

Minutes of 09.10.2024 regular meeting/public hearing of the East Hope City Council.

The Regular Meeting/Public Hearing of the East Hope City Council was called to order at 5:30 pm Mayor Debbie Field. Council members Michael Wilcox, Joyce Butler, Pam Brockus and Don Wells were present and constituted a quorum.

Audience Comments: Kim Peckam, Hope Precinct Committeeman, invited everyone to join her for an informational meeting on Proposition 1 on September 20th at 6:30 pm at the Memorial Community Center.

Approval of Minutes

Council member Butler moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 08.13.2024, council member Wilcox seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills/Financial Report

Council member Butler moved to approve the August bills in the amount of \$26,595.62, council member Wilcox seconded, and the motion carried 4-0. The financials were reviewed.

Public Hearings:

Proposed Amendment to Fiscal Year 2024 & Amended Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Ordinance

Staff presented the need to amend the fiscal year 2024 budget to bring \$10,000 from reserves forward in the street fund to cover the cost of repairs to the quiet zone and to bring \$38,000 forward from reserves in the water fund to offset the cost of having a water operator in training over the last year. Mayor Field opened the public hearing to comments, having heard none the public hearing was closed. Council member Wilcox moved to suspend the reading of proposed ordinance on three separate days and have the title read once in full, council member Wells seconded and the motion carried 4-0. Council member Wilcox moved to approve ordinance 305, amending fiscal year 2024 budget, council member Butler seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote of Wilcox, aye, Butler, aye, Brockus, aye and Wells, aye, 4-0.

Draft Water Facility Plan and Public Comment

The draft water facility plan has been open for public comment since September 1st. The plan was available at city hall, the city's web page and on our Facebook page. The updated plan focuses on replacing the remaining aged mainlines, most of which are over 50 years old. Another priority that the city has listed is installing pressure reducing stations strategically throughout the system to reduce mainline pressures. Mayor Field asked the audience if they had any questions or comments. No comments were made. The comment period closes on the 14th.

Water Rate Increase & Water Rate Resolution

Staff presented the need for a water rate increase. The proposed increase would raise the base rate which includes the bond rate from \$67.99 to \$78.00. The per/1000-gallon rate would change from \$2.54 to \$2.52. The city typically takes a 4.9% increase to cover the increased cost of maintenance and operations however this year due to the increases in electrical, testing, software, treatment, parts, insurances and professional services the city had to increase the rates over the 5% threshold which requires a public hearing. Mayor Field opens the hearing to public testimony however there was none so the hearing was closed. Council member Butler moved to adopt resolution 171 water rates, council member Brockus seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Old Business

Park Discussion

Friends of the East Hope Community Park group got their non-profit status approved. They are officially a 501(c)3 status now.

New Business

City Council Pay Ordinance

The city council included in their fiscal year 2025 budget to ability to provide pay to the city council members and mayor for the first time. The proposed ordinance provides the ability to pay \$75 per month/per position. Council member Wilcox moved to suspend reading the proposed ordinance on three different days and have the title of said ordinance read once in full, council member Wells seconded and the motion carried 4-0. Council member Wilcox moved to approve ordinance 306 salaries of elected officials, council member Wells seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote of Wilcox, aye, Butler, aye, Brockus, Aye and Wells, aye, 4-0.

Planning & Zoning Contract Renewal with Ruen Yeager

The city council reviewed the yearly contract renewal with Ruen Yeager for planning administration. Council member Butler moved to sign the contract beginning October 1st, 2024 for the fiscal year 2025, council member Wells seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Employee Wage Resolution

The city council reviewed the personnel wage resolution 172. Council member Wells moved to approve, council member Wilcox seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Motion to Join PERSI

Having included this benefit in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget council member Wells moved to join PERSI, (Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho), council member Butler seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Set Tree Lighting Celebration

This year's tree lighting celebration has been set for December 6th.

Discussion on Bonner County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Bonner County is currently in the process of updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan and being a participant in the plan Mayor Field encouraged the council members to participate in the in-person meeting set for tomorrow at 1pm at the county admin building. By being a participate in the plan and identifying hazards that need mitigation it opens the city up to apply for funding through FEMA.

Staff Report

Planning and Zoning

No new building permits or land use permits were filed during the month of August.

Streets/Water

Staff has been working on replacement of leaky hydrant valves.

Clerk

AIC fall district meeting will be held on October 15th in Couer d'Alene, please let the clerk know if you would like to attend this training as soon as possible.

Announcements

The next regular city council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8th at 5:30 pm.

Council member Wells moved to adjourn at 6:20pm, council member Wilcox seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Deborah Field, Mayor

Attest:

Christy Franck, City Clerk