

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2023

Mayor Vipperman called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 6:30 PM. Councilmembers present were Council President BJ Marshall, Councilman Shaun Spencer, Councilman Juan Gonzales, and Councilman John Gnesa. City Attorney Tim Stover was present as well.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Gnesa made a motion to approve the August 17, 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; Councilman Gnesa- Aye; motion passed.**

Councilman Gnesa made a motion to approve the August 25, 2023, Emergency Special Council Meeting Minutes as presented. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye; Councilman Spencer- Aye; Councilman Gonzales; Aye; Councilman Gnesa- Aye; motion passed.**

BILLS

Councilman Gnesa made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$29,763.94. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. **Roll call vote taken; Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance 553-2023- Residential Landscaping & Driveways
Mayor Vipperman opened the Public Hearing at 6:36 PM. She briefly introduced the topic to be discussed. The City Council has been discussing the Residential Landscaping & Driveways Ordinance in previous meetings. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the council if they had any questions, comments, or anything to discuss. There was no discussion. **Mayor Vipperman** opened the public hearing for public comment.

In Favor:

None

Neutral:

None

Against:

None

Mayor Vipperman asked the council if they had any questions, comments, or anything to discuss. There was no discussion.

Mayor Vipperman closed the public hearing at 6:40 PM

Consideration of Increase to Farmers Credit Card Limit

Mayor Vipperman briefly explained the need to increase the Farmer's Credit Card Limit because although the set spending limit for the mayor is \$3000, the limit on the City Credit Card is only \$1200 and it's proving more and more difficult to order the things that the city needs.

However, as the City Clerk was absent due to illness, and she was more familiar with the bank process it was decided to table this discussion until the next meeting.

Consideration of Ordinance 553-2023- Residential Landscape & Driveways

Mayor Vipperman asked the council if they had any comments, questions, or anything to discuss. There was no discussion. **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion that proposed Ordinance 553-2023 pass its first reading by Title only and that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed relative thereto. **Councilwoman Spencer** seconded the motion. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that it has been moved and seconded that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed, and that proposed Ordinance No. 553-2023 pass its first reading by title only. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 553-2023. There was no discussion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer- Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed.**

Councilman Gonzales made a second motion that proposed ordinance 553-2023 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WENDELL, IDAHO, AMENDING TITLE 5, CHAPTER 15, OF THE WENDELL MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 5-15-4: NON-CONFORMING BUILDINGS, BY CHANGING TO RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS AND ADDING SECTION 5-15-6, NON-CONFORMING BUILDINGS, AND AMENDING SECTION 5-15-5: VIOLATIONS, BY CHANGING TO DRIVEWAY STANDARDS AND ADDING SECTION 5-15-7: VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE UPON PASSAGE, APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION ACCORDING TO LAW. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that it has been moved and seconded that proposed Ordinance 553-2023 be formally adopted. **Mayor Vipperman** then asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 554-2023. There was no discussion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer- Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed.**

Consideration of Ordinance 555-2023 Update to Truck Route

Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis presented proposed ordinance changes. **Councilman Gnesa** wants to keep trucks off Main Street and requests an asphalt test citing that our streets are old. He'd like to see trucks use an alternate route and says truck businesses in town should have done their homework before purchasing property in town. He states that he's not against agriculture, but he wants to protect children. **Councilwoman Marshall** says that those concerns have already been addressed in previous Council discussions. **Councilman Spencer** stated that he understands the concerns presented but that the "cat is already out of the bag" in this instance and that this change to the truck route ordinance is the best solution going forward. **Councilman Spencer** made a motion that proposed Ordinance 555-2023 pass its first reading by Title only and that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed relative thereto. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that it has been moved and seconded that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed, and that proposed Ordinance No. 554-2023 pass its first reading by title only. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 555-2023. There was no discussion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer- Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Nay; motion passed three in favor, one opposed.**

Councilman Spencer made a second motion that proposed Ordinance 555-2023- AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WENDELL, IDAHO, AMENDING TITLE 11, CHAPTER 1, OF THE WENDELL MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 11-1-30: STREET DESIGNATIONS, BY ADDING EAST MAIN STREET IN ITS ENTIRETY TO THE APPROVED

TRUCK ROUTE; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE UPON PASSAGE, APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION ACCORDING TO LAW.

Councilwoman Marshall seconded the motion. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that it has been moved and seconded that proposed Ordinance 555-2023 be formally adopted. **Mayor Vipperman** then asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 554-2023. There was no discussion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer-Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Nay; motion passed three in favor, one opposed.**

Consideration of Ordinance 556-2023 Commercial Truck Speed Limits

Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis presented the updated Ordinance to the Council. The ordinance has been updated to fix existing typos, and Pocatello Street North was added to the school zone speed limit zone so that the entire school is surrounded by a school zone. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the council if they had any comments, questions, or anything to discuss. **Councilman Gnesa** had questions regarding speed bumps and snow removal. It was discussed that snow removal is possible if the plows slow down and lift their plows.

Councilman Spencer made a motion that proposed Ordinance 553-2023 pass its first reading by Title only and that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed relative thereto. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that it has been moved and seconded that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed, and that proposed Ordinance No. 553-2023 pass its first reading by title only. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 553-2023. There was no discussion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer-Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed.**

Councilman Spencer made a second motion that Proposed Ordinance 556-2023- AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WENDELL, IDAHO, AMENDING TITLE 11, CHAPTER 1, OF THE WENDELL MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 11-1-24: SPEED RESTRICTIONS, BY ADDING SPEED RESTRICTIONS FROM 2ND AVENUE EAST TO 4TH AVENUE EAST ALONG POCATELLO STREET, AND ADDING THE SPEED RESTRICTION ON EAST MAIN STREET FROM IDAHO TO WENDELL STREET; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE UPON PASSAGE, APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION ACCORDING TO LAW. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that it has been moved and seconded that proposed Ordinance 556-2023 be formally adopted. **Mayor Vipperman** then asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 556-2023. There was no discussion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer-Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed.**

Consideration of Sending Clerk to ICCTFOA 2023 (9/19-20)

Mayor Vipperman presented that the City Clerk, Karri French, would like to attend the AIC's Annual ICCTFOA Conference in September. It was discussed that education is important to keep up on knowledge of the Clerk's job but that there were a lot of conferences attended this year. **Councilwoman Marshall** checked the budget and said that it was within the budget to send the Karri and that this conference was an important one. **Councilman Spencer** said that he was in favor of education but thought that the number of conferences attended this year seemed a little excessive. **Councilman Gnesa** said that he thought education was important and made a motion that the city allow Karri to attend the ICCTFOA Conference. **Councilman Marshall** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye;**

Councilman Spencer-Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Nay; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed three in favor, one opposed.

Consideration of Law Enforcement Agreement FY23-24

Mayor Vipperman presented the proposed 23-24 contract with Gooding County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$512,912.00. **Councilman Gnesa** had concerns about the cost, specifically the increase in tires and fuel. The council agreed that the contract was significantly more than they wanted to spend on law enforcement. It was discussed that as soon as the city administrative assistant is back from maternity leave that the City should start getting prices on how much it would cost to fund and staff a Wendell City Police Department. It was discussed that even if the cost would allow it, building and staffing a police department would take quite a long time. **Councilman Gnesa** made a motion that the City accept the contract with the Gooding County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$512,912.00 for the 23-24 fiscal year subject to the City Attorney's changes. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken: **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer-Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed.**

Consideration of Putting a Stop Sign at 4th and Wallace

Councilwoman Marshall presented that there is not currently a stop sign at the intersection of 4th and Wallace on the road that runs East to West. She said that people speed through it on their way to the end of the street and she'd like to consider putting a stop sign there. **Councilman Gnesa** asked about potentially flip the stop sign from its current location on Wallace Street and move it to 4th Street instead of making the intersection a 4 way stop. He stated that there was already a 4 way stop intersection on 5th West as well. **Mayor Vipperman** was in favor of moving the stop sign instead of adding another stop sign as the city has received complaints about too many stop signs. **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion that the stop signs be moved from Wallace Street to 4th West. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken: **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer-Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed.**

Consideration of Turn Lane on E Main Street at the High School

Mayor Vipperman presented that the City's recent chip seal project had come in over \$20,000 less than Council had approved. She proposed that the Council use the leftover money to widen the section of East Main Street that runs in front of the High School and Middle School entrances to add a turn lane. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that she believed a turn lane would help the traffic problems that occur there every morning during school drop-off. **Councilman Gnesa** said that the school district would like to add an entrance to the schools on 1st street and he proposed that that would help the problem. He stated that the city had already spent money to pipe the canal that ran along the west border of the school, and he didn't want to have to spend more money on the problem. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that she would be in favor of the school opening an entrance on 1st Street but that would have to be at their expense and on their timeline because the property belongs to them. **Councilman Gonzales** said that another entrance would just move the traffic to Gooding Street and that he thought a turn lane was a good idea. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that Public Works Director Stephen Devereaux was going to talk to Winn and Company's owner and see if he could get the price of the bid down at all. The council was agreeable toward adding a turn lane but wanted to see about the price. Item was tabled until the next meeting.

Consideration of Lighting for Hub City Park

Mayor Vipperman presented the Council with a bid for solar lighting for Hub City Park. She stated that other than the lighting the only other items to be purchased were some splash pad pieces and tables and benches. She stated that the park was coming along well and looking great. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that once it's finished it will be very close to the budgeted amount. **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the bid for the park lighting from Fonroche Lighting. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken: **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer-Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed.**

Consideration of ICRMP Renewal

Mayor Vipperman presented the proposed new contract with ICRMP for the FY23-24 in the amount of \$30,305.00. **Councilman Gnesa** asked if ICRMP was the best insurance that the City could get. **Councilwoman Marshall** and **Mayor Vipperman** confirmed that ICRMP was the best and that the extra services that they provide to the city were invaluable. **Councilman Gnesa** made a motion that the City accept the contract with ICRMP for \$30,305.00. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken: **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Spencer-Aye; Councilman Gonzales-Aye; Councilman Gnesa-Aye; motion passed.**

Unfinished Business: NONE

Public Comment

Mayor Vipperman acknowledged Deegan Gonzales who was attending the City Council Meeting for his Government Class.

Council

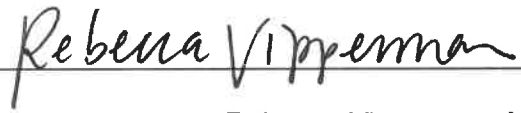
Councilwoman Marshall mentioned that the deadline to file for candidacy was the next day. Councilwoman Marshall and Councilman Gonzales's seats are up for re-election this year. **Councilman Gonzales** stated that he'd almost finished filling out his application. **Councilman Spencer** stated that the basketball goals for Hub City Court in the City Park were in the possession of Jason Sutton and that they should be installed at the park soon. He also stated that he would talk with AJ Kelsey regarding getting the basketball court striped and painted. **Councilman Gnesa** stated that he will be resigning at the end of September as he had taken a job that will require him to be out of town quite a bit. He stated that serving as a council member had been a learning experience that he was grateful for. **Mayor Vipperman** told him that he would be missed and that she and the Council had greatly valued his contributions. **Councilman Gonzales** told the Sheriff's Office that they'd been doing a great job recently.

Mayor

Mayor Vipperman mentioned the new Hub City Park and then showed a promotional video regarding the park project that had been commissioned by the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health- the organization that granted the city the money for the park. Mayor Vipperman stated that the Foundation would like her to put the video up on Facebook but that she wanted to show it to Council first. Everyone agreed that it was a good video that showed the community in a good light.

Adjourn

Councilman Gnesa made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:36 PM. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Vipperman in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor

Handwritten signature of Karri French in purple ink, written over a horizontal line.

Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer