

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

**Monday
December 4, 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, Mia Bautista, Cody Riddle, Mike Ray, Megan Cherry, Laurie M. Hopkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Vice President Taruscio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION

No proclamation read.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

A. Approval of Moscow City Council November 6, 2023 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

B. Disbursement Report October 2023 - Sarah Banks

Staff presented the October 2023 Accounts Payable Report to the Administrative Committee on November 27th, 2023. The Committee received the report and approved the disbursements as presented.

ACTION: Accept the Disbursements Report for the month of October 2023.

C. Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee Memorandum of Agreement - Tyler Palmer

The Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) operates under an interagency agreement which expired August, 2023. The Committee has formed a sub-Committee and tasked them with drafting updates to the interagency agreement to better reflect current needs and practices. This Memorandum of Agreement will allow the entities time to draft and review the changes while adhering to the tenets of the previous agreement. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on November 27, 2023 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee.

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. Mayors Appointments (ACTION ITEM)

Appointments were postponed until the next meeting.

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

Nick Koenig (Moscow), said it is reaffirming other cities around the United States has declared a crisis and ask the Moscow City Council to declare a crisis in regards to a ecological climate crisis. Attended a climate action planning working group meeting and amazed by their work and hopes the Council can put climate at the forefront of the happenings in the city.

4. Citizen Commission Report - Historic Preservation Commission – Mike Ray / Nels Reese

Ray introduced Nels Reese, chair of the Historic Preservation Commission. Reese provided a slideshow of the winners of the 2023 Orchid awards.

5. Latah Recovery Annual Report – Darrell Keim

Keim said they are servicing recovery coaching, life skills and social gatherings; an outreach campus center that mimics the downtown facilities; a jail reentry program; hosting a crisis center; harm reduction which was new last year includes a syringe program, safe sex info, and Narcan; a men's Oxford house; and they have received \$80,000 for a women's Oxford house and will be funding raising for more.

Statistics for the center include 9,122 client contacts (people through the door, not people served); average of 69 recovery coaching sessions a month; 311 people assisted by the crisis center network last year. There is a steady increase in homeless and more mental health issues. He sees an increase in help with alcohol and cannabis and a decrease in IV drug use but that could be do to a change to fentanyl.

In response to questions, the reconstruction of the Oxford House should be ready to rent by June and fentanyl testing strips are not legal in Idaho.

6. 2024 Arts Programming Update - Megan Cherry

Cherry explained there has been recent changes to art programming with a 50% reduction in arts staff. Graphic design is not being outsourced and administrative services are being provided by Administration; Arts programs recommended for implementation as planned in FY2024 include: Artwalk; Mayor's Arts Awards; Public Art Permanent Collection: Mural at Jackson & A; Intermodal Transit Center Sculpture Garden; Palouse Plein Air; Third Street Gallery and The Box Gallery. The programs recommended for a one-year pause are the Moscow Poet Laureate and the Vinyl Wraps and Storm Drain Murals. The programs recommended for discontinue all City operation of is Entertainment in the Park and the Moscow Arts Commission Band. The Council members thanked Cherry for all the work she has done for all the programs and art in the community.

7. Acknowledgment of Election Results (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap

Per Idaho Code 50-412, the City Council is required to accept the canvassed election results from Latah County, including the breakdown by precinct. The acceptance must be included in the City Council meeting minutes.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Accept canvassed election results from Latah County; or take other action deemed appropriate.

Belknap introduced the item as written above. Having no questions, Taruscio moved to accept the canvassed election results from Latah County. Laflin seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

8. Sanitation Franchise Fee Amendment Ordinance (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap

A recent Idaho Supreme Court decision involving a suit against the City of Lewiston has required the City of Moscow to review and amend our historical financial practices related to transfers from the City's enterprise utility funds to the City's Street Fund to compensate the Street Fund for the impact the City's underground utilities and sanitation vehicles have upon the City's roadways. To compensate for this lost street maintenance funding, Staff is proposing to increase the sanitation franchise fee from the current 5% to 10%, similar to what the City of Lewiston did following the court's decision. The proposed franchise fee increase will not have a direct impact upon current sanitation rates as the increased franchise fee will simply take the place of prior direct fund transfers, and recently the City was able to defer the programmed rate increases for FY2024. Staff have prepared an ordinance to increase the franchise fee for the Council's consideration.

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.

Belknap introduced the item as written above. There will be no impact on rate payers with this change. It is unforeseen at this time if there will be any Legislative change to this practice in the near future. Taruscio 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. Kelly seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Bettge read Ordinance 2023-09 by title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOSCOW, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF TITLE 9, CHAPTER 9, SECTION 9-3 C.; PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE FEE AND ASSOCIATED REVISIONS; PROVIDING THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE BE DEEMED SEVERABLE; AND PROVIDING FOR THIS ORDINANCE TO BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF ITS PASSAGE, APPROVAL, AND PUBLICATION ACCORDING TO LAW.

REPORTS

City Council

Moscow Urban Renewal Agency – Laflin said the developers of the 6th and Jackson property gave a report.

Moscow Arts Commission – Parker said the Commission discussed the changes in programming.

Human Rights Commission – Parker said they will be selecting a new chair with Ken Faunce stepping off the Commission.

1912 Development Committee – Kelly said the bids are going out for architect for the third floor.

Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee – Kelly said they are reaching out to people in relation to water rights.

Moscow Pathways Commission – Lewis said the Commission went through their goals to better liaison with Transportation Commission; there is interest in bringing back commission group meetings for collaboration.

SMART Transit – Lewis said the group discussed ideas for fleet maintenance for better service and a possible update to the transportation plan.

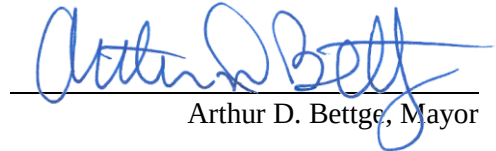
Council members reported on other meetings and events.

Mayor

Mayor Bettge said he met with Scott Bedke, Idaho Lieutenant Governor; an airport board meeting where they discussed load factors and also had a ribbon cutting; and other events.

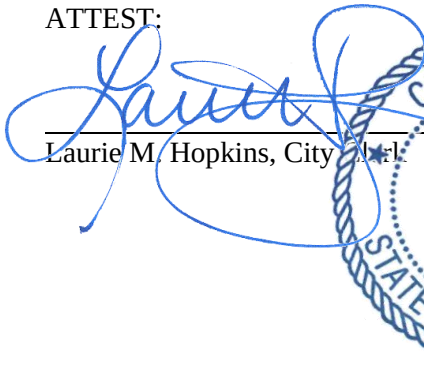
ADJOURN

It was moved, seconded and mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.



Arthur D. Bettge, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk

