

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, August 1, 2022

7:00 PM

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

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

PRESENT: Mayor Art Bettge, Sandra Kelly, Maureen Laflin, Hailey Lewis, Julia Parker (virtual), Gina Taruscio, Anne Zabala

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Cody Riddle, Tyler Palmer, Kelli Cooper, Sarah Banks, Tim Davis, Amanda Argona, Laurie M. Hopkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Vice-President Laflin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

A. Approval of Moscow City Council July 18, 2022 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

B. North Jackson Street Parking Lot Paving Project Bid Results - Bob Buvel

The North Jackson Street Parking Lot Paving Project consists of the replacement of existing asphalt and sidewalk in the parking lot on the 300 block of N. Jackson. The contract includes excavation down to a new subgrade and the installation of approximately 550 square yards of asphalt, with curbing, sidewalk, and drainage. The City sent invitations to bid on July 8, 2022 to five local construction groups for the project. The Engineer's estimate for the project was \$111,590.00. The bid opening for the project took place on July 15, 2022, at which one (1) bid was received from Motley Motley Inc. in the amount of \$102,523.00. A bid tabulation is included in the Committee Packet. This was reviewed by the Public Works/Finance Committee on July 25, 2022 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Accept the low bid from Motley Motley Inc, award the contract for \$102,523.00, and authorize staff approval of construction change orders to an amount not to exceed 10% of the contract.

C. Moscow Chamber of Commerce Visitor and Tourism Services Agreement - Bill Belknap

The City of Moscow has financially supported the visitor and tourism activities of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center for many years. In review of this arrangement, Staff identified the need to have a services agreement to document the specific services that the Chamber provides in exchange for the funding provided by the City. A draft services agreement has been prepared in cooperation with the Chamber for the Council's review. This was reviewed by the Public Works/Finance Committee on July 25, 2022 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the Visitor and Tourism Services Agreement.

D. Replacement of Resolution 2022-19, Time Change for Bucer's Outdoor Concert Entertainment District Event - Amanda Argona

Bucer's Coffeehouse and Pub is hosting an Outdoor Concert on Friday, August 12th on Main Street between 1st and 2nd Streets. In addition to being the Event Sponsor, Bucer's is also the licensed beer/wine vendor for the event. The event has been reviewed and approved by staff as of May 20, 2022.

Following standard operating procedures for events with alcohol that are within the Entertainment District boundaries, Bucer's Outdoor Concert requested a temporary suspension of the open container law by resolution. Per Moscow City Code, Section 10-1-12, a draft resolution was prepared for the Council's consideration. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on July 11, 2022 and recommended for approval. The item was approved via consent agenda by the City Council on July 18, 2022. Since approval, the applicant, Bucer's Coffeehouse and Pub, is requesting a time change so the event runs from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., rather than 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to be in compliance with their approved Noise Exemption Permit. The amended resolution was reviewed by the Public Works / Finance Committee on July 25, 2022 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the revised Resolution allowing for the temporary suspension of the open container law within the event footprint of Bucer's Outdoor Concert for the duration of the event.

E. The Block Party Alcohol Use Request in Entertainment District - Amanda Argona

The Block Party is an event hosted by the City of Moscow, Moscow Chamber of Commerce + Visitor Center, and the University of Idaho intended to celebrate the vibrant and welcoming ties of our community. The event is scheduled for Saturday, August 27th, from 4 pm to 8 pm on Main Street between 3rd and 5th Streets. The event will feature no more than five licensed beer/wine vendors, food trucks, oversized yard games and contests, a live DJ, a karaoke contest, and more. The event has been reviewed and approved by staff as of July 13, 2022. Following standard operating procedures for events with alcohol that are within the Entertainment District boundaries, The Block Party is requesting a temporary suspension of the open container law by resolution. Per Moscow City Code, Section 10-1-12, a draft resolution has been prepared for the Council's consideration. This was reviewed by the Public Works / Finance Committee on July 25, 2022 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the resolution allowing for the temporary suspension of the open container law within the event footprint of The Block Party for the duration of the event.

Taruscio 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 - Bill Belknap

None offered.

3. Mayors Appointments (ACTION ITEM)

None offered.

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

None offered.

5. Citizen Commission Report - Sustainable Environment Commission - Kyle Steele / Steve McGeehan

Cooper introduced Steve McGeehan. McGeehan provided a list of the commission members, and spoke on the climate action working group. The Commission reached out to other commissions and received comments on the Climate Action Plan. The Commission received a report regarding the importance of composting in solid waste management. Omar Al-Hassawi from WSU also presented to the Commission regarding carbon conscience construction. The Commission assisted with the Mayor's Earth Day awards.

6. PUBLIC HEARING: City of Moscow's FY2023 Annual Budget (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap / Sarah Banks

Staff will present the proposed City of Moscow FY2023 balanced budget in the amount of \$109,189,264, which was considered by the City Council at a workshop held on July 18, 2022. The proposed budget includes the statutory allowed 3% inflationary increase, an additional 1% foregone tax recovery, as well as

90% of new construction and annexations which are \$64,725 and \$774 respectively. According to the Latah County Assessor's office, the assessed taxable valuation within the City increased by 27.3% this year, which resulted in a reduction in the City's levy rate from \$5.08 to \$4.10 per \$1,000 in taxable valuation. The proposed 1% foregone tax recovery would result in an annual tax increase of \$9.83 over the tax year (or \$0.82 per month) for a home with an assessed valuation of \$400,000. Included for City Council consideration is the FY2023 Annual Appropriation Ordinance, and the L-2 property tax certification in the aggregate amount of \$7,859,905.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Conduct the public hearing upon the FY2023 City of Moscow Annual Appropriation Ordinance and upon consideration of testimony presented:

- A. Approve the foregone tax recovery Resolution, or take other action as deemed appropriate;
- B. 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 other action deemed appropriate.
- C. Authorize the Mayor's execution of the L-2 property tax certification in the aggregate amount of \$7,859,905; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Mayor Bettge opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Belknap introduced the item by describing the budget purpose, strategic plan, explained property taxes and highlighted the departments. See presentation attached.

Victoria Seever (Moscow) said even when city council members change, the Council has frugally prioritized projected and tax accordingly, even taking less than the allotted 3% when deemed appropriate. Staff leverages funds significantly with grants, regional collaboration and innovation. She supports the overall budget decisions and suggested continuing public outreach, facilitating business and development. The ARPA grants were a difficult undertaking and she looks forward to seeing the reaping of the awards. She urged focusing on the Strategic Plan items that are more subtle but just as urgent such as affordable housing and response to climate conditions.

Hearing no other testimony, Mayor Bettge closed the hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Laflin said each year she finds the budget process insightful and recognizes a lot of services the City provides are in a very tight fiscal constraint. She appreciates staff for all their work and appreciates living in Moscow with all the amenities and how the city is run on a tight ship. The charts in the presentation show how much more some of the other cities spend in comparison to Moscow.

Kelly said there was a lot of deliberation at the Council workshop. There are hard decisions to make and no one wants to pay more money. This year's process made the most sense, was thought out, and went well because of staff. The City makes the most of the money budgeted.

Taruscio agreed the budget is no small task and it is not always easy on staff. The budget is important and impressive every year and feels good about this budget.

Lewis appreciates increasing the salaries of those employees that are paid under market. The employees need to feel valued.

Zabala said it is a tough economic time for citizens and haven't seen inflation like this in 50 years. Feel there was more that the City could do to address it. The best graphs she has seen show 20 years ago the split between commercial and residential used to be 50/50 and now is closer to 30/70. She is excited where the City is and addressing the major challenge areas within the strategic plan.

Parker reiterate this is a difficult year and hate that the tax rate needs to be increased. The City staff did the best they could do maintaining services and dealing with inflation. She appreciates the frugality.

Bettge said it is important to remember there is a 91% inflation, but the City is increasing 3% plus 1% forgone and it doesn't come close to the inflation. The assessed value to run Moscow is half of most other cities due to approximately half of the property in Moscow is exempt. This limits the amount of funding the city can pull from.

Laflin moved to approve the forgone tax resolution. Taruscio seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Kelly moved 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. Taruscio seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Bettge read Ordinance 2022-10 by title:

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE" APPROPRIATING ONE HUNDRED NINE MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$109,189,264) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING ALL NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF MOSCOW, LATAH COUNTY, STATE OF IDAHO, FOR THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022, AND ENDING THE THIRTIETH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023, AND ALLOTING RESOURCES BY FUND FOR SAID APPROPRIATION FOR THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS ORDINANCE; LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVEN MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FIVE DOLLARS (\$7,859,905) FOR THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR; PROVIDING THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE BE DEEMED SEVERABLE; PROVIDING FOR THIS ORDINANCE TO BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FROM AND AFTER ITS PASSAGE, APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION ACCORDING TO LAW.

Taruscio moved to authorize the Mayor's execution of the L-2 property tax certification in the aggregate amount of \$7,859,905. Kelly seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Bettge called a recess at 7:58 p.m. The meeting was called back in session at 8:05 p.m.

7. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed FY2023 Fee Resolution (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap

Any fee increase being proposed by more than 5% or any new fees require a public hearing pursuant to Idaho Code 63-1311A. Additionally, as required by Idaho Code 63-1311, the City's fees collected shall be reasonably related to the actual cost of the service provided. Staff will discuss proposed fee increases for the FY2023 budget year, which support the FY2023 budget proposal. The fee increases are due to the additional costs associated with the delivery of services, including administration, operations and maintenance.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Conduct the public hearing and after considering testimony, approve the FY2023 Fee Resolution as proposed; or take other action deemed appropriate.

Belknap introduced the fee resolution as written above. Many fees are within the 3-5% increase. Water and sewer rates are being increased per the rate study. Other fees were described.

Zabala was puzzled why the word non-refundable was included on the Alcohol Use application fee and no where else. Belknap thought it had to do with staff time as it is circulated through many departments. Stating it is non-refundable does not make it refundable.

Mayor Bettge opened the public hearing at 8:11 p.m.

Victoria Seever (Moscow) felt the fee increases are based on in-built inflation, safety and government requirements, maintenance and replacement, and need for services. Staff routinely go the extra mile and gain training to provide in-house services which is a significant cost savings. She supports the fee resolution.

Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Bettge closed the public hearing at 8:13 p.m.

Zabala feels the non-refundable word needs to be removed from the resolution and citizens can be alerted to it when they apply. Belknap confirmed it was added due to staff time processing. Virtually all fees are not refundable unless it is a unique situation. If services are rendered in any way, Laflin felt a fee needs to be paid. Lewis was in support of removing the word. Kelly thought if staff added it, there must be a reason. Taruscio thought since the discussion happened, the non-refundable issue could be put in a preamble rather than on one particular fee. Zabala reiterated it is inconsistent. Belknap said it is more likely citizens would call the department to ask for fees and the fees are on the applications so staff doesn't feel it is necessary to include it.

Zabala moved to approve the fee resolution with the removal of the word non-refundable on the Alcohol Use application fee. Taruscio seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

8. Downtown Streetscape Study Update – Cody Riddle

Riddle said in 2015 the strategic plan identified aging downtown infrastructure. In May, a professional services agreement was executed with Welch Comer for providing design and engineering services. It is important to note this is a study which will bring about a design and phasing plan. After public comment and evaluation, it can be determined where to invest and navigate the process.

Matt Gillis, Welch Comer, said the scope of the project review is the entire downtown between the couplets but may not necessarily be the construction area. They are currently in phase one which is evaluation and concept design. Further into the process, decisions will be made at the Council level.

Courtney Kramer, Welch Comer, said the outreach strategy includes street design, streetscape, amenities and parking. Each were described. See attached presentation. She also went through the planning process which included steering committee meetings, public meetings and council presentations. Feedback from the steering committee and stakeholders were explained and can be found in the attached presentation.

Gillis said there was lots of positive feedback at the public meeting. Stormwater was a big issue as it currently goes untreated in downtown. There was input regarding being as welcoming as possible; moving away from black asphalt and gray concrete by using colored concrete or pavers; trees being critical to downtown and the possibility of losing a few trees. For amenities, discussion was about what to do with Friendship Square; a refresher vs an overhaul; whether to keep the fountain and the need for some sort of water feature; and inclusion of public art. Parking was also discussed. The second steering committee meeting is scheduled for August 24. The concept design has begun and the second public meeting is scheduled for October 18.

Kelly commented she likes the idea of different colors of sidewalks but concerned about different smoothness and textures. Matt said they would plan to have consistent. Laflin mentioned she attended the public meeting and liked the set-up of the meeting and that it didn't focus on the cost but focused on thinking big then reduction depending on cost.

REPORTS

City Council

Human Rights Commission – Kelly said the Commission is planning fall events for inclusive community month in September.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Zabala reported the Commission received an update on Edington subdivision and because of the new development plans there is an increase to the parkland requirement and the parkland will be one large park centrally located.

SMART Transit – Lewis said the organization is still hiring for an Executive Director.

Sustainable Environment Commission – Parker reported the Commission discussed way to compost. They also discussed the WSU program on carbon conscience construction.

Council Members reported on other meetings and events.

Mayor

Mayor Lambert said he met with representatives from Senator Risch and the Governor's offices regarding issues on how municipalities feel about practices and funding. He attended an Idaho Transportation workshop that discussed current ITD projects and looking into the future of the entire District 2.

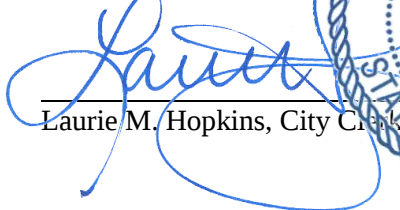
Staff

No report.

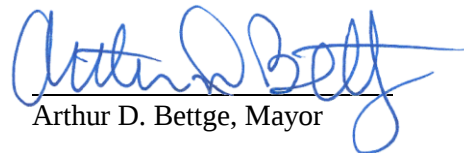
ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION PER IDAHO CODE 74-206 (1)(F) - THE MEETING WILL NOT RECONVENE.

Kelly moved, Laflin seconded to adjourn to executive session per Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(F) at 8:57 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk




Arthur D. Bettge, Mayor

**CITY OF MOSCOW
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION
August 1, 2022**

Present: Mayor Bettge, Sandra Kelly, Maureen Laflin, Hailey Lewis, Julia Parker (virtual), Gina Taruscio, Anne Zabala

Also Present: Bill Belknap, City Supervisor; Mia Bautista, City Attorney, Tyler Palmer, Deputy City Supervisor; Tim Davis, Sanitation Manager

The executive session was called to order at 9:00 p.m.

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

The executive session was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.