

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
November 21, 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 Juan Gonzales and Councilman Donald Dunn. City Attorney Tim Stover was also present.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Dunn made a motion to approve the November 7, regular council meeting minutes, as presented. Councilman Gonzales seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye; motion passed.

BILLS

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$20,467.47. Councilman Dunn seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; Councilwoman Marshall-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)

Consideration of J-U-B Annual Agreement- Tracy Ahrens

Tracy Ahrens from J-U-B was present to give the council updates and to discuss the renewal of the annual Wastewater Permit Reuse Agreement. He stated that the summer projects (Lagoon #1 Seepage testing and 7th Ave water project) went smoothly, and both came in under budget. He thanked Public Works and Fire Chief Bob Bailey for all their hard work on both projects. He stated that the new agreement is higher due to reporting requirement changes by the federal government. More time and materials are needed to complete the required reporting. Mayor Vipperman asked how much the increase was. Tracy Ahrens stated that it was a 10% increase for the same services last year. Councilwoman Marshall stated that overall, it was an almost 20% increase with the added disinfectant requirement. After discussion, Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to accept the annual Wastewater Permit Reuse Agreement and have Mayor Vipperman sign it. Councilman Dunn seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye; motion passed.

Consideration of Library Board Appointment-Kelsey Tappan

Mayor Vipperman stated that the council members had been able to meet with Kelsey Tappan and were ready to move forward with the appointment for the empty Library Board seat. She also stated that Kelsey was unable to attend the meeting tonight due to a previous commitment. **Councilman Gonzales** suggested that the council wait to appoint Kelsey until she was able to attend a meeting. He stated that he felt it was best if the person being appointed was present. He stated that he would be voting against the appointment for that reason. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that Kelsey had also let her know in advance that she would be unable to attend and felt ready to move forward with the appointment. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to appoint Kelsey Tappan to the Library Board. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilman Gonzales- Nay** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; (two for; one against) motion passed.

Consideration of Tiny Homes Regulations

Mayor Vipperman stated that she has had residents ask her if the city plans to add provisions for tiny homes. She stated that other cities have them and it would be a good idea to start looking into it for Wendell. **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** stated that quite a few (Idaho) counties have added regulations regarding tiny homes. He provided the council with a packet relating to tiny homes and regulations other cities have made. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that residential requirements and subdivision requirements should also be considered if the city decides to adopt regulations related to tiny homes. Tabled.

Consideration of Decorative Lighting Regulations

Mayor Vipperman stated that some businesses in town have flashing or moving lights that are on all/most of the day & night. She asked **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** if he had found anything regarding regulating these kinds of lights. He stated that there was not much out there, but some cities required lighting to be off until 30 minutes before the business opens and off within 30 minutes of a business closing. **Councilwoman Marshall** asked if it would be moving lights, flashing lights and what about holiday decorations? **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** and **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that it was something that the city needs to consider carefully if it is pursued. Tabled.

Consideration of ERU's

Fire Chief Bob Bailey stated that he would like the council to decide if the city is going to follow the current ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) schedule or if it needs to be changed. The current ERU schedule specifies the number of units (compared to a single residential unit) that certain types of businesses and entities use. This impacts the amount of water pumped and distributed as well as impacting the sewer system with additional waste that needs to be processed. It would create more revenue for the water and sewer system if followed but it could also negatively impact water and sewer users financially like the school district and some of Wendell's local businesses. He stated that the last time the ERU schedule was reviewed was 2012. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that she feels, at the very least, it needs to be investigated and reviewed. Tabled.

Consideration of Year End Payroll Services- Caselle

City Clerk Karri French presented the council with an agreement from Caselle, asking for

council approval. In the past, Caselle has helped the Clerk's Office with year-end payroll services including preparation of W-2's and 1099's. This year's contract price is the same as last year. **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to accept Caselle's Year End Payroll Services agreement. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Investment Policies

Mayor Vipperman stated that she was not asking the council to decide tonight. She wants this to stay on the agenda until a decision is made. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that the city needs to adopt an investment policy first based on the draft investment policy she brought to council previously. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that this was a solid plan. No motion needed. Tabled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall expressed her thanks for the invitation to the Elementary School to serve Thanksgiving lunch. She stated that she had attended a workshop meeting in Twin Falls today called Business Plus by Region IV- Frontier Community Resources. She encouraged those at the meeting to attend a future Region IV Business workshop meeting.

Councilman Gonzales stated that he also enjoyed serving Thanksgiving lunch at the elementary school. He stated that the kids were polite, and it was a lot of fun. He also stated that he felt sure he was the favorite server that day because he was in charge of serving the pumpkin pie.

Councilman Dunn expressed his appreciation of the Gooding County Sheriff's Office. He stated that he sees the officers regularly and they are doing a great job.

MAYOR

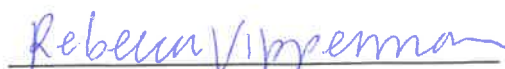
Mayor Vipperman stated that she had a good time at the Elementary School too. She announced that she received an offer from a local company to fully fund the solar light project for the Wendell sign. The city has received an estimate for the project. She stated that Public Works would be putting up the Christmas lights and decorations next week. She stated that there will be hot chocolate, coffee, and pizza for sale at the Christmas Tree Lighting on November 29th. She stated that Public Works made burn barrels with "Wendell" on them just in time for the event. She also stated that the city staff are doing a great job.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:43 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.



Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer


Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor