

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

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**Monday
May 1, 2023**

7:00 PM

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

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

PRESENT: Mayor Art Bettge, Drew Davis, Sandra Kelly, Maureen Laflin, Hailey Lewis, Julia Parker, Gina Taruscio

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Cody Riddle, Aimee Hennrich, David Schott, Cody Riddle, Steve Schulte, Ryan DeBaun, Brandon Ross, Amanda Argona, Laurie M. Hopkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Laflin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION

Renaissance Fair 50th Anniversary

Mayor Bettge read the proclamation and presented it to Arlene Falcon. Falcon thanked Mayor Bettge and encouraged everyone to attend the Fair.

Bike Month

Mayor Bettge read the proclamation and presented it to Tanya Denison. Denison invited everyone to join biking events this month and attend the events during the month.

Public Service Recognition Week

Mayor Bettge read the proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

A. Approval of Moscow City Council April 17, 2023 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

B. Written Decision Regarding the Appeal of a Conditional Use Permit 2518 Itani Drive – Aimee Hennrich

On January 6, 2023, John and Candis Write applied for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a Bed and Breakfast Inn, utilizing two of the four existing bedrooms in the single-family home at 2518 Itani Drive. The Board of Adjustment conducted a public hearing for the proposed CUP on February 7, 2023, and subsequently voted to approve the CUP application with the condition that the applicant provide six (6) off-street parking spaces on the property. On February 23, 2023, the Community Development Department received an appeal from John and Candis Write, stating that they wish to appeal the Board of Adjustment's decision to City Council in order to eliminate the condition of approval. On April 17, 2023, City Council considered the appeal during a public meeting and reversed the decision in part, upholding the approval and eliminating the condition to provide additional parking spaces. Staff has prepared the written decision for the Council's review and approval. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on April 24, 2023 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the proposed written decision.

C. Repeal of Resolution 2000-17 (Appeal Procedures) - Cody Riddle

Resolution 2000-17 details appeal procedures that are in conflict with provisions already in Moscow City Code. This redundancy creates confusion for those involved in the public hearing process. To eliminate this issue, Staff is recommending this resolution be repealed and users rely exclusively on provisions already established in Moscow City Code. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on April 24, 2023 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the resolution repealing Resolution 2000-17.

D. Bennett Lumber Radio Tower Lease Agreement - Bill Belknap

The City is currently working toward the replacement of the City's emergency communications radio system due to the current equipment reaching end-of-life as well as system coverage deficiencies. One component of that project will include the installation of additional radio antennas and equipment on the radio tower located on West Twin Peak of Moscow Mountain owned by Bennett Lumber. Staff worked with Bennett Lumber to prepare a new lease agreement to replace the City's existing equipment with the new and additional equipment planned for installation with the new radio system. The Lease Agreement is now before the Council for the Council's review and approval. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on April 24, 2023 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the Tower Lease Agreement with Bennett Lumber.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Staff Recognition

Schulte described the Public Works Employee of the Year which comprises employees from water, sewer, fleet, streets, stormwater, and sanitation and is peer awarded. Brandon Ross was awarded the honor for 2023. Ross thanked the City for all the opportunities the City has awarded he and his family for the last six years.

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

None offered.

4. Citizen Commission Report - Moscow Pathways Commission - David Schott / Tanya Denison

Schott introduced Tanya Denison, chair of the Moscow Pathways Commission. Denison went through the mission statement and members of the Commission. Events the Commission held were the annual Bike Tour; annual Bike to Work Day; and the first Annual Pedestrian Tour. The Commission saw the completion of the Paradise Pathway Lighting Project; provided input for the Wildrose Court subdivision; supported the MAMBA Trail Proposal and the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for Lola Clyde Park. Over the next year the Commission will continue to locate orphan paths & pedestrian rights of way; pursue/advise the underpass at US-95; and pursue involvement for pathway planning in new developments.

5. 2022-2023 Snow Report - Steve Schulte

Schulte said each fall Public Works and Services employees review the snow removal process and operations. In the fall, equipment is calibrated to be sure it puts out the appropriate amount of sand which minimizes waste. Staff can view weather on many cameras throughout the city. There was a total of 62.5 inches this past winter where most was received in November and December. Each road takes one pass through and one back. The next step is the push back where snow gates can be used. There are 106 miles

of road in town, 190 cul-de-sacs and can have up to 24 pieces of equipment on the roads at one time. There were 250 dump truck loads of snow picked up from the Berminator. Staff is constantly looking at route optimization and technology to improve snow removal. The City contracts with the University of Idaho for the City streets on campus. Schulte said depending on snow versus ice, they can use salt or rock chip.

6. Downtown Streetscape Study Update - Cody Riddle

Riddle provided a brief background on the project and explained they are not asking for a final design only if Council is comfortable with what is presented. If so, the consultants can finalize and bring the plan back for approval. The areas were broke into zones, with Zone A being the market area. Riddle said the question the City is faced with is when to start and how much. He said staff thoughts were finalize the conceptional design in 2023, 2024-25 completion of final design for first zone, and construction in 2026. That schedule allows staff time to find funding. The construction for the entire concept is roughly a \$28 million. Zone A, the footprint of the market, is estimated at \$8.3 million. Funding would need a large contribution from the MURA, grants, and City funding.

Matt Gillis, Welch Comer, went through the study area and the planning process.

Courtney Kremer, Welch Comer, worked with property owners, business owners, and staff. The outreach strategy included street design, amenities, streetscape, and parking. Primary input was having an innovative street design and stormwater treatment; color and texture and street trees; Friendship Square and water feature. Public input also included a willing to trade some parking for additional amenities, multi-modal transportation, especially for ADA parking spaces. More public input and communication is essential so there is no surprise to the community. Communication can also encourage local business to join in should they want to improve their frontage.

Dale Hatch, Bernardo Wills, said the first concept included the largest area of interest at Friendship Square. Colored treatments are designed in many areas of the zones. As many existing trees as possible will be maintained. All trees would have new irrigation, a larger base and include electricity at the base. The irrigation would be covered by red pavers for ease of access for maintenance of the irrigation system. Red clay pavers are placed at Third and Main Streets to signify the beginning of the Farmers Market area, as well as Sixth and Main Streets signifying the end of the Farmers Market area. The inclusion of public art at Main and A Streets could bring people to Main Street. Bulb-outs and smaller trees are introduced at a few intersections. Pedestrian level street lights are proposed. Accessible parking stalls are stationed one per block and all are positioned in the diagonal parking. Friendship Square has a geometric design on the west side with a new playground and splash pad. The bus shelter and kiosk is maintained. The east side of Friendship Square include an entry archway and potentially a mounted sound system for performance area. The clock and banners are being maintained.

Parker said she likes the design and thoughtfulness of it but is concerned about line of sight with the vegetation in the bulb-outs. Kelly is concerned about the cost of pavers and Hatch responded their are other options and pavers could be reduced. She is also concerned about the reduction of parking around Friendship Square. The amount of parking is increased but the removal and replacement areas are not good. Belknap responded that Fourth Street is the most area for loss of parking and could be reevaluated. Davis felt the public was not in favor of losing some spaces as mentioned by the consultant. Kelly doesn't feel it looks very senior-friendly. Davis advocates for stormwater but expenses in regards to maintenance of these changes need to be considered. Laflin wanted to be sure seating outside is still an option. Taruscio likes the need for a replacement plan for the trees that can't be kept. She lies the additional ADA parking but suggests rethinking the overall parking. Lewis is stuck on sidewalk vibe, grid accents and the cost. Making a sidewalk pretty doesn't make Moscow Moscow. She feels it is important that the design is consistent through the entire corridor. Although the community is pedestrian orientated, she is concerned

about the “Woonerf” as once installed, we can’t go back. With no curbs, she is concerned about parking of vehicles and how the snow moves with the design of the streets. Removing the “Woonerf” from the design would also save money. Laflin feels curbs are challenging so the elimination of curbs is a good thing. Parker said the color demarcates it as a new area which should tell drivers to pay attention. Belknap said the elevation of the street section does create challenges regarding drainage control and vehicle control. From a cost perspective he doesn’t feel it would save a million dollars as some areas are already at grade. Again, it does create drainage control and traffic control and vehicular control but there is usually a row of bollards that replaces a curb. Lewis is in support of the amenities in Friendship Square.

Council consensus was they like the direction the design is going but fine-tune with the comments from the Council.

REPORTS

City Council

Historic Preservation Commission – Taruscio said the Commission toured Ridenbaugh Hall.

Farmers Market Commission – Laflin said lots of vendors signed up for FM.

Sustainable Environment Commission – Laflin reported the Commission will distribute seeds for pollinator month while at the Farmers Market.

Moscow Urban Renewal Agency – Laflin said the Sixth and Jackson proposals are due 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

Clearwater Economic Development Association – Parker reported the Association had their annual report and heard a lecture about workforce and demographics.

SMART Transit – Lewis said all staff is receiving training on Narcon and buses will now have a supply available.

Human Rights Commission – Lewis reported an event that didn’t take place in April is now moved to early fall.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Davis said staff is getting ready to open the pool.

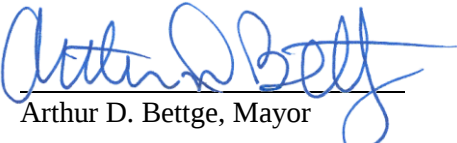
Council members also spoke on other meetings and events.

Mayor

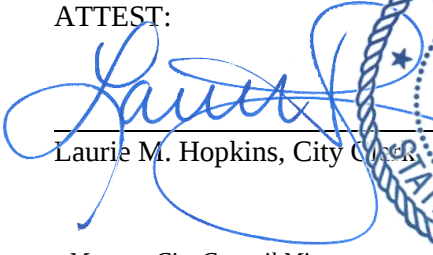
Mayor Bettge said he attended the AIC legislative spring district meeting and heard an update on the legislature; the airport terminal is moving forward on schedule; they received another grant for enhancement of terminal space; he spoke to the board of realtors using an edited version of the state of the city presentation.

ADJOURN

It was moved, seconded and mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 9:29 p.m.


Arthur D. Bettge, Mayor

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk

