

**City of Wendell**  
**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
**September 5, 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.

**AMENDED AGENDA**

**Councilman Dunn** made a motion to accept the Amended Agenda for September 5, 2024. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Councilman Spencer** made a motion to approve the August 17, 2024, regular council meeting minutes, as presented. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

**BILLS**

**Councilman Spencer** made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$45,861.37. **Councilman Dunn** 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

**NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)**

**Consideration of Cla-Val Quote- Necessary Repair to Cla-Val**

**Fire Chief Bob Bailey** stated that the pump control Cla-Val was stuck and leaking backwards. It is possible that a power bump may have caused the valve to close which can cause a bent lower stem. The repair is necessary and will allow the system to function properly and run the variable frequency drive. **Mayor Vipperman** asked why the stems were not checked during the maintenance the council approved earlier this year. **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** explained that when regular maintenance is done, the stems are not checked unless the maintenance team finds something in the system that shows a problem with the stems. The cost is \$6978.00 plus parts. **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to approve the repair of the Cla-Val, not to exceed \$15,000.00. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

### **Consideration of Updated Ordinance-Mobile Food Truck Business Licensing Requirements**

**Councilman Spencer** presented the current ordinance and the updates to the ordinance regarding mobile food trucks and ice cream trucks. (**Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis, City Attorney Tim Stover**, and **Councilman Spencer** have been working on this.) He stated that he wanted input from the rest of the council regarding the current requirements for ice cream trucks to operate in the City of Wendell. He stated that the additional requirements seemed to make it very difficult for an ice cream truck to gain a license compared to mobile food trucks.

**Councilwoman Marshall** stated that she remembered a time when there was an ice cream truck in town but that was many years ago. **Councilman Gonzales** asked **Councilman Spencer** what made it difficult for ice cream trucks to get a license. **Councilman Spencer** stated that the additional requirements for fingerprinting, photographs and inspection by the Police department plus other requirements made it a very difficult process. He stated that it was not even-handed compared to the requirements for a mobile food truck. He stated that he felt ice cream trucks could be moved into the same category as mobile food trucks. He stated that since it is being worked on, it seems like a good time to organize and brings consistency to the ordinance. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that an ice cream truck would fall under mobile food truck in a subcategory. **Councilman Spencer** also recommended increasing the fine amounts and adding civil penalties before criminal penalties to the ordinance. **Councilman Gonzales** stated that there were a lot of good changes. The rest of the council agreed. **Councilman Spencer** stated that **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** has done a lot of the work on this ordinance rewrite. No motion needed.

### **SIF Idaho Workers' Compensation Annual Renewal Estimate**

**City Clerk Karri French** presented the annual renewal estimate from Idaho SIF (State Insurance Fund) Workers' Compensation Insurance to the council. She stated that she updated the drug testing agreement and other information requested by SIF and found out that the rate had dropped significantly. She stated that in her meeting with the SIF representative last month, she was told that many entities are seeing decrease in their rate across the state. She stated that last year the rate was \$18,905.00 and this year's estimated rate is \$10,624.00. She stated that there may be a slight increase when wages are updated with the state for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to accept the SIF Idaho Workers' Compensation annual renewal estimate of \$10,624.00. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

### **Consideration of Shutoff Fees found in Rates & Fees Resolution**

**Mayor Vipperman** stated that **Deputy Clerk Maria Sanchez** noticed that there were two separate fees related to shutoffs for nonpayment of the city utility bill in our past and present Rates and Fees resolutions. **City Clerk Karri French** clarified that there was a fee in Administrative Fees for the \$25.00 shutoff fee that we have been charging and an additional turn on fee of \$25.00 for shutoffs in the Public Works Fees. The city has not been charging the second fee. Both charges are specifically for nonpayment of the city utility bill. **City Clerk Karri French** then made **Mayor Vipperman** aware of the two fees that would bring the shutoff fee to \$50.00. **Mayor Vipperman** felt the best course of

action was to bring it to the city council and get their opinion. She stated that \$25.00 seemed an appropriate fee but that a \$50.00 fee for shutoffs seemed excessive. **Councilwoman Marshall** agreed. **Councilman Dunn** asked what we charge if the payment is received, and the customer asks for the water to be turned on after-hours. **Mayor Vipperman** and **City Clerk Karri French** both stated that there was a separate \$50.00 fee for after-hours turn on/shutoff of city water for any reason. **Councilman Gonzales** stated that he felt \$50.00 was too much during business hours and was also in favor of removing the second fee. **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to remove the additional \$25.00 public works fee from Resolution 207-2024 Fees & Rates. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilman Spencer-Aye**, **Councilman Gonzales-Aye** and **Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

#### **Consideration of Investment of City Funds- Auditor**

**Mayor Vipperman** stated that she had asked the city's auditor for information on investing some of the city's money and how much the city should keep in the city's accounts. The auditor at Mahlke Hunsaker & Company, PLLC recommended that the city have 6-9 months of easily available operating capital. The rest could be invested into things like CD's or other investments options. Further investment in the state's LGIP (Local Government Investment Pool) was strongly recommended for the interest rates the city could get and the ease of access to city funds without penalties. **City Clerk Karri French** stated that the city currently has two LGIP accounts. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that the bond reserve is separate, those funds are kept in a separate account and must be available to make sure that bond payments are covered. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that the city needs to figure in the percentage of interest when choosing an investment option. If the city puts money into a CD (Certificate of Deposit), it is more difficult to access the funds preterm due to early withdrawal fees and loss of interest income. He also felt that LGIP was a good investment option. For example, investing an amount of \$500,000 into an LGIP investment would earn interest amounts that could be withdrawn and used to pay for city projects. **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** stated that the rural fire department has LGIP accounts, and the interest rate is 5.81% as of today. He also stated that the funds are easy to access. **Councilman Dunn** asked how the city would access funds invested into LGIP. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that **City Clerk Karri French** would call to transfer money from the investment account into the city's checking account. It should only take 1-3 business days for the fund to become available. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that the council has heard from D.L. Evans Bank and that a representative from Ireland Bank is here to talk to the council tonight. It was agreed that more information is needed, and this will be brought back to the council at a later date. No motion needed

#### **Consideration of Investment of City Funds- Ireland Bank**

**Mayor Vipperman** introduced **Don Bunn from Ireland Bank** stating that Don is her cousin's son. She stated that if any decisions were to be made, she would recuse herself. **Don Bunn, representing Ireland Bank**, stated that he has been working at Ireland Bank for 9 years. He stated that it is the oldest bank in Idaho and has been in business for 132 years. He gave the council information regarding CD's, their rates, and any fees that might be associated with early withdrawal. **Councilwoman Marshall** asked where the nearest branch is located. Don stated that the nearest branch is in Twin Falls. No motion needed.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

None

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### COUNCIL

**Councilwoman Marshall** stated that she will probably be travelling and will call in to join the next city council meeting (September 19, 2024).

**Councilman Spencer** stated that the sidewalk by McGinnis Park and the school looks great.

**Mayor Vipperman** stated that the Public Works Department is going to re-line Main Street and the "W" near the school. She stated that Public Works will be moving the crosswalk to the new sidewalk by the school next week. **Councilman Spencer** announced that he has accepted a job offer in Arkansas and plans to be on the council through October and will resign as a member of the city council before he moves.

**Councilman Gonzales** stated that the new paint truck recently purchased for Public Works is a great addition to the city. He stated that members of the council should go see it if they haven't had the chance yet. He also thanked **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** and **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** for all they have been doing around the city.

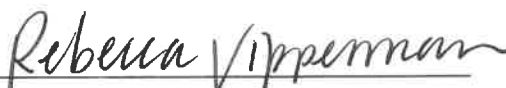
### MAYOR

**Mayor Vipperman** stated that she has signed up for the Mayor's Walking Challenge again this year. She announced that a mobile mammogram unit will be at City Hall on October 21 offering free mammograms. She stated that, with the new census numbers, Region IV says the City of Wendell now qualifies for a Block Grant. She has a meeting scheduled with Region IV next week. She announced that the Trunk or Treat will be on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Christmas Tree Lighting will be on December 6<sup>th</sup>, and she is going to coordinate with the school choir for the event. She stated that the Public Works Department painted the Boise Well Wendell Blue, and everyone should go see it. She stated that she had spoken to Olivia Harmon about ideas for landscaping for the new library. She also stated that now that **Councilwoman Marshall** is retired now, she is all ours, but we will still have to share her with the hospital board. She also encouraged everyone to attend the Library Board meetings held on the second Monday of the month at 6 PM. The next meeting is this coming Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Adjourn

**Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:38 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.

  
Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor