

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023

Councilwoman Marshall called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 7:00 PM. Council members present were Council President BJ Marshall and Councilman Shaun Spencer; Councilman Juan Gonzales and Councilman John Gnesa. City Attorney Tim Stover was also present. Mayor Vipperman gave the Clerk's Office and City Council advance notice that she would be unable to attend the meeting.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Gnesa made a motion to approve the March 2, 2023, regular council meeting minutes, as presented. Councilman Gonzales seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye; motion passed.

BILLS

Councilman Gnesa made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$27,757.77. Councilman Spencer seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye; motion passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(Public Works/Clerk-Treasurer/Fire/Police/Library/Ordinance)

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Anthem Broadband Contract

David Lazenby was present to discuss the changes proposed by the City of Wendell to the Anthem Broadband Contract. City Attorney Tim Stover recommended the changes. David Lazenby also suggested changes. An

agreement on the changes was reached. City Attorney Tim Stover will update and send the contract to all parties. **Councilman Gnesa** made a motion to accept the Anthem Broadband Contract with Tim Stover's changes. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Operation Facelift

Mayor Vipperman provided the information and application to the council in advance of her absence. After discussion **Councilman Spencer** made a motion to approve submitting the Operation Facelift application for 2023. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Existing Developments vs New Developments- Landscaping

This was a discussion item. **Councilman Gnesa** presented ideas to update City of Wendell Ordinance with landscaping requirements for new construction both commercial and residential. The council discussed those ideas and more. This will be brought back before the council in the future.

Designate ARPA Funds

The council needed to officially designate the \$90,000 in grant funds from Gooding County. \$87,425.60 has been designated. This grant is a reimbursement grant. The projects are a walking path along N Gooding Street and replacing the basketball court concrete pad at City Park. Public Works saved the City designated money for the removal of the old basketball court concrete by doing the work themselves. That money as well as the remaining grant funds not designated may be used for additional expenses related to the City Park and the new park. After discussion, **Councilman Spencer** made a motion to approve Mayor Vipperman to sign the agreement with Gooding County. **Councilman Gnesa** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Bids- Required Monitoring Wells at Lagoons

Public Works Director Stephen Devereaux presented. Monitoring Wells at the City Lagoons are a requirement for protecting the water table. The City received 3 bids. Of those 2 have the proper Public Works License. After a brief discussion, **Councilman Gnesa** made a motion to accept the bid from Dirt Works contingent on fund availability in the amount of \$80,025.30. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Bids for 2023 Weed Control

This was brought back to council after the companies bidding submitted answers to questions from the council. The council stated they were dissatisfied with the results last year and years previous. After discussion, **Councilman Gnesa** made a motion to accept the bid from Liberty Spraying with the 10% discount for \$14,804.28. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Nay, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Nay** and **Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion failed.

The council asked more questions. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to accept the bid from Forever Green with the 10% discount for \$22,266.00. Councilman Gnesa seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Gnesa- Nay**; motion passed.

7th Street Water

This was brought back before council to discuss details involving the city's plan to complete the loop for the city's water system. Currently there are 2 dead ends and those need to be linked. The city's purpose in completing the loop is for the benefit of all Wendell citizens by providing a cleaner system. The agreement with J.U.B. will be reviewed to ensure that it reflects the city's goals. **Councilman Gnesa** made a motion to amend the agreement with J. U. B. to extend the city waterline to loop Hagerman & 8th E on Lewiston to 7th only. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman**

Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye; motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Hunsaker, representing Mahlke Hunsaker & Company, pllc, presented the City's annual audit. He stated that the staff was easy to work with, the fact that one of our council members is a CPA offers additional checks and balances, there were no issues found and Mahlke Hunsaker & company have given us the desired unqualified opinion. He also stated that our monetary reserves are in great shape. Due to an oversight by the Clerk, this was not on the agenda. This will be added to the next agenda to officially accept the audit.

Chad Heider, representing Forever Green, stated that the council made a difficult decision accepting a new company for their needs. He stated that Forever Green brings 27 years' experience and will deliver results to the city's satisfaction. He also stated that Forever Green employs a local resident as well as people in Buhl, Jerome; Twin Falls and Kimberly.

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall stated that there are a lot of big jobs being handled by the city employees and that everyone is doing great. She also asked if anyone knew when this year's Easter Egg Hunt was going to take place and who was hosting the event. No one present was sure of the date or the organizers.

Councilman Gnesa also stated that the employees are doing a great job. He also updated the council on Dairy Days. Several groups in town have expressed interest in a cooperative effort to coordinate something for this year. These groups are supposed to have a meeting soon. The hope is to have a parade at the very least and give these groups time to plan for something bigger next year.

Councilman Spencer stated that Public Works saved the city a lot of money by removing the old concrete at the City Park and the site for the Flag Plaza. The ARPA grant will pay for a new basketball court at the City Park. The poles, rims etc. have all been donated. He also stated that Public Works has done an amazing job. The citizens are noticing the exciting changes.

Councilman Gonzales stated that the employees are all doing a great job.

He also stated that he noticed Public Works using the new boom truck and how professional it looks when they are working around town.

MAYOR

NONE

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 8:07 PM. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Motion passed.


Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor


Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer