

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 19, 2022

6:00

NOTE TO PERSONS REVIEWING THIS DOCUMENT: THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT. WHILE AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO DOCUMENT PERTINENT POINTS, THESE MINUTES CONTAIN ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AND VOTING

Mayor Jamie Paden called the April 19, 2022 regular council meeting to order at 6:01.

Town Council members present were Alisha Anderson, Steven Walk, Valerie Rogers and Emily Thomas. Jacob Warren was absent.

Others present were Paul Kimmel from Avista, Rick Hurd from Home, Steve Braun, David DeGon, Gregg Wernz, Larry Haskell, Teresa Holm, Hunter Pederson, Justin & Heather Gust, Lon Ottosen, Richard Ralidis, Terry Philips and Cheryl Loeffler.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION

Valerie moved to excuse Emily Thomas from the April 5, 2022 regular council meeting; seconded by Alisha. The motion passed with 3 ayes with Emily abstaining.

Guest

Paul Kimmel – Avista

Avista has a program to install Level 2 charging stations for electric vehicles. They would like to have them installed in several of the local communities. Avista would be responsible for the installation, upkeep and maintenance. The town would be responsible for the monthly electrical bill, which Paul estimated to be about \$30 a month. We could set up a pay station of some type to recoup that cost. The strategy behind this program is to bring in more tourism to the smaller rural communities and stimulate economy. These are slow-charging stations so location of the stations is important. The town had worked with Avista with another EV charging station a few years ago. That project would have cost the town at least \$2000 for the installation but that project dissolved. This one is a totally different program.

ACTION

Emily moved to participate in Avista's program to install an EV station with Avista responsible for installation, upkeep and maintenance and the town will only have the monthly cost for the electrical bill; seconded by Valerie. The motion was approved 4-0.

Rick Hurd-Home Center Annexation into Spokane County

Rick Hurd presented a preliminary drawing of a housing development for the property at Jackson & Prairie View. This preliminary concept demonstrated 19 lots ranging from 10,000 to 20,000 square feet. There would be no through traffic and two cul-d-sacs. This is the first concept and it is ultimately up to the council to decide what type of housing would benefit our community. It is up to the council to direct how to develop this property while following the specifications for fire suppression.

ACTION

Steve moved to allow Rick Hurd to continue moving forward with annexation of this property; seconded by Emily. The motion was approved 4-0.

Annexation into Fire District #2

Steve Braun was the spokesman for the fire commissioners from Fire District #2. They were at the meeting to respond to the request from the town for annexation into the fire district. The town has been contracted with the district for several years with a 2.5% rate increase every other year. The majority of their calls are within the town boundaries but the amount of our contract does not generate enough revenue to maintain their equipment. At the 2022 budget meetings, this shortfall was brought to the town's attention and a huge increase to our contract was proposed. Both

sides compromised and the town's contract was raised from \$24,440 to \$31,441, a \$7,000 increase, with discussion of annexation in 2022 to begin. If the town does not annex, the contracted rate will have to be increased significantly each year to be able to upkeep their equipment and for the tax base to be more equitable between the town and the county residents. If the town were to annex into the district, services would remain the same. The difference between the county property tax and the town's property tax for fire and EMS protection would be barely noticeable. The question was asked what would happen to the town's emergency services if the vote failed. Mr. Braun's asked "could a city group say no to annexation and then the dept is so broke they can't continue with services? There is that possibility but I would hope not." The district would not refuse to provide emergency services to town residents. The only difference would be that future contracts would carry a much higher yearly fee. With being only contracted with the district the town has no say in anything that has to do with the district. By annexing, town residents would be able to have a seat at the commissioner's table.

ACTION

Alisha moved to continue moving forward with potential annexation into Spokane County Fire District #2; seconded by Emily. The motion was approved 4-0.

Larry Haskell

Larry Haskell, Spokane County Prosecutor, came to the council to re-introduce himself and discuss how the law enforcement in Spokane County is or is not working. He took questions from the audience. Cheryl will have his email address available for anyone that has questions or concerns.

Old Business

Review of Leases Service Club

The lease for the Service Club will continue to be reviewed by council. Dawn Hillsbery will continue to research the archives for any official lease. The preliminary lease has the rent at \$20 along with a monthly contribution to offset the electricity charges. Cheryl averaged the electrical bill for 218 ½ Main from 2021 and came up with a monthly charge of \$42 electricity charges (based on the average of last year's electricity charges for 218 ½ E Main, which the town paid. The proposed monthly rent charge would be \$62.

North Palouse Community Food Bank

The preliminary lease agreement for the North Palouse Community Food Bank was provided to the council for review. Discussion will take place at the next council meeting on 5-2-2022.

Security camera

Moved to next council meeting.

Dust control

Cheryl is still waiting to get prices from Custom Spray and Alisha will contact DJ Mangis for his prices and schedule. Cheryl will get a list of interested residents going.

Publication policies

The town's official newspaper is the Exchange. Currently, it can be picked up at "What-A-Kitchen". Ordinances and resolutions have to be published in the newspaper but a summary is sufficient as long as it states that the full document is available at town hall. The council believes that the way this has been done is adequate but should set an official departmental policy stating to post agendas 24 hours prior to the meeting and where to post them for regular and special meetings and to post summaries of ordinances and resolutions in the official newspaper will be sufficient.

ACTION

Emily moved to develop an official policy for posting agendas and special meetings and placing a summary of ordinances and resolutions in the official newspaper; seconded by Alisha. The motion was approved 4-0.

Discussion followed about the possibility of recording council meetings. Comments about coming to meetings for four to five years and there has never been any interest shown for recording. Meetings are transparent and anyone and everyone is invited to come to the council meetings.

Flag Day

The club reported that a hot air balloon demonstration may be coming. More information needs to be presented. Next meeting, we the discussion about who is responsible for what will take place.

NEW BUSINESS

None tonight.

Past Due Accounts

Cheryl provided the past due list from the 2-28-22 billing cycle. This list was quite a bit smaller than normal with some of the higher accounts reaching out to SNAP for aide.

Public Works Report

Sewer:

- WW Samples going in this week

Streets:

Dawn Hillsbery brought attention to the items that were left behind at the end of her driveway after the Northridge Sewer Replacement project.

Parks:

- Mowing has started.

Water:

- AMI Water Meter System. Continuing to install meters.

An Example of a Regular Task: Equipment Inspection (10 Min.)

Every day before any equipment is operated a general inspection of the machine is done. This is done to ensure safety of operators and bystanders and prevent damage to the town's equipment. In general, the equipment is checked for any visible damage. Fluid levels are checked, such as oil, hydraulic fluid, and fuel. Machines are greased in eight-hour intervals of operation or as recommended by manufacturer standards. Fuels and fluids are added as needed. Maintenance is done as recommended by manufacturers. Any hazardous conditions or other issues that may arise with the equipment are reported to the supervisor as soon as they are noticed and appropriate action to resolve the issue are then taken. We take pride in keeping our equipment as nice as possible and although a simple task noticing issues early will keep nice equipment that will function properly.

Approval of the Minutes from April 5, 2022 regular council meeting

ACTION

Steve moved to approve the minutes from April 5, 2022 regular council meeting as read, seconded by Valerie. Motion was approved with 3 ayes and Emily abstaining.

Approval of the April 19, 2022 Claims

ACTION

Steve moved and Emily seconded to authorize paying the claims of April 19, 2022 with EFTs for total amount of \$11,269.05 and checks #20850-20862 for a total of \$8,440.50. The motion was approved 4-0.

	04-19-2022
Claims	\$4,313.87
Payroll	15,395.68
Total Paid	\$19,709.55

Signed by Steven Walk, Emily Thomas and Valerie Rogers.

Other

Bid opening for 2022 sewer project this Friday.

Chip Seal by state on Highway 27 is beginning.

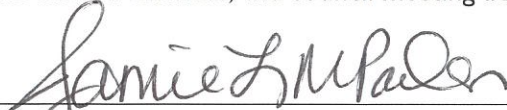
Cheryl presented the letter that was written to Liberty's Ag Issue team, thanking them for their presentation.

Compliments/Complaints

Dates to Remember	Frog Regatta	4-23-22	
	Range Mobile Clinic	4-28-22	3-5 pm
	Chipping Event	5-14-22	

Adjourn

With no further business, the council meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.



Jamie Paden, Mayor



Cheryl Loeffler, Clerk/Treasurer