

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO,
HELD AT THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

June 2, 2015

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d'Alene met in a regular session of said Council at the Coeur d'Alene City Library Community Room June 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., there being present upon roll call the following members:

Steve Widmyer, Mayor

Loren Ron Edinger) Members of Council Present
Dan Gookin)
Kiki Miller)
Steve Adams)
Woody McEvers)
Amy Evans)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Widmyer.

INVOCATION: An invocation was provided by J.O. Owens, Heart of the City Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Adams.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA: Motion by McEvers, seconded by Evans to amend the agenda to add Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 (b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

ROLL CALL: Gookin Aye; Evans Aye; Adams Aye; Edinger Aye; Miller Aye; McEvers Aye.
Motion Carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Motion by McEvers, seconded by Gookin to approve the consent calendar.

1. Approval of Council Minutes for May 19, 2015.
2. Approval of Bills as Submitted.
3. Setting of General Services and Public Works Committees meetings for June 8, 2015 at 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. respectively.
4. Approval of Fireworks Stand Permits to Loren Andy Flournoy; Paul Cote/Colleen Ramsey (2 locations); Brayden Runyon; Joseph Budig; Dan Holmes; Koran and Mary Quinn; Linda and Michael Morgan; Troy Carpenter; Eric Campbell; Eda Darwood
5. Approval of Cemetery Repurchase from Brett and Linda Ryberg, Lots 32 and 33 Block NGD in Riverview Section
6. Approval of Cemetery Transfer from George Mitton to Mary Jo Mitton, Lots 20, 30, 40, and 50 Block A in Riverview Section

7. **Resolution No. 15-026** - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO AUTHORIZING THE BELOW MENTIONED CONTRACTS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE INCLUDING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 (FINAL) WITH WILLIAMS BROTHER CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR WASTEWATER PHASE 5C.1 – INITIAL TMF & NITRIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS; DECLARING CERTAIN I.T. EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS; AND APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF POST FALLS FOR PLUMBING INSPECTIONS - SHARED SERVICES.

ROLL CALL: Gookin Aye; Evans Aye; Adams Aye; Edinger Aye; Miller Aye; McEvers Aye.
Motion Carried.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Adams mentioned that he recently met with many East Sherman property owners to promote the open house planning meetings being held June 3rd in the Library Community Room and June 8th at the Harding Center. Additionally, he noted a disagreement with Councilmember Gookin regarding the dissolution of an Urban Renewal Agency (URA). He noted an opinion of the City Attorney that stated that the City Council could rescind the resolution that created the URA. He also noted that dissolving the URA would take some time and effort to finalize obligations, and a future Council could set up a new agency, if they so desired. Councilmember Gookin stated that the code states that every city has a URA, and agreed that the code allows councils to recreate a district. City Attorney Mike Gridley said that an agency could be dormant and that while the code states every city has one it doesn't mean it does anything. Councilmember Adams surmised that both he and Councilmember Gookin ended up being correct.

Councilmember McEvers presented a video piece regarding the skate board demonstration that occurred at Dalton Elementary School two weeks ago. He asked Nathan Baker to provide information regarding the next skateboard park event. Mr. Baker stated his group has partnered with the City's Parks and Recreation Department to provide workshops regarding skateboarding safety, and positive use of the skateboard park. On June 21, 2015 at 11 a.m. his group will host a skate parade down Sherman Avenue. They will meet at 9th and Sherman Avenue (in the Java parking lot) and he encouraged citizens to join in on the fun. They hope to continue to create a positive approach to interacting with the community.

Councilmember McEvers stated that Pastor Ron Hunter retired this Sunday and noted that he was one of the founding members or the City Council invocation. He wished him well in retirement.

Mayor Widmyer reminded the community that the budget survey is still available on the city website <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CDABudgetSurvey> and encourage the community to provide feedback and participate in the annual budget process. He asked for the reappointment of Jennifer Drake to the Arts Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Evans to approve the reappointment of Jennifer Drake to the Arts Commission. **Motion carried.**

AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR 3 OFFICERS THROUGH THE COPS HIRING GRANT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STAFF REPORT: Police Chief White explained that he was seeking approval to apply for and accept grant funding for a percentage of three officers wages and benefits through the COPS Hiring Grant, U.S. Department of Justice. He further explained that the department is still 12 officers below what they should be based on crime rates and calls for service. Last year the department submitted for this grant and was not awarded, but they would like to try again. Chief White stated that the grant would fund up to 75% of an officer's wages and benefits, up to \$125,000 per officer. The application and acceptance of this grant will allow the department to increase the overall personnel allocation by three officers. These positions would supplement the patrol staffing and help lower crime rates. This is a three year grant, and the City would be required to maintain the additional officers for at least four years (three years during the grant cycle and one additional year).

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Gookin asked what federal strings would be attached to this grant. Chief White stated that the City would be responsible for the unfunded amount of costs, the full fourth year of funding for the positions, and must give preference to veterans. He further explained that this funding would provide a team of folks that could do more community outreach and he does not see any big hurdles. Councilmember Adams stated that one question he had at the General Services Committee meeting was what if the grant is not awarded and there was no alternative. Chief White explained that these would be unbudgeted positions and it would mean that there would be three patrol officers that they would not get if they do not get the grant. Councilmember Adams read an article from the Boise Idaho Reporter regarding his comments at the previous General Services Committee meeting. Councilmember Adams stated that the COPs program exists to proactively fight conditions that give rise to public safety issues, but GAO data suggests that it does not lower crime rates. He referenced additional articles mirroring his position and concerns about grant conditions. His main concern is that the federal government is at least \$19 trillion in debt and he cannot in good conscience vote for the use of these funds and increasing the federal debt. Councilmember Gookin asked Chief White if the Mesa Police Department accepted these grants. Chief White said that the Mesa Police Department was able to save 25 officer positions through the COP grant funding and lowered their crime rate by a minimum of 5% per year. Chief White clarified that this is not militarization of the department but, rather, more community outreach. The department is stretched thin and they are doing what they can to reduce crime rates with the only other option of determining that they will not respond to certain calls. Councilmember Gookin asked Finance Director Troy Tymesen what the impact would be to pay these positions out of the Fund Balance. Mr. Tymesen explained that the Fund Balance is a savings account and does not have a revenue source; therefore, it would deplete it over time. Councilmember Edinger asked for clarification regarding the costs after the third year. Chief White explained that the City would have to pay the cost fully for the fourth year. Thereafter, he believes that retirements would be used to cover costs or, potentially, lay-offs could occur.

MOTION: Motion by Edinger, seconded by McEvers, to authorize a grant application for three (3) officers through the COPS Hiring Grant, U.S. Department of Justice. **Motion carried with Adams voting No.**

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING FOR PLAN YEAR 2014

STAFF REPORT: Sherri Wastweet, Grant Administer, Panhandle Area Council explained that the CAPER is a required year-end report due to HUD at the end of each plan year. The report is intended to provide a summation of how the City used the funds during the year. The public comment period ran from May 18, 2015 through June 2, 2015, with no comments being received. She provide a brief history of the program and a summary of progress made this year, including the finalization of the Habitat for Humanity project and the beginning of a housing needs assessment. The City continues to provide funding for sidewalks and emergency minor home repairs. There were three community grants were awarded to North Idaho Violence Prevention Center, Children’s Village, and Trinity Group Homes.

Mayor Widmyer called for public comments related to this item.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dennis Hinrichsen, Coeur d’Alene, stated he was concerned with the block grant for low income recipients when they have too many toys (recreational vehicles/boats, etc.). He stated that it is so cluttered that the Fire Department could not even get a ladder truck down 9th Street. He believes there should be far more accountability for people receiving this kind of housing and more stringent certification of their income.

Ms. Wastweet clarified that CDBG funding has not been provided to any homes on 9th Street. She explained that the verification of income requires a copy of the W-2, bank statements, social security statements, etc. to insure that the applicants qualify under HUD guidelines. She clarified that applicants can have up to \$50,000 in assets as long as their income meets the requirements as sometimes peoples’ circumstances change in life.

MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Miller, to approve the Plan Year 2014 CAPER for submittal to HUD. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Greg Johnson, Coeur d’Alene, stated that he has been working with the midtown property owners for 10 years and during this last year they have had on-going talks with LCDC and The Housing Company regarding a housing development. Within the last 60 days there have been no comments from the LCDC housing sub-committee chair. He will be informing the mid-town neighbors about the project with door hangers and inviting them to their meetings at Kelly’s Pub every Monday at 5:30 p.m. Councilmember Miller asked for clarification regarding what the border is that they consider as midtown. Mr. Johnson stated that it is difficult to confine it, but it would likely be from

Coeur d'Alene Avenue to the freeway from 1st Street to 8th or 9th Street. Although, he currently lives on 11th Street and this route is still important to him.

Dennis Hinrichsen, Coeur d'Alene, thanked Councilmember Adams for his watchfulness. He suggests that Plan B for staffing of the Police Department should be to use a portion of the \$6 Million in the Fund Balance and the Council's taxing authority. He believes there is a need to enhance the Police Department through code enforcement, animal control, and patrol. He requested the Council approve a citizen commission that would assess and recommend staffing levels and funding to be added to the police budget thereafter. Councilmember Gookin asked about his 9th Street concerns. Mr. Hinrichsen stated that there is low income housing in the neighborhood that is not abiding by the laws, specifically 1935 N. 9th Street. Councilmember Gookin stated that one of the Council and the Chief's goals is to get more code enforcement, which the grant will do with more officers. Mr. Hinrichsen reaffirmed that he does not believe the grant is the way to do it and believes his neighborhood is slated for blight.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Evans to enter into Executive Session as provided by Idaho Code 67-2345 § (b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

ROLL CALL: Edinger Aye; Gookin Aye; Evans Aye; Adams Aye; Miller Aye; McEvers Aye.
Motion carried.

The City Council entered into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. Those present were the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, Finance Director, and City Attorney. Council returned to regular session at 8:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Gookin, seconded by McEvers that there being no other business this meeting be adjourned. **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Steve Widmyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Renata McLeod, City Clerk