



**CITY OF BLACKFOOT
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES FROM JULY 20, 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 Gardner, Councilman Jensen, and Councilwoman Simpson.

CONSENT AGENDA

Payables

Councilman Jensen motioned to approve the consent agenda, which includes the payables as presented. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

CITY TREASURER – GRAHM ANDERSON

Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2022 Budget

City Treasurer Graham Anderson recapped the discussion on the proposed 2022 Fiscal Year budget. Mr. Anderson and Mayor Carroll met with County Clerk Pam Eckhart who walked them through completing the L-2. He then opened the floor to questions from members of the Council. Councilwoman Simpson questioned information listed on the budget summary page. She questioned the percentage numbers in red on the spreadsheet that was provided to the Council. There was confusion with the formatting of the spreadsheet. Councilwoman Simpson asked what the healthcare reserve fund is for. City Clerk Suzanne McNeel explained that it covers the buy down, short term disability, etc.

Public Hearing on Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Councilman Jensen motioned to go into Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. Councilwoman Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

There was no one who signed up to testify at the public hearing. Mayor Carroll asked if there was anyone who did not sign the sheet but would like to speak. There was no testimony.

Councilman Jensen motioned to go back into regular session. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Public Hearing on Proposed Fee Increases

Mr. Anderson went over the proposed fee increases on Sanitation, Wastewater and Community Development fees. There will be an increase on the sanitation tipping fees that was unexpected. The increases have been updated and are now reflected in the proposed FY 2022 budget. Councilwoman Simpson asked if the city had received any calls about recycling. Mayor Carroll said that we recently had an ISU student reach out to him regarding ideas about recycling. Mayor Carroll added that recycling can be very expensive and asked the Council if it is something that they would like to have evaluated. Councilwoman Simpson said she would like to look into it, Councilman Jensen said he is not in favor of it.



He explained that his reason for not being supportive of the idea is because he has seen how Pocatello allowed a private group to run the recycling, eventually it ended up getting taken over by the city and there were issues with people dumping regular garbage in the recycling cans as well as issues with the cost to the city. The Council moved on from the recycling conversation to Wastewater rates.

Mr. Anderson went over the wastewater rates that were calculated based on the projects of the wastewater treatment plant phase II. The proposed fee increases of 4.75% is due to the cost of materials going up, along with the cost of construction and delays on the delivery of materials.

Mr. Hibbert spoke on land use fees, GIS fees, and economic development fees. The purpose of this fee schedule is to get on parity with Blackfoot's sister cities. Blackfoot Planning and Zoning, for example, had several land-use actions this past year and were not able to charge due to not having any fees listed on the schedule. This caused the city to miss out on revenue that they should have received. Another idea that Mr. Hibbert had was to somehow shift the burden of some of the development driven activities to the developer and moving it away from the taxpayer, making it less of a burden on taxpayers. He then went over some of the new fees that have been added to the fee schedule. Councilwoman Simpson asked him to explain what the annexation fee would be used for. He clarified that it is for people who are requesting the annexation.

Councilman Jensen motioned to move into public hearing for proposed fee increases. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

There was no one who signed up to speak at the Public Hearing on the proposed fee increases. Mayor Carroll asked if there was anyone who wished to speak. There was no testimony.

Councilwoman Simpson motioned to move back into regular session. Councilman Jensen seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Approval of Proposed Fee Increases

Councilman Gardner moved to approve the proposed fee increases. Councilman Jensen seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Councilman Jensen motioned to approve Resolution No. 397 as presented and waive any required readings. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BLACKFOOT NUMBER 397

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING INCREASED CITY FEES AND ESTABLISHING A REVISED OVERALL FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY:

The undersigned, Marc Carroll, does hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at the City Council Meeting of the City of Blackfoot on the date indicated below:



1. WHEREAS, based upon the presentations given to Council certain fees such as sanitation, waste water, and economic development, should be increased, amended, and/or added to place the City of Blackfoot's fees more commensurate with fees charged in surrounding communities, be reasonably related to the service provided, and to cover the costs of providing the applicable service; and
2. WHEREAS, there also needs to be an increase in certain fees due to the increased costs charged to the City for providing such service; and
3. WHEREAS, in order to adequately provide for certain capital expenditures necessary for the operations of the City it is in the best interest of the City to slightly raise certain fees to provide additional revenue for such capital expenditures; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

1. City Fees shall be increased, amended and/or added to the rates set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.
2. That Exhibit "A" attached hereto shall be considered as the overall fee schedule of the City as of October 1, 2021 and will remain in effect until modified by further council action.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 20th day of July, 2021.

Mayor Marc Carroll

ATTEST:

City Clerk

MAYOR MARC CARROLL

Discussion of Water Conservation

Mayor Carroll stated that Water Superintendent, Princeton Lee previously had approached him with the idea that the city should consider looking into water conservation. Mayor Carroll thinks it is a good idea that the city considers this now while there still are water resources. There are about twenty cities that have curtailed water usage after receiving letters from the Department of Water Resources telling them to shut down as much as 50% at their well pumps and this has caused quite a problem in other cities. Mayor Carroll gave the floor to Water Superintendent Princeton Lee. Mr. Lee presented his ideas on water conservation. He said the city has been lucky to not have had to enact any restrictions and feels that the City of Blackfoot should prepare by forming a committee to create a water conservation plan for the City. This would involve citizens and water users of the city. Councilman Gardner said he thinks this is a good idea and asked Mr. Lee what the cost of a well would be. He explained that based off the last water study, the next water well will approximately be a 13 gallon per minute well that is estimated to cost 1.6 million, which is not a very large well. If adding storage to the facility then that would be in the 5 to 6 million dollar range to add a 1.5 million gallon storage facility, and that is if you can secure the



water rights. Councilman Jensen said this was looked at years ago and this was why it was decided to put in the water tank then. He added that the plan was to build about 4 or 5 of them spread out around town, all while continuing to look for more water rights. Mr. Lee said the last water rights that were applied for were tied up in mitigation with downstream users. That application is still active and waiting for the city to figure out how to mitigate. Councilwoman Simpson suggested getting some ditch people involved in the committee that Mr. Lee is proposing to create. Mayor Carroll stated Minor's Ditch Company said they would be happy to take the effluent water from the wastewater treatment plant and put it into the Minor's Ditch. There was discussion regarding the ditches and the issues with who is responsible. Councilman Jensen said the city should be very careful because in the realignment of a couple of the roads, the city created a problem that was not there previously. He said the ditch companies are not willing to talk but the idea is to do something like Nampa has, put in an irrigation district that encompasses the entire city of Blackfoot. Mr. Lee spoke with Kyle Mangum from the Bingham County Chronicle and did an article in the paper on water conservation and in this article, it was mentioned that if there is anyone interested in being part of the committee to contact Mayor Carroll's office. He said he thinks that a committee of five would be a good number of members to get a good range of opinions and ideas. Mayor Carroll asked Mr. Lee to review backflow prevention. Cross connection is an ongoing issue that we are trying to get another plan together and start enforcing the plan that is currently in place. One thing in the budget that is a line item is for Cartograph that is an operation and maintenance software system that will help us track information. Testers can send their results directly to it. Councilman Jensen explained how proper backflow can be an issue with older homes. Mr. Lee said that his department tries to educate each resident to help them understand and comply; Councilman Jensen said some of it is code enforcement.

Mayor Carroll reminded the council that the next City Council meeting has been moved from August 3rd to Monday, August 9th at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM.

City of Blackfoot

Mayor Marc Carroll

Attest:

City Clerk Suzanne McNeel

Prepared by:

Patty Ojeda

