

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Tuesday, July 6, 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, Sandra Kelly, Maureen Laflin, Brandy Sullivan, Gina Taruscio, Anne Zabala

STAFF: Gary J. Riedner, Mia Bautista, Bill Belknap, Megan Cherry, Laurie M. Hopkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Laflin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

A. Approval of Moscow City Council June 21, 2021 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

B. Parks Staffing Proposal - Gary J. Riedner

Increased services levels and a lack of available staff has led to a historical review of Parks service and staffing. Research shows that as service hours required for City of Moscow Parks Properties has increased, staffing levels have decreased. This review highlights the need to shift from relying on seasonal staff to adding full-time staff to meet current Parks properties service demands. It is proposed to add two additional full-time Parks Maintenance Workers while reducing the number of seasonal hours relied upon to meet the current needs for all parks. This would result in an estimated increase in full-time wages for Parks of \$98,342 with a reduction in part-time wages for Parks of \$94,454 (FY20 budget of \$186,680 to proposed FY22 budget of \$92,226). This shift will provide for the appropriate staffing level to meet the needs of the existing Parks Facilities in Moscow, appropriately meeting the service needs of the City. This item was reviewed by Public Works/Finance Committee on June 28, 2021 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the proposed staffing adjustment.

C. Sanitation Rate Study Proposal - Tim Davis

The Sanitation Department has initiated discussions with FCS Group, Redmond Washington, to develop a scope of work to perform a cost of service rate study update. The methodology and policies established in the 2012 Sanitation comprehensive rate study and 2016 Sanitation rate study update will be used to inform this update. This rate study update will evaluate the sanitation system in total along with standalone evaluations of the collection system and solid waste processing system. This update is driven by the upcoming disposal contract negotiations set for 2022-2023 between the City of Moscow and Latah County, the cities of Bovill, Deary, Genesee, Juliaetta, Kendrick, Potlatch and Troy. It will also allow the City to recalibrate the sanitation rates with information from some of the newer programs, such as roll cart collection and single stream recycling that were initiated after the initial rate study to evaluate if the cost of service has shifted from past rate study findings. Staff will form a Citizen Rate Study Committee, made up from a range of different customer classes, to review the rate study processes and findings. Staff has

requested that the rate study update be completed by November 1, 2021. FCS Group will provide both a draft and final report to the City upon conclusion of the study. FCS will also prepare materials for and facilitate presentations to the Citizen Rate Committee and City Council on study assumptions, methodology, results and recommendations. The estimated budget from FCS Group to perform the rate study update is \$42,485. This item was reviewed by Public Works/Finance Committee on June 28, 2021 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the professional services agreement with FCS Group to perform the cost of service rate study update.

D. Amendment to Joint Operating Agreement for the Pullman/Moscow Regional Airport – Gary J. Riedner

City Staff is recommending an amendment to the Joint Operating Agreement for the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport that was executed on July 22, 2014. Upon further review of the Agreement and the requirements listed in I.C. 67-2328, the duration of this type of agreement must be specified. Previously, all joint operating agreements have been in perpetuity and provide for a method for either party to terminate the agreement should either party deem appropriate. This proposed amendment is to provide for the inclusion of the duration, “in perpetuity”. No other terms of the agreement are being modified. This item was reviewed by Public Works/Finance Committee on June 28, 2021 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the amendment of the Joint Operating Agreement for the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport.

Bettge moved and Laflin seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Staff Recognition Report - Gary J. Riedner

None offered.

3. Mayors Appointments (ACTION ITEM)

None offered.

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

Erin Bacon (Moscow) reported on the Kids Safety Fair which was again cancelled but they were able to distribute a total of 509 helmets to the local schools. She thanked everyone who supported the delivery of bike helmets and they look forward to hosting the fair in 2022. Mayor Lambert thanked Erin.

Will Stokes (Moscow) wanted to be sure the fiber project to the outlying areas was still progressing. He has found it difficult to find who is assisting with the project at the City level. Latah County is finishing their paperwork and he hopes to have the project completed by the end of the year.

Dan Schoenberg (Moscow) suggested reviewing the recycling program during the upcoming sanitation study. Many multifamily properties can't have recycling yet are charged the mandatory fee of \$5.00. He is aware of previous discussions regarding a dumpster for multi-family but apparently Moscow doesn't have the equipment for it. He asked the Council to respect taxes and service fees and in reviewing the budget, ask if it is fair and just and necessary.

5. Citizen Commission Report - James Fry / Ken Faunce

Ken Faunce, Chair of the Human Rights Commission provided membership and projects including the Great Moscow Food Drive, Indigenous People Day, MLK Human Rights Breakfast and tabling at the Market. Social justice forum topics included “Strengthening Relationships with the Community and Law Enforcement”, “Addressing Systematic Biases Regarding Race and Ethnicity”, “A Mental Health

Discussion”, and “Restorative Justice: Healing Individuals and Their Communities”. The Inclusive Community Month theme was Intersectionality. The Commission discussed bias reporting and Bautista confirmed a report can be anonymous.

6. Sale of Current Police Station to University of Idaho (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

On May 21, 2019, citizens of Moscow approved the City of Moscow's proposal to issue municipal bonds to construct a new police services facility, remodel the current police facility for use as an office building, and make minor improvements to the Paul Mann Building located to the west of City Hall. On Jun. 15, 2020, the City of Moscow purchased the Haddock Building, located at the southeast corner of Washington and Fifth Street, from Gritman Medical Park, LLC, for the price of \$875,000. The purchase of the Haddock Building includes off street parking and represents significant savings over the estimated remodel costs of the current police facility. With the purchase of the Haddock Building, City Council expressed interest in selling the existing police facility since it would no longer serve the needs of the City, and was approached by representatives of the University of Idaho.

Idaho Code Title 50, Municipal Corporations, Chapter 14, Conveyance of Property, allows a city to convey real property to another governmental entity without the requirement of holding an auction if the City Council determines it is in the city's best interest to convey the property. The University of Idaho, which qualifies as a tax supported governmental unit per the requirements of I.C. 50-1403(4), has transmitted a letter of intent to the City of Moscow, noting an interest to purchase the property.

In order to convey City-owned real property, the City must declare its intent to sell or exchange the property, state the value or minimum price for the property, or an explanation of the intended exchange for other than monetary consideration. After meeting these requirements in a public meeting, the City Clerk shall publish a summary of the action in the official newspaper of the City (Moscow-Pullman Daily News), and provide notice of a public hearing to take place no earlier than fourteen (14) days prior the date of the public hearing.

The soon-to-be-vacated Moscow Police Station facility located at 118 E Fourth Street, is approximately 9,000 sq. ft. in size and has an appraised value of \$975,000. The appraisal was conducted by Gem Valley Appraisals, Inc. in March, 2021.

This was reviewed by Public Works/Finance Committee on June 28, 2021 and recommended to proceed to City Council.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Declare the City Council's intent to convey the Moscow Police Station facility located at 118 E Fourth Street to the University of Idaho for the appraised value of \$975,000 and direct the City Clerk to publish a summary of such action in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News and to schedule a public hearing for August 2, 2021; or provide staff further direction.

Riedner introduced the item as written above.

Toni Broyles (University of Idaho Strategic Initiatives) said they have been looking for a location for the Pritchett for quite a few years as they are renting the current location. Upon inspection they feel it is a perfect fit for an art gallery and would like to include a Vandal Store on the highway side. The idea is for the store to include other local items as well and showcase the faculty and students. With a Vandal Store along the highway, there is more visibility which creates recruitment. Broyles said they reviewing previous remodel plans the City had and hope to restore the exterior and look at the possibility at a corner entrance.

Riedner explained the bond described the buildings but was worded to say “general facilities” so that it included flexibility if needed. There is no legal issue with purchasing another building if it makes fiscal sense. Prior to the bond passing, no one came forward with an opinion in regards to the 4th St building. Riedner explained the differing costs and said the decisions saved the tax payors money and delivered what was in the bond. Sullivan added that by selling the 4th St building frees up parking for general use.

Riedner further explained conveying to the U of I was about being good stewards of public funds, not about whether the property would remain tax exempt or not. Removing the Police Station from downtown will not reduce services downtown. Police are on patrol all day and night and bike officers are mainly downtown and campus. Although the purchase of the Haddock building was purchased rapidly, it was done in public meetings and reported in the paper. Should the U of I deviate from an art gallery and Vandal store, the same Central Business zoning laws would apply. Zoning is about property use, not property ownership.

Taruscio encouraged public outreach as the public hearing approaches such as a timeline and changes between what buildings were stated in the bond and what actually transpired.

Bettge moved and Kelly seconded to declare the City Council's intent to convey the Moscow Police Station facility located at 118 E Fourth Street to the University of Idaho for the appraised value of \$975,000 and direct the City Clerk to publish a summary of such action in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News and to schedule a public hearing for August 2, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REPORTS

City Council

Moscow Tree Commission – Zabala said the Commission discussed participation in P&R classes such as fall planting and landscaping; Harvest Park policies such as regulation of dogs in the park; Moscow Heritage Tree program to recognize special and significant trees in the City.

1912 Center Development Committee – Kelly said the second floor renovations are complete and encouraged tours.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Taruscio said there was an update on the pool and the Commission is starting on strategic planning.

Mayor

The Mayor said the Airport Board meeting takes place tomorrow. The Mayors Golf Tournament is scheduled for August 13 and proceeds go to the Moscow Food Bank.

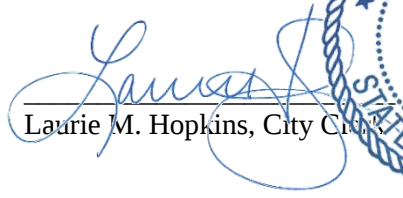
Staff

Riedner announced he submitted a letter of retirement and his last day will be January 7, 2022 after 30 years of service.

ADJOURN

It was moved, seconded and mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk




Bill Lambert, Mayor