

SEPTEMBER 22, 1966

The City Council of the City of Idaho Falls met in a Recessed Regular Meeting, September 22, 1966, at 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Idaho Falls, Idaho. There were present at said Meeting: Mayor S. Eddie Pedersen; Councilmembers Smith, Nelson, Parish, Freeman, Erickson, and Wood. Also present: Roy C. Barnes, City Clerk; Robert Fanning, representing the City Attorney firm of Albaugh, Bloem, Smith and Pike; Luther Jenkins, Controller; Robert Pollock, Police Chief; Don Lloyd, Public Works Director; Les Corcoran, Fire Chief.

Minutes of the last Recessed Regular Meeting, held September 8th, 1966 were read and approved.

Mr. Uriel Wallace, 531 10th Street, appeared before the Council and presented the following letter which he also read aloud:

Idaho Falls, Idaho
September 19, 1966

Dear Mayor Pedersen:

Past experience can be a wonderful thing, especially when we learn from that experience. Not too long ago when the City reversed the one way grid system on the residential streets, it soon became evident that a mistake had been made and the streets were returned to their original pattern. Now we have those who want to return to the unsuccessful method.

Perhaps we should look back and see some of the reasons why the other method did not work.

To begin with, the big problem is not westbound traffic, but eastbound traffic. The reason is that people go to work or to town at different times, but many of them come home from work or shopping about the same time. Therefore the biggest congestion is in the evening eastbound traffic.

When the streets were reversed, 6th and 10th Streets were carrying most of the load that is now split between 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th Streets respectively. When the traffic on 6th Street came to Holmes Avenue, and also the high school, it had to either go north or south and had to do so without the aid of a traffic signal. Much the same situation existed at the corner of 10th and Holmes. There traffic would have to cross or enter the busy Avenue without the aid of a traffic light. Another bad situation existed at 13th and Boulevard. There, the eastbound traffic was met by westbound 13th Street. The score was practically all eastbound traffic facing some kind of bottleneck.

Now in answer to the problems that now exist with the buses at Central Jr. High School, what would be wrong with loading and unloading on Boulevard or Lee Avenue, and/or on the parking lot on the east side of the school? Another solution would be to eliminate parking on the school side and allowing the buses two way traffic for loading and unloading. Sound

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easy? Yes, and usually the easiest way is the best way. With normal precautions and warning signs, it should be completely safe.

As for alignment of 9th Street, with Ash Street, it is hard to see that there is really a good alignment for one thing, cars would have to cross Boulevard on a diagonal without the aid of a traffic signal. In this respect, it doesn't look much better than 10th or 8th Streets are now. Here again you are concentrating traffic on 9th Street instead of dividing it between 10th and 8th as it is now. Last of all, this would be westbound traffic and not the big problem.

As for the pile up of cars wishing to enter 11th Street, the problem could be solved by having this traffic leave Elm Street from the center lane and entering a safety lane for turning left onto 11th Street. The present system of entering Boulevard from the right hand lane on Elm and having to change lanes in the middle of the intersection, to me, is not good.

True, there are problems with the present system, but lets not trade them for a set of other problems. The sensible way is to handle each problem individually, not to return to something that did not work before.

Before you cast your vote, look into the reasons the other system did not work. See for yourself that traffic is now dispersed on a greater number of streets and that the other way it would tend to concentrate traffic to streets that in most cases do not have good access or crossing of Holmes Avenue and Boulevard. Note that eastbound traffic is controlled by traffic signals at the intersections of 5th, 7th, 9th, and Holmes Avenue and that there is direct crossing to streets that allow continued easterly movement without jogging. Remember also that buses are loading and unloading at the High School and to feed extra traffic into the intersection of 6th and Holmes Avenue only makes matters worse.

I trust that you will study the situation and vote to keep the grid system we now have.

Sincerely yours,
s/ Uriel S. Wallace
531 10th Street
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Mr. Wallace then presented the following petition, signed by 238 residents between Boulevard and Holmes, between 2nd and 15th Streets:

We the undersigned residents of Idaho Falls are opposed to reversing the one way grid in the residential area between Second and Fifteenth Streets. This action would only cause

confusion, cost unnecessary money, and be a return to something that has been tried in the past and proven to be unsuccessful.

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Police Chief Pollock appeared and again reiterated the reasons for the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Committee to reverse the one way streets in question. Mr. Pete Harker, Transportation Supervisor, School District #91, appeared and again explained why the one way street reversal would benefit and be advantageous to the schools, particularly Central Junior High, from the standpoint of safety to the children. He emphasized the fact, that, safety-wise, there is no substitute for unloading children directly on school property. Several Councilmembers proposed alternate suggestions including unloading on Boulevard, unloading on Lee, reversing only Sixth and Seventh Streets, street blocking, etc., but all of these were found to present as many new problems as would be solved. After listening to the various suggestions and the reasons given in each instance, by Mr. Harker as to why they would be proven impractical. Mr. Wallace reappeared and said it appeared to him that Mr. Harker's chief concern was one of convenience to the bus drivers rather than safety. Mr. Harker replied by saying that the safety problem included proper bus routing so that they could avoid turning at intersections around the school which has been proven difficult, due to the narrow streets.

Mrs. Carl Haller, 498 6th, appeared before the Council and said she was speaking for all residents on the 400 block of 6th Street and registered a protest reversing the one way direction of 6th and 7th Streets on the grounds that this would require all of these residents to enter Holmes in order to enter a westbound street at a time in the morning when Holmes traffic was at its heaviest. Councilmember Smith also registered concern about reversing the entire grid on the grounds that this would create heavier traffic problems in front of Emerson and Holy Rosary Schools. A proposal was then made to revert back to two-way traffic on 6th and 7th Streets. Mr. Harker said this would solve the problem. After some further discussion this proposal appeared to meet with general Council approval. It was moved by Councilmember Erickson, seconded by Freeman, that effective October, 3rd, 6th, and 7th Streets be made two-way streets between Boulevard and Holmes and that, in the interim period, proper news releases be accomplished so that all interested motorists on these Streets be given an opportunity to be made aware of the change. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6; No, none; carried.

License applications for APPRENTICE GAS FITTER, H. Howard Lyon with Pendleton Plumbing; MOTEL, W. J. McClenahan for Driftwood Motel; BARTENDER, Verden Dee Sharp, were presented. It was moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Parish, that these licenses be granted, subject to the approval of the appropriate Division Head, where required. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6; No, none; carried.

On September 8th, 1966, a cab driver license application was presented to the Council in the name of Robert Hill and was granted, subject to the approval of the Police Chief. An investigation by his Department reveals unsatisfactory record and, therefore, the Police Chief presented his recommendation that the application be denied. It was moved by Councilman Erickson, seconded by Freeman, that this recommendation be upheld and the license to Mr. Robert Hill be denied. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6; No, none; carried.

This memo from the Building Official was presented and read:

City of Idaho Falls
Building and Zoning Division
September 22, 1966

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MEMO TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Gentlemen:

The Building and Zoning Division has an application for a permit to erect an unlighted Pole Sign, four feet by three and one-half feet (4' X 3 ½') fourteen feet high, on Lot 24, Block 31, Capitol Hill Addition (see attached drawing).

The location of the proposed sign is seven feet north of the alley, on private property, just inside of the property line, adjacent to Holmes Avenue.

The property is in R-3A zone and requires Council consideration.

Thank you,
s/ Ray Browning
Building Official

It was moved by Councilmember Wood, seconded by Smith, that the sign be permitted as described, subject to final study and approval by the Building and Zoning Council Committee. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6; No, none; carried.

From the Public Works Director this memo was presented and considered:

City of Idaho Falls
Public Works
September 22, 1966

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Donald F. Lloyd
SUBJECT: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE WITH HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

We are submitting herewith for your review and approval an updated agreement for highway maintenance. There exists 7.46 miles of state highways within the corporate limits of the City and in general, the City is required to sweep, clean and remove snow from those areas which have curb and gutter sections. This agreement follows a standard form used in the past. It has been brought up to date and includes new sections of the highway.

Our City Engineer and Street Superintendent have negotiated with the State and have arrived at the best possible agreement; therefore, we are recommending the Mayor be authorized to sign the City's approval.

Respectfully submitted,
s/ Donald F. Lloyd

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It was moved by Councilman Nelson, seconded by Parish that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign the agreement in question. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6; No, none; carried.

A memo from the Fire Chief was submitted, as follows:

September 15, 1966

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Fire Committee, Mel Erickson, Chairman, Jim Freeman, Co-Chairman
FROM: Les Corcoran, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: RECEIVING FIRE CALLS FOR THE CITY OF AMMON AND RE-TRANSMITTING THEM TO THEIR FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City of Ammon is in the process of organizing a volunteer fire department to provide the City with greater fire protection. To facilitate the answering of emergency calls and to eliminate the sounding of their alerting siren every time a prankster dials the emergency number, it would be desirable to have a call received by a person at one location who would in turn alert the volunteer firemen and relay the information.

Since the Idaho Falls fire alarm headquarters is manned twenty-four hours a day with men trained to handle emergency calls, I feel that our Department could be of assistance to our neighboring City by handling these calls for them.

The emergency reporting number could remain the same as for the Idaho Falls Fire Department since the people of Ammon now call this number in case of a fire and are familiar with it.

An arrangement of this sort would be acceptable to the City of Ammon, the Idaho Surveying and Rating Bureau and to the Idaho Falls Fire Department.

We ask your consideration of this matter.

The Fire Chief appeared and explained that this would require very little added duties for his Department, that the Fire Rating Bureau does not object, and that it would, for the reasons as outlined, provide a worthwhile service to a neighboring community. It was moved by Councilman

Erickson, seconded by Freeman, that this service, as described, be approved. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6; No, none; carried.

Councilman Nelson introduced the subject of weed control and the growing need for a remedy, especially on City owned property. Public Works Director Lloyd appeared and pointed out that a program of this nature would require the full support of all citizens and that, once initiated, should be on a continuous basis. He said last year's attempt at control was not effective because it

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wasn't followed up. He said that, in his opinion, it would be wise to consider less alley cleaning in favor of this program if funds are limited. He reminded the Council of the futility of attempting to enforce weed control on private property when the weeds on City property pose such a glaring example. Lloyd concluded his remarks by saying that the fall of the year is the proper time to initiate such a program and the Beautify Bonneville Council, organized just this day, has agreed to cooperate. It was noted that the cost of a weed control program would be \$1000 to \$1500. It was moved by Councilman Parish, seconded by Wood, that a weed control program, as described by Lloyd, be initiated, subject to the availability of funds, probably forth coming from the non-departmental budget. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6, No, none; carried.

Councilman Nelson then reintroduced the subject of right of way acquisition in connection with the Lomax Street extension. Lloyd again appeared to explain that the Council had previously approved said extension and also, generally speaking, the acquisition of needed right of way but that, specifically, no authority had ever been granted to actually obtain options or sales contracts. Councilman Parish noted the importance of a bidding instrument to protect the City. Councilman Nelson, concurred and said he favored, where possible, a two year option as a means of offering a little more financial leeway over a longer period of time. It was moved by Councilman Nelson, seconded by Parish, that the City proceed to negotiate toward obtaining, preferably, two year options for the acquisition of property for the Lomax extension, and that the Mayor, the Public Works Director, the Public Works Committee and the City Attorney be authorized to work toward that end. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6; No, none; carried. It was understood that options so obtained would be presented to the Council for final consideration.

Introduced for Council consideration by Councilman Nelson was a street improvement and/or repair program for 1967. City Engineer Laird appeared and illustrated, by colored areas on a City map, streets where some interest has been indicted for inclusion on a Local Street Improvement District. Police Chief Pollock appeared and said the Traffic Safety Committee favors sidewalks being included in the district, from the standpoint of safety. It was moved by Councilman Parish, seconded by Nelson, that the City Engineer be authorized to proceed with a publicity program and any other appropriate means of contact in this regard. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6; No, none; carried.

City Engineer Laird commented on the growing problem of sidewalks, driveways, curb and gutter in need of improvement. He said his Department is desirous of creating interest toward their overall correction. Public Works Director Lloyd reappeared to concur with Laird. He said this area has received very little attention in the past and feels that a Local Improvement District is the solution providing sufficient interest can be generated. He said, as an example, one particular area has already been canvassed and found to be very effective. The Council generally agreed that this study be pursued.

Laird then reintroduced the subject of the First Street pedestrian crossing. He presented pictures and traffic statistics to prove that, from the standpoint of safety, a crossing light at First and Emerson is more logical and practical than at first and Higbee. It was generally agreed, however, that no official Council action be taken on the matter until these same statistics be presented before the Emerson P.T.A.

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Councilmember Smith moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign a six month's extension to the option to purchase the Wackerli laundry property, next to the City Library. This was seconded by Councilman Erickson. Roll call as follows: Ayes, 6; No, none; carried.

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Freeman, seconded by Nelson, that the Meeting adjourn. Carried.

ATTEST: s/ Roy C. Barnes
CITY CLERK

s/ S. Eddie Pedersen
MAYOR
