

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2023

Mayor Vipperman called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 6:30 PM. Council members present were Councilman Shaun Spencer; Councilman Juan Gonzales and Councilman John Gnesa. City Attorney Tim Stover was also present. Councilwoman Marshall gave the Clerk's Office, Mayor, and the Council advance notice that she would be unable to attend the meeting.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Gnesa made a motion to approve the May 4, 2023, regular council meeting minutes, as presented. Councilman Spencer seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; 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 \$39,910.45. Councilman Gonzales seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; 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)

McHugh Bromley, PLLC- Update on current litigation

This was an update on current litigation to protect our water rights. Based on the latest information from Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and other sources, water rights are at an even greater risk. McHugh Bromley asked the City of Wendell for information regarding wastewater discharge methods, processes, and disposal. There will be more updates on litigation as the

information becomes available. No motion needed.

Consideration of New Public Records Policy- Library

LeeAnn Gonzales, Library Board member, was present to update the City Council on the New Public Records Policy the Library will likely be adopting after the remaining changes are completed. No motion needed.

Consideration of Location of New Library, Parking

LeeAnn Gonzales, Library Board member, was present to update the City Council on the need to address the current library's location vs proposed future locations as well as adding adequate parking. The library board will be getting engineered plans for the library project once they have determined the direction they will go (new or remodel). More information will be brought to the council when it is available. No motion needed.

Update on Potential Cost of New Build/Grant Information

LeeAnn Gonzales, Library Board member, was present to update the City Council on the potential cost of a new library building. More information, as well as quotes, for new vs remodeling the current building will be brought to the council when they are available. The library is in the process of applying for a grant to help cover a portion of the cost. Our library building is old, in need of repair, expansion/remodeling, or replacement. No motion needed.

Consideration of Application for New Sewer Service

Based on city ordinance, an application for sewer service must be approved by the city council. The applicants have an old septic system that they would like to discontinue using and decommission. They would like to connect to the city sewer system instead. **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the application for new sewer service. **Councilman Gnesa** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Truck Route- Connell Trucking

Recent enforcement of the Truck Route found in Ordinance 501-2010 has been met with some opposition including an incident involving the deliberate removal of a truck route sign with the signpost by unknown persons. Tonight, several local semi-truck owners and/or operators were present to discuss the truck route with the council.

Steve Connell, Connell Trucking, was present to talk to the council about the truck route in city ordinance. He stated that the alternate route he was provided with by Code Enforcement causes his trucks to deal with a hill E of town going in and out of Connell Trucking. This increases the time to get to and from the yard and increases costs in fuel and wear and tear on the semi-trucks. He stated that the easier route does go by the high school, and precautions are taken to ensure the safety of all. Drop-off and pick-up times are avoided whenever possible due to the increased traffic and potential hazards. He requested a compromise or change of the truck route.

A letter from Tom Neal was presented to the council. He stated that going East and West on Main Street saves time and is safe for all. He stated that trucks must slow down and are driven by professionals. He requested a compromise or change of the truck route.

Abdel Arreola Jr. of Road Runner Trucking was present and stated that the increased expense for fuel and maintenance plus the additional time the approved route adds is not good for any of the local trucking companies. He stated they would benefit from using Main Street, going past the park and high school. He states that he understands that the ordinance was put in place to protect the school and city park. He stated that agriculture, including dairy's, have been the backbone of the Wendell area since the beginning. He requested a compromise or change of the truck route in writing.

Chris Chandler was present and stated that he is a 4th generation farmer. He stated that he was appalled by the whole thing and felt it was ridiculous. He stated enforcing the truck route was not just about money and wear and tear on the trucks. It is about the agricultural history of Wendell and the continuation of agriculture in our community. He stated it causes a large burden to all. He requested a compromise or change of the truck route.

Mitch Bunn was present and stated that he has hay that will need to be moved and he will need to use Gooding Street. He stated that

compromise between the city, local trucking and agriculture would be of great benefit to everyone in the community. He discussed the merits of newer trucks that have more axles and softer footprints on roads. He also stated that the city, county, and state were stewards of the roads and those roads needed to serve the public as well as meet the needs of semitrucks and agricultural equipment. He requested a compromise or change of the truck route.

Becky Connell, Connell Trucking, was present and stated that sometimes using Main Street is necessary. She stated the company trucks fuel at Valley Wide, and the approved truck route is out of the way. She stated that enforcing the truck route has made agriculture feel they are being pushed out. She also stated that the drivers are always watching for kids and cars whenever they drive past Wendell High School. She requested a compromise or change of the truck route.

Clint Andrews was present and stated that his farm is at the end of 6th Street. The only way to get to his farm is to go on roads that are not on the truck route including Main Street past the high school. He stated that he and his drivers plan accordingly and wait during school drop-off/pick-up times to travel that route. He stated that truck routes are a good idea, but they do not help local agricultural and truck businesses. He requested a compromise or change of the truck route.

Mayor Vipperman addressed Gooding County Sheriff Officer Swanson (in attendance) and requested that no tickets for the truck route be issued while the truck route and all the information presented tonight was investigated and addressed. This will come back before the council in the near future. No motion needed.

Consideration of Building Inspector Contract FY23-24

Tabled.

Consideration of Prosecuting Attorney Contract FY23-24

This is an annual contract. There were no noticeable changes compared to last fiscal year. **Councilman Gnesa** made a motion to accept the Prosecuting Attorney Contract for FY23-24 contingent on review by Tim Stover. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of ICRMP Renewal Estimate FY23-24

After a brief discussion, **Councilman Gnesa** made a motion to accept the ICRMP Renewal Estimate FY23-24 in the amount of \$30,305. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Special Event Application- Summer Concert Series

At the last meeting the council requested additional information on this event. After a brief discussion Councilman Gonzales made a motion to approve the Special Event Application for the Summer Concert Series. Councilman Gnesa seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Ordinance 549-2023 Mayor Pay Increase

This will increase the Mayor's pay from \$600 per month to \$1200 per month starting January 1, 2024. **Councilman Spencer** made a motion that proposed Ordinance 549-2023 pass its first reading by Title only and that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed relative thereto. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **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. 549-2023 pass its first reading by title only. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 549-2023. There was no discussion.

Councilman Spencer made a second motion that Proposed Ordinance 549-2023- Mayor Pay Increase be formally adopted. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that it has been moved and seconded that proposed Ordinance 549-2023 be formally adopted. **Mayor Vipperman** then asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 549-2023. Roll call vote taken; **Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Gnesa- Aye**; motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

COUNCIL

Councilman Spencer stated that the goals had not arrived yet for the basketball court at the City Park. He stated that landscaping is tentatively scheduled to begin at the Flag Plaza site on June 12th. He announced that there will be a Community Talent Show on June 30, 2023. The event will include a free BBQ cooked by the American Legion. (Truck Route) He stated that he feels the city should find a compromise to work with agriculture.

Councilman Gnesa stated that the Highway District put up ecology blocks at B West in what appears to be the city right-of-way. The blocks do not allow the tire company to properly serve semi customers. He stated that if there is an issue, the city should address it, not the Highway District. (Truck Route) He stated that he used to drive semi's and he feels that going around the school and park are a better option. He also stated that he will not be here for the meeting on June 1, 2023.

MAYOR

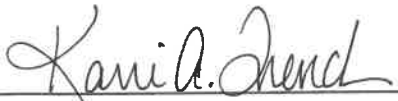
Mayor Vipperman asked the council for a date to hold our first FY23-24 Budget Workshop. It will be on June 8th at 6:30PM. She announced that the groundbreaking for the new Hub City Park will be held on May 26, 2023 at 1PM. The Blue Cross Foundation for Health will be in town all day to make a film and attend the groundbreaking. She announced that the City of Wendell is going to hire 2 seasonal, part-time people for Public Works (19 hours per week maximum). The city budgeted \$10,000 for seasonal help for the 22-23 fiscal year. She also announced that El Tapatio will be holding a community event to celebrate their 25th year in business. She stated that the city crew is amazing and is very happy with how well the departments work together.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 8:13 PM. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Motion passed.



Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor



Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer

