

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 1, 2023

Officials in Attendance: Mayor Greg McCunn; Councilwomen Tracy Ling and Jolene McGee; Councilmen Aaron Alvarado, Payton Norvell, Bruce Nupp, Evan Schalock and John Kabosky

Staff Present: City Administrator Jim Caruso, City Attorney Mike Waters, Clerk/Treasurer Jordan Roberts, Deputy Clerk Catherine Konzal

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

Audience Comments: Janet West, City resident and Treasurer for Colville Valley Animal Sanctuary (CVAS) in Arden – Regarding the City’s proposal to switch to Sunshine Recycling. CVAS has no other option than Sunshine for a garbage service with pick up every-other week. If garbage is missed, Sunshine does not return and we are left with garbage for a month. Last month the ice and snow prevented Sunshine from getting trucks out of their yard. Janet would like the garbage service to remain with the City and is willing to pay for a City fee increase.

Approval of/Changes to Proposed Agenda: Mayor McCunn proposed a change to the agenda with the Addition of Ordinance 976 Establishing a Six-Month Moratorium on the Acceptance of Applications for Licenses, Permits, or Approvals for any Intensive Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities, Specialized Dementia Care Facilities, or Other Behavioral Health Facilities. *Motion by Councilman Norvell to Adopt the Agenda as Amended with the Addition of Ordinance 976, seconded by Councilwoman McGee. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.*

Announcements/Appointments: None

Presentations:

- Alicia Ayars, City Planner and Jeremy Sikes, Department of Ecology – Shoreline Master Plan Update. *Postponed to next meeting, as Alicia Ayars was ill.*
- David Watts, Chewelah Fire Chief – Airport Fire Equipment acquired in the last 6 months include;
 - 15 Kenwood TK290 radios and battery chargers, donated by Stevens County Fire District 1.
 - 2012 Ford F550 Brush truck from Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through a grant application. Replacing the current 1979 Chevy 1-ton Gasoline brush truck.
 - 2007 Oshkosh T1500 ARFF requested by Fire Chief Watts by application to DNR. This equipment will remain the property of DNR for one-year, when the City takes official ownership.
 - Passport Accountability System was purchased with ARPA funds.
 - Stevens County IT made ID cards for Chewelah Volunteer Firefighters at no cost.
 - WA State Department of Enterprise Services REUSE Inventory System – Chewelah Fire Department signed up for access to this inventory, available to government agencies only. Inventory is priced at 3% of the original purchase value. Several items were purchased, including a flat screen tv for training and several needed hand tools.
 - The Fire Department applied for a grant through DNR for equipment service and to replace garage doors, also a grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation for a bunker gear extractor.
- The Councilmembers attendees took a 10-minute recess to view the new brush truck and T1500 ARFF, parked behind City Hall.
 - The motor in the current ladder truck blew up. This truck can be surplus. We have located a used ladder truck, a 1999 Spartan Gladiator LTI 75’ Quint. This truck will come with a current pump and ladder certification. We will be getting a complete fluid change; engine, transmission, and hydraulic.

Mayor's Report (including):

- WinterFest is this Saturday 2/4/23.
- 25 years ago, Dave Walner had an interest in building a skate park in Chewelah for his children. The City recently dismantled that skate park for insurance liabilities due to the condition of the structures. Mr. Walner has offered a \$7,000 donation towards a project to design and engineer a new skate park.

City Administrator's Report :

- The City will buy business cards for any Councilmember wanting them.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Councilman Schalock approving Consent Agenda consisting of:

- *January Payroll and Claim Vouchers*
- *Second half of December Claim Vouchers*
- *December 21st and January 4th Regular Minutes*

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

Committee/Commission Reports:

- Councilman Norvell, Finance Committee – We met regarding the garbage, fire trucks and Code Enforcement Officer that will be discussed tonight under New Business.
- Councilman Kabosky, COVID Committee – Discussed using ARPA Funds for the Fire Department ladder truck and getting money towards the Civic Center; upgrading the kitchen and purchasing a generator.
- Councilmember Schalock, Public Safety – Met to discuss purchasing the fire truck.

Old Business:

- Garbage service
 - Mayor McCunn opened discussion of the garbage service and the Administrations full assessment of the in-the-garbage-business vs going with Sunshine.
 - City Administrator Caruso stated there are pros and cons of either decision.
 - Councilmembers weighed in on enforcing codes related to residents not paying for garbage service and storing garbage in their yards. The garbage truck currently being used has broken down but is only out of commission for a day or two.
 - *A motion by Councilman Nupp to Reject Sunshine's Proposal. No second. Motion died for lack of a second.*
 - Discussion regarding how the City of Chewelah citizens feel about changing the garbage service and what happens to the City garbage truck driver. City Administrator Caruso explained that either way the City driver will have a job. Sunshine has been invited to speak at the February 15th Council meeting.

New Business:

- Mayor McCunn Introduced Ordinance 976 and Aaron Quails, City Planner with SCJ Alliance. Aaron presented information on the process of the moratorium. City Attorney Waters discussed the State Legislature passing a program that funds intensive behavioral health treatment facilities. These are facilities that are designed for people who have been involuntarily committed into mental health facilities, typically Eastern and Western Washington State Hospitals, that who, in the judgment of the treatment providers, no longer meet the criteria, which are very strict and very limited because that is a removal of someone's autonomy. However, by definition, they are still not ready to be reintegrated back into normal society, on their own. What the State has funded is what they call "Intensive Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities". These are facilities for the treatment of people who fall into what we just described. They technically can't be involuntarily committed, but they still need to be committed. The problem is that that commitment is now voluntary. Meaning, if they choose to no longer volunteer for it,

they get to leave. Every one of these facilities is funded at 16 beds. We have learned there has been funding for a 16-bed facility in Chewelah, for people who have, up to this point, for various reasons, been involuntarily committed in mental health facilities and are not ready to be released, but they can't involuntarily keep them there and they can walk out anytime they choose. The site they have chosen for this is across the street from the school.

Deputy Clerk Konzal read Ordinance 976. Introduction/Adoption Ordinance 976. *Motion by Councilwoman McGee to Approve Ordinance 976 Establishing a Six-Month Moratorium on the Acceptance of Applications for Licenses, Permits, or Approvals for any intensive Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities, Specialized Dementia Care Facilities, or Other Behavioral Health Facilities, seconded by Councilman Nupp. Discussion regarding the difference between the different titles of the facilities and the reason for the moratorium. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.*

- Joint Workshop with SCJ and Department of Ecology for SMP – *Motion by Councilman Norvell to Postpone the Joint Workshop with SCJ and Department of Ecology until the 3/1/23 Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Schalock. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.*
- City Administrator Caruso presented the benefits of having a Part-time Code Enforcement Officer that can legally follow the State Laws and the Chewelah Municipal Code to help clean up our City. This position would be non-union and part of the Building Department. Discussion regarding how this position would be funded. *Motion by Councilman Kabosky to Approve the Hiring of a Code Enforcement Officer, seconded by Councilman Nupp . Discussion regarding having it be a one- or two-year position. Roll call vote taken with Councilmen Alvarado and Norvell voting against, all other votes in favor. Motion carried.*
- City Administrator Caruso went over the options to get rid of the current ladder truck; place an ad in the paper with a minimum bid, or, there is enough equipment that can be surplused and the City could hold a Public Live Auction. *Motion by Councilwoman McGee to Approve the Surplus of the Ladder Truck, seconded by Councilman Schalock. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.*
- *Motion by Councilwoman McGee to Advertise a Public Auction for April and Gather Everything We Can Get Rid of from All of Our Departments and Have a Live Public Auction, seconded by Councilman Nupp. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.*
- Fire Chief Watts went over the flyer presented to the Council for a 1999 Spartan Gladiator Ladder truck. *Motion by Councilman Norvell to Approve up to \$100,000 for the Purchase of a 1999 Spartan Gladiator Ladder Truck, seconded by Councilwoman McGee . Discussion regarding the need for a replacement ladder truck as we have given the service of a ladder truck to our citizens and they have come to expect it. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.*

Adjournment:

At 9:04 pm, *motion by Councilman Norvell to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Ling. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.*

Mayor M. Gregory McCunn

Deputy Clerk Catherine Konzal 76