

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, June 1, 2020

7:00 PM

Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. All those present for the meeting participated by video.

PRESENT: Mayor Bill Lambert, Art Bettge, Sandra Kelly, Maureen Laflin, Brandy Sullivan, Gina Taruscio, Anne Zabala

STAFF: Gary J. Riedner, Mia Bautista, Bill Belknap, Tyler Palmer, Jen Pfiffner, Karen Johnston, Dwight Curtis, Laurie M. Hopkins

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Mask Moscow Report - Jen Pfiffner

Pfiffner said the Chamber of Commerce, UI and Gritman took a collaborative approach to how to promote wearing masks in the community. The idea is to safely reopen and stay open. There will be an article in the water billing newsletter and then promotion by social media starting June 4. A large poster was created by Appearances so that businesses, organizations and facilities may post in their locations. Sullivan stated Appearances also created a sign for businesses to post that says they are open and describes things they have put in place to keep customers and employees safe.

2. WRRF Facility Plan Study Task Order Agreement (ACTION ITEM) - Tyler Palmer

The City of Moscow has been requested by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to document a path forward toward temperature compliance with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Wastewater Discharge Permit at the City's Water Reclamation and Reuse Facility (WRRF). As discussed at the Council meeting on May 18, 2020, staff submitted a plan to meet DEQ's request, which requires the City to conduct a Facility Plan Study (FPS) update. The current FPS was completed in 1998, and served as the basis for the last major upgrades to the WRRF, which replaced previous versions of treatment with the current Biological Nutrient Removal process in 2002, and effluent filtration in 2010. The FPS describes the overall system, including the collection system, the treatment systems, and the disposal systems. It is a comprehensive planning document for the existing infrastructure and includes the plan for the future of the systems, including upgrades and additions. The City has received a Final Scope of Services from JUB Engineering to conduct the FPS at a cost of \$272,100. The FPS is anticipated to evaluate three (3) temperature design alternatives to comply with the current permit limit.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Authorize the City Supervisor to approve the task order to complete the Facility Plan Study, including the proposed funding proposal, or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Palmer introduced the item as written above. Staff has identified \$100,000 in the FY2020 to initiate the study and the FY2021 budget proposes the remainder to complete the study. The letter requested by

DEQ that was due June 1 was sent and they were happy with the plan. Bettge moved and Taruscio seconded to authorize the City Supervisor to approve the task order to complete the Facility Plan Study. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

3. 2020 Pool Season Recommendation (ACTION ITEM) - Dwight Curtis / Karen Johnston

With the 2020 pool season upon us along with COVID-19 issues, the decision whether or not to open the Hamilton-Lowe Aquatics Center (HLAC) is needed. In light of the uncertainty in our ability to ensure a safe aquatics center amid the dangers of infection and exposure caused by the COVID-19 virus, staff recommends not opening for the 2020 season. Sanitizing and ensuring social distancing is problematic at best. The North Idaho Public Health Department (NIPHD) acknowledged to the Parks and Recreation Director that it will be impossible to keep such a facility sanitized, and social distancing will be an issue. Staff also understand that there is considerable interest by the public to open the HLAC; even for a shortened season. If the Council's decision is open the facility, staff recommends opening no earlier than July 1st. At the point the City enters into Stage 4 of the Governor's Rebound Idaho Plan, the risks may/could be considerably less. Staff will follow the attached abbreviated opening plan in the attached memorandum from Parks and Recreation Director Dwight Curtis.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Accept staff recommendation to not open the Hamilton-Lowe Aquatics Center for the 2020 season; or, if City Council direction is to open the Hamilton-Lowe Aquatics Center for the 2020 season, approve opening on July 1, 2020, utilizing the Plan described in the memo from the Parks and Recreation Director; or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Curtis introduced the item as written above and reviewing an opening plan (see attached presentation). Laflin suggested reducing the time spent in locker rooms by encouraging patrons come ready to swim; require masks in the locker room; guards should wear masks; close water fountains, and include passes so exchange of money is minimized. Taruscio reminded everyone the Governor's stages included suggestions, not requirements. She agrees the pool should open but how would everything be enforced when they are only suggestions. Riedner replied the pool is the City's facility and subject to whatever rules the Council and/or staff make for it. Someone not following the rules can be asked to leave. Bautista said she would anticipate being in stage 4 if the pool opens July 1 which most likely means different regulations. Any mandatory portion of the Governor's order can be enforced and guidelines can be deemed rules if the City feels it necessary. The City is trying to educate rather than enforce. Sullivan feels if these rules are what needs to happen to open and remain open, it needs to be very clearly communicated. The City needs to be flexible because things change. If the pool is opened and rules are battled every day, she feels it would be a failed experiment and would need to be closed. Bettge asked should someone contract the virus, what is the legal exposure. Riedner said as long as we have reasonable precautions in place, following the Governor's guidelines, there would not be any liability. Exposure is a concern as passes are purchased by citizens all over the region. Locker rooms would need to be open due to the number of toilets needed. Social distancing approach will be a bit difference as family groups do not have to socialize from each other, only six feet away from the next group. With education and reminders, staff thinks it will work. Money usage will be handled by wearing gloves and sanitizing. Staff will be cleaning and sanitizing as part of their job. Masks will be a challenge but patrons will be required to wear them when not in the water. The gray area is when patrons are wading in the water with no intent to actually swim.

Taruscio moved to open the pool on July 1, as set out with the safety protocols suggested by the Parks and Recreation Director. Laflin seconded.

Curtis confirmed concessions will be open. It is a revenue source that patrons rely on and if not available, they would bring their own coolers. Patrons will be counted as they come into the pool in order to monitor the number of patrons. There will also be a survey patrons can fill out to provide suggestions. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of Resolution Allowing Temporary Business Extension into Main Street Right-of-Way (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

The Mayor and City Council have directed City staff to research and develop temporary program changes designed to provide some opportunities to eating and drinking establishments and merchants which are being directly impacted by the Social Distancing requirements imposed by Idaho's Stay Healthy Order and Idaho Rebounds Protocols. These discussions have revolved around the potential to allow temporary expanded use of the public rights-of-way for Sidewalk Cafés, which are regulated by Moscow City Code (MCC) Title 9, Chapter 12, as well as expediting the process for expansion of the boundaries of licensed serving areas for duly licensed alcoholic beverage service and consumption. The attached memo from the City Supervisor and additional reference materials provide a background of the process and a review of considerations in making changes to current regulations. Also attached is a draft Resolution for City Council consideration which allows for flexibility of Sidewalk Cafe regulations as the recovery from COVID-19 continues.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Review the memo and other information provided and approve the proposed Resolution, or take such further action deemed appropriate.

Sullivan recused herself from the discussion and vote on this issue as she is a business owner downtown and does have a vested interest.

Riedner introduced the item as written above and explained details of the draft resolution for Council review that would allow temporary suspension of certain elements of the sidewalk cafe ordinance (see attached presentation). Prohibition of cafés in Friendship Square is not in the resolution at this time but can be added if the Council desires. Public Works will be reviewing the proposed expansion as it is in the ROW. Bettge said with the limited amount of people allowed and not promoting socialization, the free speech wall most likely won't be utilized, and with no entertainment, it does allow for cafés to expand into Friendship Square. Kelly is in favor of adding into the resolution expansion into Friendship Square. Taruscio is in support of the resolution, however not completely in favor of The Garden expanding. Riedner explained when the current sidewalk café ordinance was enacted, the council at the time felt they did not want only liquor in a cafe, which was the reason for requiring the restaurant. The way the ordinance reads, a bar could have a sidewalk café allowing only beer/wine within the café area. Bettge moved and Taruscio seconded to approve the proposed resolution. Laffin suggested the amendment to add the suspending of the Farmers Market restriction (Title 9, Chapter 12, Section 12-6.G). Bettge and Taruscio accepted the amendment. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. The amendment to the resolution will be completed and sent to Council for review prior to the Mayor signing it.

5. City COVID-19 Response Update - Gary J. Riedner

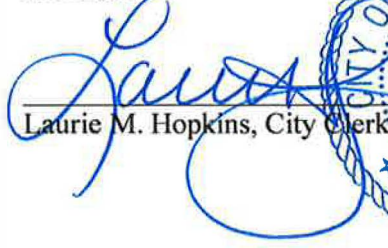
Riedner said Idaho is in Stage 3 which allows gatherings of 50 people. Council leadership met and discussed in-person council meetings and committee/commission meetings. First timeline was to begin June 15 and a public hearing is scheduled for that day. The Council was poled for preference for in-person meeting versus Zoom meetings and result was approximately three and three. The Committee

meetings will reconvene July 13, 2020 and commission meetings resuming in August. Parks and Recreation Department continue to evaluate their programs and masks continue to be required in City facilities as well as employees if they are not able to social distance. Staff is still working on tracking COVID-19 time and expenses to be reimbursed. Staff is also looking into whether the City could provide masks to the public.

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

Laflin moved and Bettge seconded to adjourn to executive session at 9:17 p.m.

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk




Bill Lambert, Mayor

**CITY OF MOSCOW
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION
June 1, 2020**

Present: Mayor Lambert, Art Bettge, Sandra Kelly, Maureen Laflin, Brandy Sullivan, Anne Zabala

Also Present: Gary J. Riedner, City Supervisor; Mia Bautista, City Attorney; Bill Belknap, Deputy City Supervisor

The executive session was called to order at 9:24 p.m.

Item discussed pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(C) and (F)

The executive session was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.



2020 Pool Season

Staff Recommendation – Cancel the 2020 Pool Season

- Uncertainty in ensuring safe aquatics Center concerning COVID-19
- Sanitizing
- Social Distancing
- Imported Contagion Risks
- Minimum Employees Needed
- Enjoyment Detractor Scale

Considerable Public Interest to Open Pool

- 57-day season as compared to the typical 85-day season; 28 fewer pool days
- Projections of about a 31% deficit compared to the 50% deficit in 2019
- Currently minimum Lifeguards...many already left to take other more certain summer jobs
- Regional Attraction - Imported Contagion Risks High
- Operations to remain flexible for an evolving dynamic

Opening Plan Under COVID-19 Conditions

1. Open the HLAC on July 1st / This is beyond Stage 4
2. No Swim Lessons offered (distancing issues)
3. No pool rentals offered, except swim teams (staffing issues)
4. Tube Slide operation to remain shut down (sanitizing issues)*
5. No tubes in Lazy River, and Fun Run to remain closed (sanitizing & distancing issues)

Opening Plan – Continued...

6. Regular cleaning of touch surfaces throughout the open period.
7. Current *capacity limits and space* are sufficient to maintain social distancing
8. Social Distancing to be enforced outside of the water as much as possible
9. Masking required when not in the water
10. Season passes will be offered at a prorated value
11. No change in cost for drop-in patrons
12. A designated staffer will oversee safety operations when the facility is open.

Additional options to consider...

1. Shower facilities not available
2. Parents to wear masks when only wading in zero-depth pool with children
3. Lap Swim
 - a. Swim Team access from 6-8am (rental)
 - b. Lap Swim from 8-11am in one-hour blocks, 2 people per lane (fee or pool pass)
 - i. For this year only...next year this time will be swim lessons
 - c. Keep most of the previously scheduled lap swim times
4. Possibly self-help cleaning dispensers similar to workout gyms for cleaning lounge chairs, etc.
5. Cash only transactions – no pool passes
6. Open smaller tube slide only...no tubes.
7. Capacity limits as backup plan.

Fee Schedule Comparison

	Drop-Ins			
	<u>3/under</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Child</u>	<u>Senior</u>
No change	\$	7.11 \$	5.50 \$	5.50

Passes			Adult	Child	Senior	Family
Revised	Res	\$	72.50 \$	54.15 \$	54.15 \$	118.00
Scheduled		\$	108.00 \$	91.00 \$	91.00 \$	176.00
Revised	NonRes	\$	81.00 \$	72.40 \$	72.40 \$	141.50
Scheduled		\$	121.00 \$	108.00 \$	108.00 \$	211.00

Res 57 pool days * \$2.07 = \$118

Non-Res 57 pool days * \$2.48 = \$141

Expense/Revenue Comparison

Details	2019	2020
Season days	85 days	57 days
Exp/day \$4,800	\$ 407,863.00	\$ 273,486.00
REV - Passes	\$ 204,939.00	\$ 80,300.00
REV - Drop-ins	\$ 118,943.00	\$ 79,500.00
REV - Concessions	\$ 40,200.00	\$ 28,500.00
	\$ (162,724.00)	\$ (85,186.00)

Conclusion...

A parks and recreational water park facility is meant to be a social gathering environment...a FUN place.

If patrons are *cooperative*, I believe this HLAC opening plan will minimize the COVID-19 risk factors as much as reasonably possible under the circumstances for both patrons and employees, and still allow an enjoyable experience for all.

Proposed Council Action:

Accept staff recommendation to not open the Hamilton-Lowe Aquatics Center for the 2020 season; or,

If City Council direction is to open the Hamilton-Lowe Aquatics Center for the 2020 season, approve opening on July 1, 2020, utilizing the Plan described in the memo from the Parks and Recreation Director; or,

Take other such action deemed appropriate.