REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING          December 6, 2017

Officials in Attendance: Mayor Dorothy Knauss; Councilmen John May, Payton Norvell, Evan Schalock and John Wight; Councilwomen Cori Weusthoff and Carra Nupp

Staff Present: City Administrator Mike Frizzell, City Attorney Mike Waters, Clerk/Treasurer Pamela McCart

Elected Officials Absent: Councilwoman Sharon Ludwig

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

Oath of Office:
The City Attorney administered oath of office for Council Position #2 for the short term ending 12-31-17 to Cori Wuesthoff.

Mayor's Youth Award – Brooke Bennett

Motion by Councilwoman Nupp to excuse absence of Councilwoman Ludwig, seconded by Councilman Norvell. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

Audience Comments: None

Approval of/Changes to Proposed Agenda:
Councilman May requested that discussion regarding the swimming pool be added under Old Business. Motion by Councilman May to approve proposed agenda as amended, seconded by Councilman Wight. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Announcements/Appointments, including:
- Reappointment of Cal Greenaway to Civil Service Commission for term 1-1-18 to 12-31-23.
- Requested that Code Committee review possibility of allowing audience comments/questions during council meetings.

Presentation:
Michele Thomas, Volunteer Program Supervisor, Rural Resources Victim Services, thanked the City for its support of the programs which help the victims of domestic violence and other abuse. She requested that the City continue its financial support of $4,500 in 2018.

Consent Agenda:
Motion by Councilman Norvell approving Consent Agenda consisting of:
  >November 1st and 15th Regular Minutes
  >November Payroll and Claim Vouchers
Seconded by Councilman Schalock. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearing on Budget for Fiscal Year 2018:
The Mayor opened the public hearing and set forth the format that would be followed. There were no objections to the Mayor participating as chairman. There were no objections to any Councilperson’s participating in the proceedings. No Councilperson acknowledged any communications outside of this hearing and no Councilperson acknowledged any gain or interest with regard to this matter.

Staff Report: City Administrator Mike Frizzell stated that the 2018 budget includes:
  - The maximum allowable 1% property tax increase
• On electric, as discussed during budget workshops, a $.0028 increase in per KWH charge to offset 6.45% increase in purchase of power from BPA
• On sewer, a previously adopted $1.20 base rate increase
• 2.1% COLA for non-union employees based on change in Employment Cost Index per resolution adopted by Council in 2016
• 3% COLA for law union employees, per contract
• Wage increase for Electric union employees based on 90% of average of Avista/Cheney/Inland Power, per contract
• Reroof of Webster building $15,000
• Purchase of Electric Department pick-up $32,000
• Storage Building at Transformer Yard to be shared by Electric/Water/Sewer $90,000
• Energy Efficient Lighting at Airport $15,000

There was no written or oral public testimony. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Committee/Commission Reports:
• The Clerk/Treasurer noted that the Annual Report from the Chamber, as required by Lodging Tax Agreement, was included in the Council packets.
• Finance, Councilman Norvell: Talked about the fire station going out for bids -- will probably need to have a future discussion on how the Council wishes to pay for that. Also waiting for bids on the civic center cooler -- in the meantime, the C/A got a standard fridge for use in the short term.
• Public Safety, Councilman May: The Police Department would like Council to think about having an enclosed area in the back of city hall in which to park their cars - it would add personal safety for the officers and would also keep the vehicles cooler in the summertime and keep the snow off in the winter.

City Administrator Report, including:
• Colin and Diane Mai, purchasers of the 14 acres on Sand Canyon, have submitted a written request to Council for the purchase of an additional acre at the same price paid per acre – they also will pay for all purchase fees including planning fees associated with the lot line adjustment process. City Attorney Waters recommended that the matter be tabled to the January meeting at which time he would present a report with any legal ramifications and a plan going forward.
• Bids for the fire station are due December 22nd. I will be able to relay the cost of that structure at the January meeting at which time it can be discussed.
• Vacancy in Public Works has been filled by Jason Knisley who has fourteen years of experience working with cities.
• I am not able to get quotes from local contractors for the civic center cooler due to seasonal workloads so will have to get quotes from Spokane – should have those for the next meeting.
• The City has been awarded a $260,000 TIB grant for new sidewalks . . . from where left off on King and 395 the job would proceed north to the light on both sides of the road and then head west on both sides of Main Street up to the bridge area. The project can’t go further due to a high dollar bridge issue which needs to be resolved.
City Attorney Report:
There's been some question as to how the City Council operates, particularly with respect to committees and whether committees are subject to the open public meetings act. There's a fairly recent Washington State Supreme Court case from 2015 that examines the legislative history of the act itself and examines what types of meetings are meetings and what types of those are subject to the act requiring attendance of the public and accessibility of the public. Just to be clear for the Council, as with most of what happens with the City Council -- again subject to the overarching requirements of the act -- it's essentially up to the Council. The Council can run this meeting the way that it wants to. Under this decision, the Council or the committees themselves have the authority to decide whether to conduct business with others present in committee meetings. The important consideration is that action cannot be taken at those meetings -- that's protected in two ways. One is that the committees are always less than a quorum. The other way that it happens (and the Supreme Court language is very clear on this) is that when a committee meets for deliberation or advisory purposes, that is not an action subject to the open public meetings act. There's a lot of discussion as to why that's a good thing. It allows more free-flowing discussion without forcing every word to be scrutinized. It allows councilmembers to be more open and frank in trying to have deliberations and come to their advisory recommendations with the important caveat that, again, that will never be something that takes any action and that those deliberations will still be presented in an open forum such as today. The final point I'd make is that in fact the original statutory language that was considered by the legislature was originally written to include these types of committee meetings and it was actively taken out of the language it appears for this very purpose -- to allow committee meetings to happen in a less open way for the public in order to allow those discussions to be more unfettered with the important caveat that no act be taken until a meeting that is subject to the open public meetings act.

Police Chief Report
Fire Chief Report

Old Business:
- After discussion regarding the pool (including the two-year moratorium on declaring the pool as surplus property requested by Bob Belknap in July 2017), it was the consensus of the Council that the Mayor send a letter to Mr. Belknap seeking an update on his involvement with the swimming pool.

New Business:
- The clerk read the introduction of Ordinance #919. Motion by Councilman May to adopt Ordinance #919 Amending 2017 Budget, seconded by Councilman Norvell. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.
- The clerk read the introduction of Ordinance 920. Motion by Councilman Norvell to adopt Ordinance 920 Adopting the 2018 Budget, seconded by Councilman Wight. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.
- Motion by Councilman May to approve 2018 Municipal Lease Contracts with McGrane & Schuerman, NEW Alliance, Red Marble Mountain Massage, Purple Flat Top, Chewelah Family Chiropractic and Tara Dollar, seconded by Councilman Schalock. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.
- Motion by Councilwoman Nupp to approve 2018 Agreement with McGrane & Schuerman Law Firm for City Attorney Services, seconded by Councilman Norvell. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.
- Motion by Councilwoman Nupp to approve 2018 Agreement with Studio Cascade for Planning Services, seconded by Councilman Schalock. Roll call vote taken with all in
favor. Motion carried.

- **Motion by Councilman May to approve 2018 Agreement with Rural Resources Community Action for Family Support Center funding**, seconded by Councilman Norvell. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

- The clerk read Resolution #17-06. **Motion by Councilman Norvell to adopt Resolution #17-06 regarding Membership in Cities Insurance Association of Washington (CIAV),** seconded by Councilman May. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Motion by Councilman Norvell to elect Councilwoman Nupp to serve on Local Firefighter Board of Trustees in 2018**, seconded by Councilman May. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

- The Mayor stated that she and the C/A approached County Commissioners about the possibility of borrowing "O-9" economic development funds from the county in order to purchase the airport property from DNR – perhaps a 30-year no interest loan. The Commissioners appeared receptive to the use of these funds for that purpose. The C/A explained that options for repaying the loan could include developing new residential lots on the south end of the property, leasing additional hangar lots on the airport taxiway and creating a small business district near the airport. **Motion by Councilwoman Nupp directing administration to proceed working out details with the County on the purchase of the airport**, seconded by Councilman Wight. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:**
At 7:41 PM, **motion by Councilman Norvell to adjourn**, seconded by Councilman Wight. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

\[Signature\]
Mayor Dorothy L. Knauss

\[Signature\]
Clerk/Treasurer Pamela McCart