

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2024

Mayor Rebecca Vipperman called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 6:31 PM. Council members present were Council President BJ Marshall; Councilman Shaun Spencer; Councilman Juan Gonzales and Councilman Donald Dunn. City Attorney Tim Stover was not present, but he notified Mayor Vipperman in advance of his absence.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Spencer made a motion to approve the May 2, 2024, regular council meeting minutes, as presented. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Councilman Spencer- 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 \$30,865.53. **Councilman Spencer** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Spencer- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Variance Application- Rojas

Mayor Vipperman opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 PM and read the rules for public hearings. **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** presented the application from the contractor, Charlie Brewster, on behalf of Jose Rojas. The application is requesting a variance of the required 30 ft set back to 24 ft so that the house will line up with the garage that is already on the property.

Charlie Brewster, contractor for Jose Rojas, stated that the owner plans to remove the existing trailer and have a new home built on the lot. He stated that when the blueprints were done the first time, the home was not lined up with the existing garage so it would have the 30 ft setback that is required in Wendell Ordinance. This placement would not allow the homeowner to easily access the garage from the new home. He stated that it would improve the property and the overall look of the home and garage if the council allowed the property owner to line the new home up with the garage. However, moving the home to line up with the garage would reduce the setback to 24 ft.

Mayor Vipperman asked how many responses the Clerk's office had received regarding the proposed variance. **City Clerk Karri French** responded that there were 15 letters sent, and 1 response were received: 0 In Favor, 1 Neutral, 0 Against.

Mayor Vipperman stated that public comment was now open:

In Favor:

None

Neutral:

None

Against:

None

Rebuttal:

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 6:41 PM.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Fire Department Rescue Tool Purchase

Fire Chief Bob Bailey presented the council with a quote to purchase two new rescue tools, a cutter, and a spreader, also commonly known as the jaws of life. The cutter and spreader currently in service are hydraulic, at least 20 years old, and in need of replacement. These tools are vital to rescue teams when they need to get a victim out of a wrecked vehicle and other types of small space rescues. He stated that the cost would be split between the City Fire Department and the Rural Fire Department making the city's portion \$12,754.50. After a brief discussion, **Councilman Spencer** made a motion to approve the purchase of the cutter and spreader rescue tools not to exceed \$12,754.50. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilman Spencer- Aye**, **Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Special Event Application- Summer Movie in the Park

Mayor Vipperman presented the council with a Special Event application for a movie in City Park. The power at the park would be used and an inflatable screen would be brought in and placed in front of the bandshell. There would be no charge to the community and no food or alcohol served. The city would need to coordinate with Idaho Power to turn off the floodlight at the covered shelter so it would not impact the viewing of the movie. She stated that Colin Sharp, of Colin Sharp Insurance, has the screen and all the equipment needed and has offered to host the movie if the city purchases the rights to publicly play the film. The cost should be between \$450-\$500. **Mayor Vipperman** also stated that Colin Sharp would provide

advertisement through his company as well as reimburse the city for a portion of the cost to purchase the movie rights. Jim Benson with the American Legion stated that having movies in the park in the summer has a long history. He also stated that the American Legion still has an account with donated funds specifically for the city to play movies at the park. The current balance of the account is \$2001.90, and these funds are available to the city for purchasing the rights to publicly play movies in the park. **Councilman Dunn** asked if the city would send the bill to the Legion Hall for payment. Jim Benson answered yes. **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to approve the Special Event application for a summer movie in the park on August 2, 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.

Consideration of Variance Application- Rojas

Mayor Vipperman asked the council if they had anything to discuss. **Councilman Gonzales** and **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that any improvements would be good for that part of town. After discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to approve Jose Rojas Variance application based on reason #3, "The prevention of reasonable enjoyment of any property right of the owner." **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilman Spencer-Aye**, **Councilman Gonzales-Aye** and **Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

American Legion Veteran's Memorial Maintenance

Mayor Vipperman stated that was recommended that the city and the Legion Hall have an official agreement regarding maintaining the grounds at the Veteran's Park. Currently the city is maintaining the grounds. Jim Benson, representing the Legion Hall, stated that the full name of the Veteran's Park is South Central Idaho Veteran's Park. He stated that any past or living veteran can have a plaque in South Central Idaho Veteran's Park. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that the city has a veteran on staff, **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis**, who has been cleaning up trash and pulling/spraying the weeds. **Councilman Spencer** stated that the city should not assume that Nathan will continue to maintain the Veteran's Park. **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** stated that he volunteered during his first year with the city and plans to continue as long as he works for the city. When asked, Jim Benson stated that the flags have recently been replaced by the Legion Hall. The Legion Hall spent nearly \$500 for flags the last time they were replaced. The flags generally need to be replaced twice a year unless the wind damages them to the point that early replacement is required, making the average cost approximately \$1000 per year. **Mayor Vipperman** suggested the possibility of the city purchasing the flags. **Councilwoman Marshall** asked Jim Benson where the Legion Hall orders flags. Jim Benson stated that the Legion Hall purchases them from American Legion Emblem Sales. **Mayor Vipperman** asked if the city were to take over the flag replacement as well if the Legion Hall would order them for the city and allow the city to pay the Legion Hall. **Councilwoman Marshall** asked if anyone knew of any grants that might be available and suggested that the city could also ask the Gooding County Commissioners for help purchasing flags for the Veteran's Park. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that she would talk to the Gooding County

Commissioners. **Councilman Spencer** made a motion that the City of Wendell assume the everyday grounds maintenance of the South Central Idaho Veteran's Park. **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

Council Executive Session- Idaho Code Title 74-206 (1) A & (1) B

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall thanked Public Works for the work they have done with the irrigation system and for their hard work removing dead trees.

MAYOR

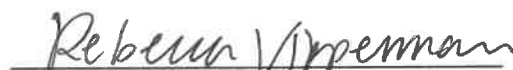
Mayor Vipperman announced that the Summer Concert Series dates are June 21 with Lupita La Indomible Madrigal, July 19 with Kat Bloomquist and July 26 with Buttons & Bows Squar Dancing. She reminded the council that the public hearing for Simplot's Special Use Permit application is scheduled for May 21 in Gooding. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated the time for the public hearing is 5:30 PM and if anyone wants to speak, they must contact the county to request to be added to the list of speakers. **Mayor Vipperman** announced that the ribbon cutting for Hub City Park is tentatively scheduled for June 21 at 1 PM. She stated that new trees were being planted around town and in City Park to replace lost trees. The ash trees in City Park are over 50 years old and the city plans to replace them as the city loses them as well. She stated that interviews for the two seasonal public works positions have started. She also stated that the new Administrative Assistant, Audrey, has been with the city for 2 weeks now and is doing well.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:46 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.



Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer


Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor