

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024

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; Councilman Shaun Spencer; Councilman Juan Gonzales and Councilman Donald Dunn. City Attorney Tim Stover was also present.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Spencer made a motion to approve the January 4, 2024, regular council meeting minutes, as presented. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

BILLS

Councilman Dunn made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$45,779.38. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Wendell School District Resource Officer

Mayor Vipperman stated that Sheriff Gough recently recommended that the Wendell School District look into the possibility of hiring a full-time School Resource Officer. **Gooding County Sheriff's Seargent Eric Swanson** stated that the officers assigned to Wendell responded to over 180 calls at the Wendell schools in 2023 and many of those required investigations, which required evidence collection and coordinating with other agencies. He stated that those man hours reduce the officers' abilities to do their job for the rest of the citizens of Wendell. The Wendell School District currently employs a part-time security officer but does not have the funds for a full-time SRO. The Wendell School

District and the GCSO were hoping that the city would be able to help cover some of the costs associated with the addition of an SRO. More information will be brought to the next city council meeting on February 1, 2024.

Consideration of 10-Wheeler Purchase- Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Devereaux had found a 10-wheeler for sale and wanted to present it to the council. Just hours before the meeting, it was sold to another party. He stated that the fleet is aging and falling apart. For example, the dump trucks are approximately 37 years old and need a lot of maintenance. He also stated that the 1-ton sanding truck has over 200,000 miles on it and is rusting out. He stated that the Public Works crew spends a lot of time performing maintenance and that time is needed elsewhere in the city. He stated that this series of snowstorms emphasized the need to begin replacing the heavier trucks and equipment as soon as possible.

Code Enforcement Training Opportunities

Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis presented to the council opportunities for training in both code enforcement and animal control. The training is provided by the American Association of Code Enforcement (AACE) and the National Animal Care & Control Association for Animal Control Officers (NACA ACO). A lot of the training is available online. **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** stated the training would provide him with accredited certifications that would benefit himself and the city. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to allow Nathan Lewis to begin online training with AACE and NACA ACO not to exceed \$750.00. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

City Hall Green Space Beautification

Mayor Vipperman stated that the green space next to the library on the Idaho Street side of City Hall needs updating to be better used by the public. Currently, the old basketball goal posts need to be removed. **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** stated that he and **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** would be able to remove the old goal posts. The council gave some suggestions as to the future use of the cement pad. Mayor Vipperman stated that she would like the council to give some thought to how to best use the space for the benefit of the library and the citizens of Wendell.

Consideration of Tree/Weed Spraying Quotes

City Clerk Karri French presented two quotes to the council for the city's 2024 tree and weed spraying needs. After discussion, **Councilman Spencer** made a motion to accept the quote from Forever Green in the amount of \$23,359.50 for 2024. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall gave a big thank you to Public Works for the way they managed the snow plowing during and after the recent snowstorms. She stated that the city has a great crew, and their hard work is appreciated.

Councilman Spencer thanked the Public Works crew for their hard work during the recent snowstorms. He also thanked the Library Board for their hard work to get the plans for a new library going.

Councilman Gonzales stated that the plans he saw look affordable, and he feels the Library Board has come a long way. He also thanked Public Works.

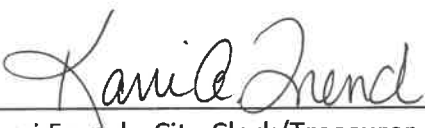
Councilman Dunn thanked Public Works, stating that Wendell has a great crew and said to keep up the excellent work. He stated that everyone he talked to was happy with the snow plowing around town.

MAYOR

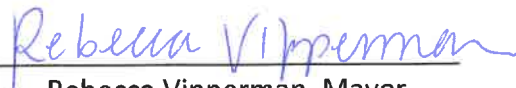
Mayor Vipperman stated that she did not hear complaints about the snow plowing and that the Public Works Department did a fantastic job. She also asked those present to stop by Public Works if they get a chance to. She stated that the shop is clean, organized and looks great. She also stated that the City of Wendell staff do a fantastic job all around.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:49 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.



Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer



Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor