

Bancroft City Council
Monday, September 11, 2023
Regular Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes of the Mayor and City Council for Bancroft, Idaho

Roll call showed the following council and staff members present:

Council President Rick P. Hatch, Joseph Perry/phone, Eric Christensen, Nate Walter Eiman, Mayor Spencer, and Clerk Swensen were present

Others in attendance: Aaron Beus, James Ackerman

Call to Order: Mayor Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:46 pm

Pledge: Mayor Spencer

Prayer: Cp, Rick Hatch

Item: 1 Agenda

Cp, Rick Hatch made a motion to accept the agenda as stated.

Cm, Nate Eiman 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 2 Fire Department

Fire Chief, Taylor Askew, purchased a new tire at Point S in Soda Springs. The tire was \$20.00 cheaper at Point S than the usual vendor. Taylor has been communicating with Eric Hobson, the coordinator for Caribou County EMS regarding purchasing their back-up set of SCBA's and bottles. The items are fairly new due to the county getting a grant for SCBA's after purchasing new SCBA's with their budget. In a recent meeting the County Commissioners suggested the county donate the SCBA packs and bottles to the Bancroft volunteer fire department. The county will fill the bottles as needed.

The Pocatello and Idaho Falls Fire Departments may be donating good used gear when they purchase newer items. Cm, Joe Perry suggested Bancroft check with other neighboring cities and see if they could use some of the gear if the donation is larger than needed.

Fire Chief Taylor Askew discussed the need for new wildland gear. Pants alone cost approximately \$225.00. The total cost of items needed is approximately \$3,895.00

Cm, Eric Christensen made a motion to allow the fire department to purchase the needed gear.

Cm, Joseph Perry 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 3 Building Permits

1.) Ray and Michelle White-Shed Permit

Ray and Michelle submitted a permit to put a shed on their property. Planning and Zoning has checked the set-backs and reports that specs have been met.

2.) Aaron Beus-Home Renovation Permit for new purchase of home located at 275 S. Main Street
Aaron and Rebecca Beus recently purchased the home at 275 S. Main. The roof has caved in due to snow load. Aaron would like to start clean-up and renovation as soon as possible. Aaron does not anticipate making any changes to the dimensions of the home but will be renovating the inside.

Mayor Spencer asked maintenance to check for an existing water meter and see if the sewer has been disconnected and capped.

Aaron and Rebecca have submitted full payment for new water and sewer connections.

The clerk will hold the check until the utility connection status is confirmed.

Council members agree that the building permit meets the required set-backs per code.

Cm, Eric Christensen made a motion to approve both building permits submitted.

Cm, Nate (Walt) Eiman 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 4 Minutes

Special Meeting 8/8/2023

Cp, Rick Hatch made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting held August 8, 2023.

Cm, Eric Christensen abstained due to being absent.

Cm, Joe Perry 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Budget Hearing 8/14/2023

Cm, Eric Christensen made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2023 Budget Hearing.

Cp, Hatch 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Hearing 8/14/2023-Comprehensive Plan

Cp, Rick Hatch made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing on September 11, 2023.

Cm, Joe Perry 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular Council Meeting 8/14/2023

Cm, Joseph Perry made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting held August 14, 2023.

Cm, Eric Christensen 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 5 Accounts Payables

Cm, Eric Christensen made a motion to approve the accounts payable with the exception of not paying one charges to Craig's Backhoe due to not being the city's charges.

Cp, Rick Hatch 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 6 Appropriation Ordinance No.304

Cm, Nate W. Eiman made a motion to approve Appropriations Ordinance No. 304.

Cm, Eric Christensen 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Roll Call Vote Taken: Nate W. Eiman=YES, Eric Christensen=YES, Rick Hatch=YES, Joe Perry=YES

Item: 8 Bancroft Municipal Airport

Airport Manager, George Hulse, received a phone call from a man who landed his plane at the Bancroft Municipal Airport on August 31st. The pilot complained that the weeds and grass were hitting his windshield making it hard to see. Three other pilots have since called asking to land at the airport. Due to the landing conditions, manager Hulse has advised pilots against using the landing conditions are safe. One of the pilots wanted to land a jet, but was advised against using this strip to land.

George would like to see the weeds and grass taken care of and maintained. George suggested the city purchase a good chemical that would need to be applied in the spring. George likes this product and stated that it will kill all the weeds and prevent them from growing back all season. The cost is approximately \$1,500 but worth the money.

George stated that it used to be common for the city to have someone available to pick up pilots as they land at the airport here.

Council discussed the most recent airport inspection. The inspection passed all requirements but the city will need to do a better job of maintaining the weeds. The city has cleaned up the appliances and other garbage that has been dumped on airport grounds by community members. The city will look at purchasing the chemical suggested by the airport manager.

Item: 9 Forsgren Engineers-Water & Sewer Study

Kort discussed the process for collecting accurate data that would be used to do a water and sewer rate study. Data would be collected from businesses, residential, and apartment units to determine accurate monthly cost and new connections. They will use the average initial cost of the system and the current

depreciation value to determine costs. Cm, Perry is concerned about paying the engineers to do another study. Cm, Perry would like the city to come up with the fee amount and then adjust them later if needed. Cm, Joe Perry asked if the city could meter a few homes as a trial run; to get an idea of how much water is being used by the average household each month.

Mayor Spencer explained that the city would have to purchase meter readers and software to read meters. The current meters could possibly be obsolete as well. The engineers are watching for a grant that would cover some of the cost.

Council would like to table the new connection fees topic for the next meeting.

Cm, Eric Christensen made a motion to reverse the decision made previously; to hire the city's engineers to conduct the study.

Cp, Rick Hatch 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Council Member Nate Eiman asked why the city is increasing the utility connection fees. Mayor Spencer explained that the fees have not been changed since 2010. The costs of supplies, meters, and labor has increased and the city is losing money on new connections. The need to increase the rates is a necessity.

Item: 10 Building Permit Procedure Fee 9-2-3

Council discussed the building permit procedure and the current situation of most residents not getting a building permit approval before starting and completing projects. Council discussed issuing a fine to residents that start or complete projects before applying for a permit.

Cm, Joe Perry suggested setting a fine that is high enough that residents would rather go through the application approval process than pay the fine. Cm, Perry commented that the city would have to be diligent in enforcing the fine or things will not change. Cm, Eric Christensen suggested setting a minimum and a maximum fee. Council agrees they will need to get legal advice before setting the fines.

Item: 11 Development Codes

Cp, Hatch has a concern regarding the section that requires the builder to be bonded. He would like to find out more about what requires a bond and what determines the cost of the bond. Clerk Swensen suggested that Rick contact the cities liability insurance company where they provide bonds for different types of corporations. Rick will make some contacts during the month and council will re-visit the topic next month.

Item: 12 Publishing

Cm, Eric Christensen saw a resident dumping debris in the city's drainage ditch. Eric asked what the city can do to prevent future dumping in the ditch. Cm, Eric Christensen asked if the city could send a flyer to each resident; asking them to stop using the city's drainage ditch for disposal of grass clippings/debris. Council suggested putting a reminder on the city's website, sending notice to the paper, and posting notice at public facilities.

Clerk Swensen reminded council the ditch is posted which allows the city to legally issue a warning or citation according to state statutes but will check with the postal service regarding postage prices and route requirements

Council & Staff Reports

Casey Moreland informed council that he will need more panels to bring the city kennel up to code. The approved panels from several months ago are not enough.

Cp, Rick Hatch made a motion to purchase the additional panels needed to bring the kennel up to code.

Mayor Spencer informed council that a resident has complained about a hole in the siding on the end of his house facing the city shop. He would like it repaired and believes it was damaged by the city since his property is on the side adjoining city shop property and he does not use that side of his house. Council agrees to replace the damaged pieces of siding.

Cp, Rick Hatch had a resident ask about their water bill charges. The resident lives outside the city limits and is concerned that they are paying more than other residents living outside the city limits. Clerk Swensen advised that this resident is paying the same rate as all residents living outside the city limits. Clerk Swensen invited council to look at the resident accounts and payment history. Cp, Hatch had a resident inform him of a sink hole. Mayor Spence commented that maintenance will be filling it soon.

Cm, Eric Christensen what has happened with the flood damage claim.
The city liability insurance has paid the claim. The city should receive the paperwork shortly.

Cm, Joe Perry informed council that the weeds at the park are still bad and growing up into the donated memorial benches. The camp sites are full of weeds and the picnic tables need to be put under the pavilion.

Cm, Perry asked if anyone has heard what the new restaurant owner has decided to do about his application to put an awning on the city sidewalk. Mayor Spencer informed council that he has decided not to put his awning there and will possibly put in on the other side of his building.

Cm, Perry asked where things are at with issuing tickets for non-compliance with junk, weeds, and non-running vehicles.

Mayor Spencer informed Perry that the code enforcement officer doesn't know which residents the council feels are still non-compliant and is waiting for a new list.

Cm, Perry stated that the Code Enforcement officer should be able to tell if a resident still has weeds and non-running or un-registered vehicles.

Cm, Perry would like Code Enforcement to get the tickets out and has agreed to back him up with his decision.

Adjournment

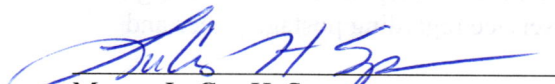
Cm, Eric Christensen motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Cp, Rick Hatch 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.



Recorded by: ds
City Clerk /Debbie Swensen

10-9-2023
Date Accepted by Council


Mayor, LuCus H. Spencer