

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

October 18, 2023

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

Councilwoman McGee attended remotely via Zoom.

Staff Present: City Administrator Jim Caruso, City Attorney Mike Waters, Operational Support Tech Julie Culverwell, and Deputy Clerk Catherine Konzal

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

Audience Comments: Shane Cody Fairweather, Chewelah Resident – Approved the Beekeeping Ordinance and the Council Wages.

Approval of/Changes to Proposed Agenda: Mayor McCunn proposed a change to the agenda by adding Council wage increase and removing Ordinance 983 Committee Structure, under Old Business. *Motion by Councilwoman Ling to Approve the Agenda as Amended, seconded by Councilman Nupp. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. Motion carried.*

Announcements/Appointments: None

Presentations:

- City Administrator, Jim Caruso presented the Paul Nelson, Wildland Firefighter Foundation with a check for \$4,563.00. Going to fallen firefighters.

Mayor’s Report (including): None

City Administrator’s Report (including):

- City Administrator, Jim Caruso reported that Keller and Associates partnership has been approved and Keller representatives will be out for a visit November 14, 2023. They will be meeting with police, sewer, water, and all other City departments. Jim will also be having a conference call with Keller & Assoc. to discuss an infrastructure grant.
- Christmas Tree Lighting: December 1, 2023, 6:00 PM.

Public Hearing: Procedural Code Update

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

Aaron Qualls, Planner with SCJ Alliance explained 3 types of procedures for land use and development. Mike Waters, City Attorney requested Aaron to explain the history of why the code is the way it is and why the City needs to fix this. Aaron explained that when the City utilized the Planning Commission, everything went to a Hearing Examiner and that went away.

No Public Comment

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing

Public Hearing: Beekeeping Ordinance

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

Aaron Qualls, Planner with SCJ Alliance explained permitted and conditional uses in zones specified.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Shane Cody Fairweather, Chewelah Resident – Commented in favor of beekeeping.

The Mayor closed the Public Testimony

Committee/Commission Reports:

Parks & Recreation: Chuck Ritchie, President of Chewelah Creative District reported on grant acceptance for a sound system at the park.

Old Business:

- Public Works, Councilwoman Ling – Reported City Recycling/Plastics should have a report by Nov. 1, 2023. City Administrator, Caruso provided explanation of the issue of cost to take it to Spokane.
Motion by Councilman Kabosky to Table Discussion Until the Next Meeting.
*Seconded by Councilman McCoy. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. **Motion carried.***
- *Motion by Councilwoman Ling to approve Ordinance 984 Procedural Code Update,*
*seconded by Councilman Nupp. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. **Motion carried***
- *Motion by Councilwoman Ling to approve Ordinance 985 Beekeeping Ordinance,*
*seconded by Councilman Schalock. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. **Motion carried.***
- *Motion by Councilman Kabosky to Approve Council Wage Increase to \$360.00 per Month,*
*seconded by Councilman Nupp. Discussion by Councilman Kabosky regarding his method of research for calculating the increase. Councilman Schalock questioned why this wasn't being discussed during the Budget Workshops. Councilwoman Ling commented on the amount of research she had done to gather information from different cities. She additionally requested a commitment to produce as a council in exchange for this raise. *Roll call vote taken with Councilman Alvarado voting against, Councilwoman McGee and Councilman Schalock abstaining, all other votes in favor. **Motion carried.****

Comment:

Councilman Kabosky requested consideration to put a potential policy in place in Chewelah for asylum seeker and refugee relocation. Mike Waters, City Attorney strongly suggested research into this request. *"I think if this is something the Council wants to look at, it should be more judiciously considered and researched before it comes before the Council."*

Adjournment:

At 7:30 pm, *motion by Councilwoman Ling to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Nupp. Roll call vote taken with all in favor. **Motion carried.***

Mayor M. Gregory McCunn

Deputy Clerk Catherine Konzal