

**CITY OF BLACKFOOT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2, 2021**



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and those in attendance were: Councilman Brown, Councilman Gardner, Councilman Jensen and Councilwoman Simpson.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CITY TREASURER

Mayor Carroll nominated Graham Anderson to the position of City Treasurer. Councilman Gardner motioned to confirm the nomination, Councilman Brown seconded; all were in favor, Graham Anderson was confirmed as the City Treasurer for Blackfoot.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Jensen motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of Minutes from January 5, 2021, Payables and an Airport Lease Transfer to Tadd and Tegan Jenkins, Councilman Brown seconded; all were in favor, motion carried.

MAYOR MARC CARROLL

Noise Address – Milestone

This agenda item will be moved to the March City Council meeting.

Idaho Strong Presentation – Shannon Fox

Ms. Fox addressed Council and explained that she is responsible for the Idaho Strong Program Region 7 that includes Bingham County, and explained the Idaho Strong program was established as a disaster response program, utilizing governmental funding. The Program is utilizing a three-pronged approach including outreach such as social media, radio and print advertisement, and a staffed Help Now Line that is not only for COVID-19 assistance but also for general help residents might need when navigating the available support system. The third prong is community-level help, which is where Ms. Fox is involved. The community-level help includes working with the school districts, food banks and other support organizations in the community to ensure that individual needs are met for those in Idaho communities.

Approval of Findings Within the City of Blackfoot Water Facility Planning Study – Keller Associates, Colter Hollingshead

Mr. Hollingshead provided a brief overview of the process, specifically activities from August through January. This is one of the last steps, which includes Council approval of the study findings as well as determining an initial schedule for the path forward. Mr. Hollingshead explained the only thing not included at this time is the Water Rate Study, which is a separate document and will be available at a later date.

Mayor Carroll asked Mr. Hollingshead to address water rights and where the City currently stands in this regard. Mr. Hollingshead referred to the Water Facility Planning Study, Chapter 3.2.3, which shows that the City is currently allocated a total of 4.7 billion gallons of water/year, which converts to 9,624 gallons/minute. Currently, the maximum water use is 6,713 gallons/minute; however, this amount will increase as the City grows. Mr. Hollingshead recommended to Council that they consider the purchase of additional water shares as they become available. Suggestions for moving forward are that any improvements be indicated on the City's Capital Improvement Plan so they may be moved up in priority.

Princeton Lee, Water Department Superintendent, addressed Council and explained that infrastructure systems nationwide, specifically Water and Wastewater, are taken for granted and failing due to a lack of funding. Mr. Lee explained that one objective of this study is to anticipate problems and identify solutions to address potential failures. Mr. Lee stated that he agrees with the recommendations in the Study.

When asked about chlorination, Mr. Lee explained that he recommends waiting as long as possible to install a City-wide water chlorination system, as it adds complexity to the water system that we don't currently have the technical ability to support. Currently, the City utilizes short-term chlorination to protect the water system during periods of slow use, such as in the winter when less water is moving through the system. Mayor Carroll discussed that City Codes requiring back-flow devices on irrigations systems are not being enforced. He and Mr. Lee are working on an education program, to be communicated prior to the spring, to ensure that citizens and installers are aware of what the City Code is, why it is important and how they can help. Not utilizing a back-flow device allows water from sprinkler systems to flow back into the general water supply when irrigation is being winterized, causing a safety and health hazard.

Councilman Brown motioned the approval of findings within the City of Blackfoot Water Facility Planning Study, Councilman Jensen seconded; all were in favor, motion carried.

Presentation on Lease to Own Golf Carts – Chris Smith, Golf Professional

Mr. Smith reviewed the proposed lease-purchase program for golf carts, utilizing Bancorp, from whom the City currently leases vehicles for the Police Department. Utilizing the Bancorp program, the City would be responsible for a \$2,050 monthly payment for 20 gas-fueled Club Cars, which includes a 5-year warranty and corrective maintenance, for a total expenditure of approximately \$123,000. After 5 years, the City would own the carts. Projected revenue from the addition of these carts over the 5-year lease period is \$364,800. The addition of 20 new Club Cars would increase customer satisfaction by reducing noise, improving availability and improving reliability. Councilwoman Simpson motioned to approve the golf cart lease program, Councilman Gardner seconded; all were in favor, motion carried.

Update on Library Drive-Up Window Construction – Lisa Harral, Library Director

Ms. Harral shared with Council that in order to provide City and Library services during challenging times, the Blackfoot Public Library Board met, and voted unanimously, to fund a project for expansion of the Blackfoot Public Library after CARES Act funding for the project was denied. The project is being referred to as 'The Drive-thru Window Project' that will occur in phases. Phase 1 will include a new meeting room for the Library and a small quiet study area that will be available by reservation. Phase 2 will include a new circulation desk and the Drive-Thru Window that will include City Utility services as well as Library services. Phase 3 will be a reconfiguration of the Parking lot, including a drive-through and additional handicapped spaces and Phase 4 will be an improvement of the building façade. Ms. Harral invited Council to visit the Library to view the construction progress to date.

COVID-19 Update

Governor Little moved the State of Idaho from Stage 2 to Stage 3, allowing for gatherings of up to 50 people. The City will open meetings to the public but continue to offer council meetings via Zoom. The Mayor then reviewed all Stage 3 requirements and current case numbers.

State of the City Address

Mayor Carroll provided highlights to Council for his State of the City Address. The Address includes the effects of COVID-19 on the City, accomplishments include project highlights from the Fire, Library, Parks & Recreation, Planning & Zoning, Police, Wastewater and Water Departments. In addition, the West Bridge Street Bridge project is moving forward, and the City Growth Plan is going to be the focus for 2021.

Mr. Hibbert added that there is a focus on providing affordable housing in the City with many proposed sub-divisions being planned, along with annexations, should result in a significant increase in valuations for the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Jensen motioned to move into Executive Session pursuant to provisions of Idaho Code 74-206, subsection 1(a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. (f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. Councilman Brown seconded; roll call was taken and all were in favor, motion carried, Executive Session began at 8:40 PM.

Councilman Brown motioned to move back into the Regular Council Meeting, Councilwoman Simpson seconded; all were in favor and the regular meeting resumed at 9:55 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

City of Blackfoot

Mayor Mark Carroll

Attest:

City Clerk Suzanne McNeel

Prepared by:

Lisa J Tornabene