

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

October 4, 2023

Officials in Attendance: Mayor Greg McCunn; Councilwoman Jolene McGee; Councilmen Aaron Alvarado, Ron McCoy, Bruce Nupp, John Kabosky, Evan Schalock.

Officials Absent: Councilwoman Ling

Staff Present: City Administrator Jim Caruso, City Attorney Mike Waters, Clerk Treasurer Jordan Roberts, and Operational Support Tech Julie Culverwell

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

*Motion by Councilwoman McGee to excuse the absence of Councilwoman Ling, seconded by Councilman Schalock. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. **Motion carried.***

Audience Comments:

- Shane Cody Fairweather, City Resident
 - Thanked the Firefighters and Police for the Sety's celebration.
 - Believes we need additional fire, police & jail support staff to manage the behavioral health facility.
 - Chewelah City Council does deserve wage increases.
- Larry Fetter, City Resident
 - Open house to celebrate Park & Recreation Plan success at the Civic Center 10/19/2023 6:00 PM.
 - Chewelah Recreation Association \$200k pledge made to the City to create the Little League multiplex complex. Conditions of pledge will be brought to council to ensure funds stay with intended project.
- Jewel Zion, City Resident and Patrick Beckley, City Resident – Bot wanted to comment on Behavioral Health Facility. Mayor McCunn let them know they could provide public comment during Public Hearing.

Approval of/Changes to Proposed Agenda: *Motion by Councilman Schalock to Add Keller Group, and Wage Discussion under Old Business, seconded by Councilman Nupp. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. **Motion carried.***

Announcements/Appointments:

- Mayor McCunn commented on restructure discussion of committee chairs to finish out 2023. 2 committees will be removed. All points of change were provided to Councilwoman McGee. Mayor would like to finalize restructure in the next 2 weeks.

Presentations: None

Mayor's Report (including):

- Winterfest: February 3, 2024. Key events to be similar to Winterfest 2023. 49° North taking major role. Restructure Main Street events. Meeting October 10, 2023, 11:00 AM for anyone wanting to help.
- Pillar Leadership Board for Downtown Retail Strategies submitted an application to Main Street America and was accepted. Program will replace Downtown Retail Strategies
- City Administrator Caruso is working on the holiday tree lighting date.
- Firefighters Olympics will be held 10/18/2023. Sign up at 10:00 AM. Event begins at 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Proceeds from the event go to fallen firefighters. There

will be events, games, bake sale. DNR & firefighters to be in attendance and competing

City Administrator's Report (including):

- Expanded on how great the Firefighters Olympics is and encouraged folks to come.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Councilwoman McGee approving Consent Agenda consisting of:

- *September Claim Vouchers*
- *September 6th & 20th Regular Minutes*

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

Public Hearing: Ordinance 981 Moratorium Extension

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

Aaron Qualls, Planner with SCJ Alliance provided information including that the : Moratorium has been extended and we are considering the future application where we are looking to schedule our meeting with the subcommittee. We will make some recommended code changes that would be in place should there be future expansions, or any new facilities started.

Councilman Kabosky: At the current facility for behavioral health, what is the number of beds in place? Answer: 16 – Plan was for how many? Answer: 70.

Mayor McCunn commented that the moratorium helps us shape our City Municipal Code to better manage future development in this space and that is the purpose of this Public Hearing.

- **PUBLIC TESTAMONY (Regarding extension & renewal of the Moratorium)**
 - *Shane Cody Fairweather, City Resident: Not against people with disabilities. Worried about safety and the needs of community and that there is not enough doctors and support staff to keep community safe.*
 - *Mayor McCunn commented to say that the moratorium is a future looking pause on further development and NOT related to Quail Hollow. Moratorium is a pause in this space that enables the Council to come together and address the unmet needs within the municipal code.*
 - *Robert Playfair, City Resident: In favor of moratorium. Wants it extended as far as possible. Concerned this only affects future expansion and not what's happening now at the current facility.*
 - *Mayor McCunn again reminded to keep the public hearing to the moratorium*
 - *Sharon Green, City Resident: Wanted to know when it comes to licensing and other codes will the city have the ability to revoke operating licenses. Concerned about community safety.*
 - *Aaron Qualls commented that any new expansion or development would have to have all standards in place.*
 - *City Attorney, Mike Waters: City's jurisdiction revolves around zoning. Licensing issues are handled by the state.*

- *Joseph Reddig, City Resident: Questioned if zoning laws go into effect, if the current facility gets sold, does "grandfathering law" take place or does the newest zoning laws apply to the new owner.*
 - *Aaron Qualls: If infrastructure is discontinued for 6 months or more then the use is conforming to the use permitted in the zone per city code.*
 - *City Attorney Mike Waters requested clarification with Aaron if the city code could be changed to a different amount of time.*
 - *Aaron Qualls: Yes, it could, and it would apply to all businesses if the business is non-conforming*
- *Patty Playfair, City Resident: In favor of extending moratorium until we have a good system in place. Encouraged Council to look at what could happen to our community after release. (of behavioral health resident) Would like a code that says you cannot have an autonomous quiet business.*
- *Pat Beckley, City Resident: Agrees with previous speaker and that businesses should not be autonomous. The new interpretation was a loophole in legislation.*
 - *Mayor McCunn encouraged the group to stay on topic to Moratorium. This is public comment on the renewal of the Moratorium. Moratoriums are granted for a six-month period. Once that expires, Council has the authority to renew it for another 6 months. As part of the process, a Public Hearing is required.*
 - *Aaron Qualls provided the development of the Municipal Code and agendas could be placed on the City website along with any future public hearings.*
 - *City Attorney Mike Waters provided that the Moratorium is a pause for six months to allow the City Council to examine and potentially amend the City Code. What comes out of the Moratorium is not a future moratorium draft, it's as Councilman McGee says, it's changes to the Municipal Code for which there would be a Public Meeting before any of those were adopted.*

No Public Comment letters were received.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing

- **Committee/Commission Reports:** None

Old Business:

- Administrator Caruso read a letter from Tom Keller, of The Keller Group. Motion by Councilwoman McGee Approving Administration to Sign a Contract with Keller Associates to Start in January 2024 Through December 2024 for \$6,000 a Month, seconded by Councilman Kabosky. Discussion regarding cost and the expense coming out of the 2024 budget. Clerk/Treasurer Roberts commented that the motion didn't include travel expenses. Roll call vote taken with Councilmen Alvarado, Nupp and Schalock voting against, all remaining votes in favor . Motion failed.
Motion by Councilwoman McGee for City Administration to Sign a Binding Contract With Keller Partners & Company for Their Services Starting in January 2024 at \$6,000 a Month for 12 Months, Plus Travel Costs for Two of Their Employees to

Come Out to Chewelah, Round Trip from Their Home Office at Any Time, Even Before the January Contract Starts, seconded by Councilman McCoy. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. **Motion carried.**

- Motion by Councilman McCoy that Council Get a Raise from the Current Wage of \$100 a Month to \$300 a Month to Start January 1, 2024, seconded by Councilman Nupp. Discussion regarding the amount of an increase was included in the discussion during the budget meeting. Roll call vote taken with Councilman Alvarado voting against, Councilwoman McGee and Councilman Schalock abstaining, all other votes in favor. **Motion failed.**

New Business:

- 2024 Budget: Clerk/Treasurer Roberts provided the Budget Draft with minor changes from the last workshop and suggested that Council review prior to next Monday's workshop.

Adjournment:

At 7:51 pm, motion by Councilman McCoy to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman McGee. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. **Motion carried.**

Mayor M. Gregory McCunn

Op. Support Tech Julie Culverwell