

Public Works / Finance Committee



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

www.ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7015

Monday, February 10, 2025

4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Gina Taruscio, Bryce Blankenship

ABSENT: Hailey Lewis

OTHERS: Mayor Art Bettge

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Mike Ray, Alisa Anderson, Tyler Palmer, Laurie M. Hopkins

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Public Works/Finance Committee January 13, 2025 Minutes (ACTION ITEM) - Laurie M. Hopkins

The minutes were approved as presented.

2. Disbursement Report January 2025 (ACTION ITEM) - Sarah Decker

Presentation of the Accounts Payable Report for the month ending January 2025.

ACTION: Accept the Disbursements Report for the month of January 2025.

Decker said the largest expense for January was payroll. No large disbursements but a few smaller ones were the annual payment for VEBA, support of the airport, and the quarterly payment to Smart Transit.

3. Regional Water Sustainability Funding Contract With Idaho Water Resource Board (ACTION ITEM) - Tyler Palmer

In July 2021, the IWRB adopted an initial Regional Water Sustainability Priority List (List) to help guide the IWRB's spending for large, regional water sustainability projects from ARPA funds, state general funds, or other applicable sources. In January 2022, the IWRB also adopted a threshold criteria for a project to be included on the List, which included that it must help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide basis. Through this process, the City of Moscow was granted \$182,500 to be used to study the feasibility of a Clearwater River diversion as an alternate water supply to supplement the declining Palouse Basin Aquifer. The City of Moscow will manage the project with support from the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC). It is possible that additional funds for the project will be allocated by PBAC to complete the full scope of the study.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the Regional Water Sustainability Funding Contract With Idaho Water Resource Board as presented or provide staff further direction.

Palmer introduced the item as written above. The IWRB is aware of the challenges the Palouse area has. Funds must go through an entity. PBAC is the organizing structure. Many communities are hindered by state lines, which require regional cooperation. Idaho code addresses it and both state's Department of Ecology support the project. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council regular agenda.

4. Resolution Authorizing City Attorney to Submit a claim on behalf of the City of Moscow for the Chevrolet Bolt Battery Litigation Settlement (ACTION ITEM) - Mia Bautista

A class action suit was filed against General Motors for defective batteries in model year 2017 through 2022 Chevrolet Bolt vehicles. A settlement agreement has been reached between General Motors, LG Electronics and representatives of eligible vehicle owners. The City purchased two Chevrolet Bolt vehicles in 2020 which are eligible under the settlement agreement. If the City does not submit a claim for a settlement payment, it will not be entitled to receive funds under the terms of the settlement agreement. Staff has prepared a resolution authorizing the City Attorney to submit a claim and sign any documents or agreements related to the settlement claim on behalf of the City.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the Resolution Authorizing City Attorney to Submit a claim on behalf of the City of Moscow for the Chevrolet Bolt Battery Litigation Settlement; or provide staff further direction.

Bautista introduced the item as written above. This doesn't compensate for damage, only the inconvenience of software update and purchase of new batteries. Both Bolts have had their batteries replaced. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

5. Idaho Airport Aid Program - Grant Agreement (ACTION ITEM) - Alisa Anderson

The Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport applied for a grant from the Idaho Transportation Department - Division of Aeronautics, Idaho Airport Aid Program to assist with General Aviation airport development. The grant request has been awarded for \$7,500 with a required project completion date of June 30, 2027. The attached Resolution authorizes the acceptance of the award in accordance with all Federal, State, and Local regulations and the execution of the Grant Agreement by the Mayor.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval to authorize acceptance of the Idaho Airport Aid grant award of \$7,500 from the Idaho Transportation Department - Division of Aeronautics and approve the corresponding Resolution, or provide staff further direction.

Anderson introduced the item as written above. Having no questions, the Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

6. Proposed Lot Line Adjustment at 1638 and 1662 Christopher Lane and 815 Pheasant Run Road (ACTION ITEM) - Mike Ray

The applicants, Edward and Mandi Coulter, are requesting a lot line adjustment between three properties located at 1638 and 1662 Christopher Lane, and 815 Pheasant Run Road. The proposed lot line adjustment would increase 1638 Christopher Lane from 1.04 to 1.05 acres, decrease 1662 Christopher Lane from 1.13 to 1.07 acres, and increase 815 Pheasant Run Road from 1.47 to 1.53 acres. The applicant is requesting the lot line adjustment to accommodate an existing fence and an access easement created between owners. The subject properties are located within the Suburban Residential (SR) Zoning District. Within the SR Zoning District the minimum lot size is 1 acre and the minimum lot width is 100 feet. All of the proposed lots meet all zoning code requirements and all existing structures meet setback requirements.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the lot line adjustment request with no conditions; or recommend approval of the lot line adjustment request with conditions; or recommend denial of the lot line adjustment request; or provide staff further direction.

Ray introduced the item as written above and provided illustrations of the change. Having no questions, the Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

7. Consideration of Mayor and City Council Salary Adjustment Ordinance (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap

Idaho Code § 50-203 requires compensation for a mayor and council to be fixed by ordinance. Moscow City Code Title 1, Chapter 8, Sec. 8-1, states "*The salary for elective officers shall be fixed by ordinance. Salary adjustments for such elective officers shall be made every two (2) years from the date of the previous adjustment in accordance and in proportion with adjustments in the Consumer Price Index, Series I.D. CUUR0000SA0 All Urban Consumers, U.S. All items, 1982-84=100. The statistics utilized shall be the figures for the annual percent change for each calendar year within the subject two (2) year period, as published by the United States Department of Labor in January of each year. Such adjustments must be specifically approved by ordinance at least six (6) months prior to the effective date of such adjustments.*" The reported CPI values were 4.1% and 2.9% for 2023 and 2024 respectively. Proposed increases to monthly salaries would be effective January 1, 2026, and are as follows: Mayor from \$2,396.96 per month to \$2,567.60 per month, and Council from \$831.03 per month to \$890.19 per month. Staff have prepared an ordinance to effectuate the adjustments in accordance with City Code.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the proposed ordinance making salary adjustments for the Mayor and City Council effective January 1, 2026; or provide staff further direction.

Belknap introduced the item as written above. Having no questions, the Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council regular agenda.

ADJOURN

The meeting closed at 4:18 p.m.

Minutes Approved On
March 10, 2025

(Clerk Signature)