

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

www.ci.moscow.id.us

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

**Monday
February 1, 2021**

7:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

STAFF: Gary J. Riedner, Mia Bautista (Virtual), Bill Belknap (Virtual), Tyler Palmer (Virtual), Kyle Steele (Virtual), Laurie M. Hopkins (Virtual)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lambert led the Pledge of Allegiance

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow City Council January 19, 2021 Minutes (ACTION ITEM) - Laurie M. Hopkins

Minutes presented for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Bettge moved and Taruscio seconded approval of the minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

2. Renewal of Agreement for E911 Services and Complete Dispatch Services with Whitcom (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

Since 2004, the City of Moscow has been contracting with Whitcom, the consolidated dispatch agency serving Whitman County, City of Pullman, Asotin County and the Nez Perce Tribe, for emergency dispatch, communications and E-911 services. The current agreement was renewed in 2016 and expired on December 31, 2020. For the past year, the Whitcom member entities have been discussing fee structures which would be equitable to all members. The new agreement contains a fee structure for the City of Moscow which is 21.25% of Whitcom's budget. The percentage takes into account in-kind services provided to Whitcom by Whitman County, City of Pullman and Washington State University. The new agreement is for two years (January 2021-December 31, 2022). Fees for the first year (2021) are \$607,213.25, and fees for the second year (2022) are \$712,911, which is the calculation of 21.25% of the Whitcom budget for each respective year. This was reviewed by the Public Works/Finance Committee on January 25, 2021 and recommended for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the Agreement for E911 Services and Complete Dispatch Services with Whitcom from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022, or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Riedner introduced the item as written above and included a history of emergency services in the area. He also provided the Whitcom budget and user fee model. After presentation to the Public

Works/Finance Committee, staff added a sentence regarding continuing the agreement if active negotiations are occurring. All entities are in agreement with the two-year term for the contract. Staff doesn't anticipate any changes in participation in the future, however, if Asotin County were to drop out of Whitcom, the fees would need to be proportionately recalculated.

Wendy Berrett, Whitcom Executive Director, has been at Whitcom for 20 years, the Executive Director since July 2019. A couple trainees are about to start on their own. A few more applicants are completing background checks. After the background check is approved, it takes six months of training.

Lanier said the annual amount levels out because they wanted to find a funding model that is repeatable each year. The initial increase in fees was split in half with implementation of the half increase the first year and the other half plus the second year increase the second year. Following years would only have the escalator increase. Berrett responded to Kelly's question that overtime is budgeted at \$300,000 for 2021, \$250,000 for 2022, and continues to lower as Whitcom hires more dispatchers. There are currently 12 fully trained dispatchers, 2 part time, and 2 in training. Berrett's goal is to fully staff at 20 dispatchers. In answer to Laflin, when not fully staffed, overtime is necessary which does cause burnout. Lanier explained the funding models that were considered, with the most equitable being a percentage which takes into account in-kind services for the IAL entities.

Bettge moved Zabala seconded to approve the agreement for E911 Services and Complete Dispatch Services with Whitcom from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

3. Ordinance Amending Title 5 of Moscow City Code with the Addition of Chapter 19 (ACTION ITEM) - Kyle Steele / Tyler Palmer

The City of Moscow was issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit on August 5, 2019, which became effective on October 1, 2019. The MS4 Permit requires the City to develop and implement a comprehensive stormwater program. The City currently has few revenue sources and funding mechanisms to operate the existing stormwater program. Expenses for existing stormwater related activities are currently covered by general fund revenues. Due to increasing costs, increased maintenance and tracking requirements, and regulatory compliance responsibilities of the new MS4 Permit, securing the necessary additional funding and implementing the recommendations developed through the gap analysis process identified in the City of Moscow Stormwater User Fee Study is essential. The proposed amendment and adoption of Moscow City Code Title 5, by the addition of Chapter 19, would establish a system of stormwater user fees to fund and carry out a comprehensive stormwater management program. Stormwater user fees would be collected from customers within the entire incorporated area of the City proportionate to the cost of providing proprietary stormwater services. The money from stormwater user fees will be used to manage and operate the municipal stormwater control system in compliance with federal laws. The municipal stormwater control system exists to provide drainage services to properties within the City. This was reviewed by the Public Works/Finance Committee on January 25, 2021 and recommended for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the Ordinance under suspension of the rules requiring three complete and separate readings and that it be read by title and published by summary; or consider the Ordinance on first reading and that it be read by title; or reject the Ordinance; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Steele introduced the item as written above. Palmer added this is required by the EPA under the NPDES permit and goes back to the 1990's. Moscow is committed to making sure to minimize the impact on the environment. Staff has worked hard on being creative to accommodate this with existing staff and efficiency. Bettge reiterated that a stormwater program is a federal requirement and fines could amount to \$37,500 per day per violation. The range of fees for stormwater will include tiers and is based on impervious service area. Those that could be higher residential units will include specific projected amounts for their account. Staff is still looking into how a property owner can decrease their percentage level using best management practice such as mechanical treatment, installing swales, etc. Property owners are allowed to seek fee adjustments or elimination through an application and appeals process. Roughly 150 properties have already received a direct discharge credit. Staff has worked hard to have an equitable distribution to those that are affected. Sullivan echoed Bettge that this is not a permit you go get. There is no opting out as it is required and Moscow has no choice but to come into compliance.

Taruscio moved and Zabala seconded to approve the Ordinance under suspension of the rules requiring three complete and separate readings and that it be read by title and published by summary. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

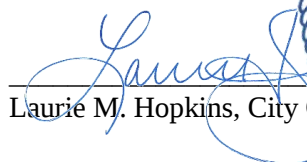
Mayor Lambert read Ordinance 2020-03:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOSCOW, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF MOSCOW CITY CODE TITLE 05, BY THE ADDITION OF CHAPTER 19, ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF STORMWATER USER FEES TO FUND THE PROVISION OF PROPRIETARY STORMWATER SERVICES BY THE CITY TO PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN CITY'S JURISDICTION; APPROVING ADMINISTRATION OF THE USER FEE SYSTEM; AUTHORIZING STORMWATER USER FEES AND ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS TO APPEAL THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE; REQUIRING THAT STORMWATER USER FEE REVENUE BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND SPENT ONLY ON STORMWATER CONTROL SYSTEM COSTS; ESTABLISHING ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS AND PENALTIES FOR NON-PAYMENT OF FEES; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE BE DEEMED SEVERABLE; APPROVING THE PUBLICATION OF A SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE WITH THE FULL TEXT AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL; PROVIDING FOR A WAIVER OF THE READING RULES; AND PROVIDING FOR THIS ORDINANCE TO BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF ITS PASSAGE, APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION ACCORDING TO LAW.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk




Bill Lambert, Mayor