



**CITY OF BLACKFOOT
WORKSESSION AND SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES FROM JULY 26, 2022**

WORKSESSION – FCS PRESENTATION

Angie Sanchez Virnoche lead that FCS Water and Sewer Utility Rate Study presentation. She began the presentation by speaking about public utility rates setting principles, she talked about how rates fully recover utility costs, rates promote efficient use of utility success and talked about rates proportional to customer demand of Utility services. Ms. Virnoche broke down the utility rate methodology, went over policies and forecast assumptions, and gave a breakdown of water capital expenditures in different scenarios. Ms. Virnoche explained how costs will be equitably distributed and explained the cost-of-service. She also explained assigning functional costs to customer groups and explained the cost-of-service increase of 19%. Ms. Virnoche talked about the water rate design monthly base charge, water residential monthly usage, water non-residential monthly usage and gave billing examples. Ms. Virnoche talked about the sewer revenue requirements and gave a breakdown and scenarios of sewer capital expenditures. Ms. Virnoche presented the proposed ATB rate schedule, then went over a summary and conclusions. Mayor Carroll said that the city ranks in the lowest 10% for lowest monthly cost of water and sewer, this has come at a big price which has put the city way behind on building the cities infrastructure. The infrastructure issues need to be addressed, whether it be with a full 19% water COSA increase and a 25% sewer COSA increase. Councilman Jensen said the city should buy water rights and Councilman Gardner said the city impact fees should be increased. Councilman Brown said he would like some more time to study this a bit more before making a decision. Mayor Carroll opened up the meeting for any questions or comments from the public. Eric Buckland, Chairman of the Water Conservation Committee requested to have condensed slides uploaded onto the website. Allen asked if there is a strategic plan for sewer and water. Mayor Carroll explained that the city has completed plans for both the water and sewer. There have been studies completed for both water and sewer. Mayor Carroll said that how the expenditures are handled will dictate how much of an increase will need to be put in place. The FCS presentation ended at 6:18pm.

SPECIAL BLACKFOOT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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.

CITY TREASURER GRAHM ANDERSON

Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2023 Tentative Budget

City Treasurer, Grahm Anderson presented the publication notice of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 from the July 5, 2022, City Council meeting. Mayor Carroll explained that this Public Hearing is being held with the intent of listening to citizens without argument or discussion. Councilman Jensen



made a motion to go into Public Hearing and Councilwoman Simpson seconded the motion, on a roll call vote, all were in favor and the Regular Meeting went into Public Hearing.

Josh Madsen, a Blackfoot resident began by saying that he has lived in the City of Blackfoot for 19 years. Mr. Madsen said that every year for 19 years, his taxes are higher and higher ever year and the roads are more in need of being repaired. He said his property taxes are subjected to double next year raising his mortgage. He talked about the city not being able to maintain the infrastructure but wanting to hire more people and talked about the water contamination issue. Mr. Madsen talked about ARPA monies the city received, he mentioned that homes on Goodwin flooded several times and have had to dig up the sewer lines four times. Mr. Madsen continued to say that the city should not be modeling their processes after the surrounding cities of Blackfoot.

Ryan Tiggert, a resident of the City of Blackfoot stood to speak to the Council and mentioned that on the budget, he noticed that there are talks about a 9% increase for city employee wages. He said that he has worked for the Government for 25 years and the best that he ever saw as far as employee wage increases was 3%. Mr. Tiggert talked about appraisals and said that appraisals were done at the very high end asked the Council to look at reassessing the values of homes to make adjustments. He voiced concerns and confusion of issues with his basement flooding.

Eulali Christensen expressed concern about the use of the Cities tax money and how the money is spent. She would like to see the money spent on roads. She is concerned on property taxes going up. She mentioned that she is on a small, fixed income and her property taxes have gone up.

Allen Munson asked to speak and said that the issues that have been brought up are long time coming issues that have accumulated over several years. He said that he would like to hear about some kind of a long-term approach.

Stacy Salazar stood to speak and talked about her house flooding multiple times since she purchased it only a year ago. She said the city ran a camera through the sewer line and learned about issues that ended up never getting fixed. Ms. Salazar said that there are major sewer line issues on the road that she lives on as well as other surrounding areas that need to be addressed.

Councilman Jensen made a motion to move back into Regular Session. Councilman Brown seconded the motion; all were in favor, on a roll call vote, all were in favor and the meeting moved from Public Hearing into Regular Meeting.

Councilman Jensen mentioned that when it comes to property taxes, he said the city can do one of two things, the city can give the County a percentage or a dollar amount of what is needed to operate. The city only tells the County how much money is needed, complete required forms and turn them into the county. The County hires all the individuals that do all the assessing work, the city has nothing to do with that. This year a new law went into effect and the State legislature decided to put the value of a home at its fair market value, which means that if you have a home that went up in market value you will pay more taxes on that higher market value of the home. This is not something that is done or decided by either the city or the county, this is something that is put in place by the State Legislature.



Councilman Brown explained there were hundreds of hours spent on putting the budget together. Councilman Brown talked about property taxes and expressed that there are things that he strongly disagrees with regarding property taxes, however, it is due to the State legislature and not something the cities are in control of. Councilman Brown explained that property taxes are calculated by taking the new levy rate, times your net taxable value, which is your new assessed value, minus your homeowners' exemption.

City Treasurer, Graham Anderson made a presentation to the Council on the budget. He began by saying there was a lot of research and time spent on putting the budget together. There are three variables that go into the property tax process and gave a breakdown of the market valuation of property, homeowners exemption, and levy rate process. Mr. Anderson explained how to calculate property taxes and showed the council the City of Blackfoot historical levy rates.

Councilwoman Simpson said she wanted to speak to one of the comments that was made about decisions being made behind closed doors. She said the Council does not decide anything behind closed doors as that is against the open meeting law. All decisions are made at the council meetings.

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

City of Blackfoot

Mayor Marc Carroll

Attest:

City Clerk Suzanne McNeel

Prepared by:

Patty Reyes