

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2023

Mayor Rebecca Vipperman called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 6:30 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.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Gnesa made a motion to approve the April 20, 2023, regular council meeting minutes as amended. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye;** motion passed.

Councilman Gnesa made a motion to approve the April 24, 2023, special council meeting minutes as amended. **Councilman Spencer** 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 \$29,759.47. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye;** motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of FY23-24 REDS Commitment Letter

Mary Hollenbeck, Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDS) was on conference call to request the City of Wendell to renew their commitment to REDS for the 23-24 fiscal year. **Councilwoman**

Marshall made a motion to approve the City of Wendell's commitment of \$2,250.00 to the REDS grant for the 23-24 fiscal year. **Councilman Gnesa** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Barry Brackett Deferral Request

Barry Brackett was out of town and unable to attend the meeting. Per Barry's request, Kurtis Spencer was in attendance. **Councilman Gonzales** recused himself due to conflict of interest. The deferral request letter was for a deferral of curb, gutter, and sidewalk requirements per city ordinance. Kurtis Spencer stated that the gutter was the primary focus of the deferral request because the area they were building in is geographically a low spot and there was nowhere for the drainage into a gutter to go. Mayor Vipperman suggested the possibility of a French drain. Councilwoman Marshall stated that the area was farmland, and it should drain well, and that the request goes against Ordinance. Councilman Gnesa stated that the city needs to follow ordinance without returning to past practices. Past practices have proven to leave problems that must be addressed in the future. Councilwoman Marshall agreed stating that past practices have created issues that the current council, mayor and citizens are having to deal with now. Councilman Gnesa also stated that the Ambrose project was done well, and it will hold its value better than other places in town where things were not done correctly. Mayor Vipperman stated that deferring now puts a burden on future owners and it is against Ordinance. Councilman Gnesa made a motion to deny the deferral request by Barry Brackett. Councilwoman Marshall seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Abstain** and **Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Sidewalk Grant Application- Wendell School District

Tabled

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law- Floyd/ZRock Undeveloped Alley Vacate

This document finalizes the decision voted on by the council at the city

council meeting held on 4/6/23. Councilman Spencer abstained from voting because he did not attend the 4/6/23 council meeting. Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to accept the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law as presented to vacate the undeveloped alleyway, to-wit a city easement, on block 145 of the Wendell Townsite located in section 33 in Township 7, Range 15 East of the Boise Meridian, Gooding County, State of Idaho. Councilman Gnesa seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer- Abstain, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law- Floyd/ZRock Undeveloped Street Vacate

This document finalizes the decision voted on by the council at the city council meeting held on 4/6/23. Councilman Spencer abstained from voting because he did not attend the 4/6/23 council meeting. Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to accept the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law as amended to vacate the undeveloped roadway, to-wit a part of Shoshone Street between blocks 145 and 146 of the Wendell Townsite, located in Section 33 in Township 7 South, Range 15 East of the Boise Meridian, Gooding County, State of Idaho. Councilman Gnesa seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer- Abstain, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Ordinance 549-2023 Council & Mayor Pay Increase

The council did not agree to all the changes in the ordinance. They want to see the Mayor receive a raise but were not in favor of the council also receiving a raise at this time. Tabled.

Consideration of Ordinance 550-2023 Parks

This will establish hours of operation, as well as, violation, penalty, and enforcement, for the City Park. **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion that proposed Ordinance 550-2023 pass its first reading by Title only and that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed relative thereto. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Mayor Vipperman stated that it has been moved and seconded that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed, and that proposed Ordinance No. 550-2023 pass its first reading by title only. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 550-2023. There was no discussion.

Councilman Gonzales made a second motion that Proposed Ordinance 550-2023- Meeting Time Change be formally adopted. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that it has been moved and seconded that proposed Ordinance 550-2023 be formally adopted. **Mayor Vipperman** then asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 550-2023. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall**- Aye, **Councilman Spencer**-Aye, **Councilman Gonzales**- Aye and **Councilman Gnesa**- Aye; motion passed.

Consideration of Resolution 201-2023 Broadband/Fiber Expansion

After a brief discussion, **Councilman Gnesa** made a motion to accept Resolution 201-2023 Broadband/Fiber Expansion. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall**- Aye, **Councilman Spencer**-Aye, **Councilman Gonzales**- Aye and **Councilman Gnesa**- Aye; motion passed.

Mckenzie Wood Reconsideration Letter

Mayor Vipperman presented the letter from Mckenzie and Brayden Wood. The letter requested the council reconsider their decision regarding the variance application that had been denied. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to deny reconsideration of the council's previous decision. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall**- Aye, **Councilman Spencer**-Aye, **Councilman Gonzales**- Aye and **Councilman Gnesa**- Aye; motion passed.

Wendell Summer Concert Series

Tabled

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Flag Plaza Landscaping Quotes

Councilman Spencer presented 2 quotes for the Flag Plaza landscaping and stated that he was still unable to acquire additional quotes. He confirmed the 2 quotes were still valid in advance of tonight's meeting. The council decided to vote on the 2 quotes received based on the fact that **Councilman Spencer** had solicited for at least 3 other quotes in good faith. As of tonight's meeting, he still had not received any quotes from those companies.

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to accept the quote from Roots Landscaping, not to exceed \$60,980.00. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

New Park Name

Mayor Vipperman presented the council with a copy of public comments regarding suggestions for naming the new park. The public made several suggestions. Two of the suggested names were very popular. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to name the new park "Hub City Park". **Councilman Gnesa** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Wendell Ordinance- Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter

Tabled

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandra Gonzalez stated that she needed her water turned off to make repairs recently. She stated that the staff was very easy to work with and she had a positive experience through the whole process. She also stated that she was in favor of the Mayor getting a raise.

Steve Connell stated that he would be turning in a Special Events Application soon for the annual Idaho Chariots Wendell Car Show. He also requested to be added to the next meeting agenda to discuss the truck route.

Mayor Vipperman stated that it would be on the next meeting agenda.

Carl McEntarffer stated that the backflow ordinance did not have a deadline for getting backflow done. Some citizens were under the impression that they could not get their sprinkler water turned on until they had their backflow done. State code does require backflow to be done annually. He stated that many cities in the area have a deadline in their ordinance. He also stressed the fact that there are not many certified backflow testers in the area that includes Twin Falls, Jerome, Buhl, Kimberly, Hagerman, Wendell, Gooding, Shoshone as well as others. The Mayor stated that new backflow devices came with a testing certification. She also asked if there was an easy way for the Clerk's office to keep track of backflow by annual date rather than the current method. The Clerk stated that the office is able to track backflow compliance on an annual basis.

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall stated that a stop sign at Wallace and 4th Ave W might be a good idea. Drivers frequently speed through the residential area. She also stated that she would be unable to attend the city council meeting on May 18th and would email the Mayor and Clerk's office in advance of the meeting.

Councilman Spencer stated that the donated poles, goals, and rims were on order for the new basketball court.

Councilman Gnesa asked Public Works Director, Steve Devereaux, if the crossing marks at Lewiston and 5th/6th could be redone soon. Steve stated that they would take a look and get it scheduled.

MAYOR

Mayor Vipperman stated that the kindergarteners would be visiting City Hall on May 11th and welcomed any of the council members and staff to be there to help make the event special for the kids. She stated that Operation Facelift was looking promising this year. The plan is to get LED lighting on the Wendell sign just off the freeway. Mayor Vipperman spoke with Mary

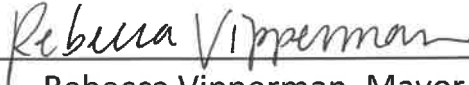
Hollenbeck (Region VI) and was told that the project idea was a good one and getting donations through Operation Facelift should be relatively easy. Mayor Vipperman also stated that the staff was doing an amazing job. She has found that they are always on task, always busy and even ahead of schedule. She stated that the city staff is a terrific team, and she is proud of all of them.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 8:16 PM. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion.



Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer



Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor