

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

**March 2, 2016**

**Officials in Attendance:** Mayor Dorothy Knauss; Councilmen John May, Payton Norvell and John Wight; Councilwomen Sharon Ludwig, Carra Nupp, Dee Henderson and Roberta McMillin.

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Mike Frizzell, City Attorney Charles Schuerman, Clerk/Treasurer Pamela McCart

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### **Executive Session to Discuss Pending/Threatened Litigation:**

At 6:33PM the Mayor announced that the Council would go into executive session for 15 minutes. The Mayor announced a five minute extension. At 6:53PM the Mayor called the meeting back to order.

- Motion by Councilwoman Ludwig authorizing Attorney Mike Connelly to file suit to quiet title and for ejection on the City property and City right-of-way adjacent to the Kaiser property, seconded by Councilman May. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

**Audience Comments:** None

### **Announcements/Appointments, including:**

- Mayor's Youth Award postponed to April.
- The Mayor stated that a special meeting would be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> in order to hold a public hearing with regard to the sale of the library portion of the municipal complex. City Attorney Schuerman explained that the library had been sold to the Stevens County Rural Library District (SCRLD). In order to do that, we had it appraised at a fair market value. SCRLD needed the sale to be completed in a timely way because it was selling bonds so it had to be completed by February 11<sup>th</sup>. After this time, it was brought to our attention that SCRLD is a municipal body just as we are a municipal body -- and when you are a municipal body those are interlocal transfers and before you can really finish an interlocal agreement, you have to hold a public hearing - because what you are really doing is declaring something surplus . . . with other municipalities or interlocal agencies you can actually do it on "whatever terms and conditions you want" - in other words a City can, for example, sell a \$750,000 piece of equipment for \$50,000 . . . you can sell it for cheap. In fact, what happens in this case is that we are getting full price. The purpose of this statute is to allow people to weigh in on the selling of a surplus item to another governmental entity at a bargain price. The statute itself requires notices in the paper for a public hearing. So we want to resolve that technicality.
- Mayor read letter from Jack Nielsen addressed to the Chewelah School Board and City Council pertaining to the renovation of the Jenkins High School Snyder Field and the possible adverse effects the renovation might have to his property with regard to drainage/effect on horses. She stated she did not think the Council had much to do with it. The C/A stated that any project like that would have to be processed through the City via planning review and any drainage issues would be addressed at that time.
- The Mayor stated that the Police Department had requested if "In God We Trust" could be placed on all the police vehicles. As suggested by MRSC, the Mayor googled it and found that this practice is widely accepted in the eastern part of the country. It was signed into law in 1956 by President Eisenhower as our national motto. It has been tested in the court -- people have tried to get it off of our currency - but the federal court has said 'No, that is our

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national motto'. The MRSC consultant informed her that this matter did not need to be brought to the Council as a mayor is the chief executive and has the authority to grant such permission. She informed the Council that she did authorize it – it has to be placed on every police vehicle and the Police Chief will need to develop a policy.

**Presentation:** *Pastor Jeff Lewis, representing St. Mary Catholic Church and Catholic Charities of Spokane*, discussed the possibility of creating a crisis relief center for at-risk and troubled youth in Chewelah (perhaps St. Mary's school building) to serve the local or perhaps tri-county area.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Councilwoman Ludwig approving Consent Agenda consisting of:

- >February 3rd Regular Minutes
- >February Payroll and Claim Vouchers

Seconded by Councilwoman Nupp. Roll call vote taken with all votes in favor. Motion carried.

**Committee/Commission Reports:**

- *Lodging Tax Advisory, Councilwoman Nupp:* After reviewing the applications the committee recommends the following award of funds totaling \$7,600: Chamber \$2,000, Community Celebrations \$2,000, Chokes & Spokes \$300, Chewelah Arts Guild \$800 and Chewelah Float \$2,500. Motion by Councilwoman Ludwig approving award of lodging tax funds as recommended by Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, seconded by Councilman Norvell. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

**City Administrator Report, including:**

- Starting annual employee evaluation process.
- Majority of items out of old shop. Will not move anything else until the storage shelves in the new shop are installed. Next hurdle is getting everything out of the old Main Shop building.
- Met with Del Barber regarding the "Flags over Chewelah" project. He already has 50 pavers core-drilled and is looking at doing another 50. Fifty flags have already been purchased. We said we would help him excavate those holes and look at ADA compliance – you will see a resolution at the next meeting which spells out these responsibilities. Del's goal is to have those out for the first time on July 4<sup>th</sup> and for the parade.
- The automatic door opener has been installed on the west door of City Hall.

**City Attorney Report:** None

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**Old Business:**

- The Mayor explained that this letter states that the City will agree to pay \$8,000 toward the cost of an appraisal on the airport property to start the process – it does not commit us to anything. It's just the initial step toward working with DNR to purchase the airport. Motion by Councilwoman Nupp approving Letter of Intent for Chewelah Land Transfer with WA State Department of Natural Resources, seconded by Councilman Wight. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.
- The Mayor stated that a while ago she had informed the Council that she had written to the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey requesting an artifact from the World Trade Center – this was when it was thought the City would be the recipient of the 911 Memorial. She had not received a reply for the longest time and then recently received a letter – she apparently did not receive the email response. The Port does have a 20 lb. piece of steel available for the cost of shipping. A contract agreement will need to be signed and returned by March

18<sup>th</sup> – we could talk about that contract at the meeting scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>. It was the consensus of Council for the Mayor to proceed.

**New Business:** None

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

  
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Mayor Dorothy L. Knauss

  
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Clerk/Treasurer Pamela McCart