other such action deemed appropriate.

REPORTS

City Council

Mayor

Staff

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION PER IDAHO CODE 74-206 (1)(C) AND (F) - THE MEETING WILL NOT RECONVENE.

NOTICE: Moscow City Council and committee meetings are televised, videotaped and/or recorded. Individuals attending the meeting who require special assistance to accommodate physical, hearing, or other impairments, please contact the City Clerk, at (208) 883-7015 or TDD 883-7019, as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made.