

**JULY 8, 2010**

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The City Council of the City of Idaho Falls met in Regular Council Meeting, Thursday, July 8, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers located in the City Annex Building at 680 Park Avenue in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

There were present:

Mayor ProTem Ida Hardcastle  
Councilmember Karen Cornwell  
Councilmember Sharon D. Parry (By Telephone)  
Councilmember Ken Taylor  
Councilmember Michael Lehto  
Councilmember Thomas Hally

Absent was:

Mayor Jared D. Fuhriman

Also present:

Dale Storer, City Attorney  
Rosemarie Anderson, City Clerk  
All available Division Directors

Mayor Fuhriman requested Captain Mark McBride (Police Department) to come forward to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Fuhriman requested those to come forward who had issues for the City Council that were not otherwise listed on the Council Agenda. No one appeared.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The City Clerk requested approval of the Minutes for the June 24, 2010 Regular Council Meeting, the June 25, 2010 Executive Session, and the June 29, 2010 Council Work Session and Executive Session.

The City Clerk presented monthly reports from various Division and Department Heads and requested that they be accepted and placed on file in the City Clerk's Office.

The City Clerk presented the following Expenditure Summary dated June 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010, after having been audited by the Fiscal Committee and paid by the Controller:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>
General Fund	\$ 879,403.90
Street Fund	41,882.89
Recreation Fund	21,380.16
Library Fund	36,784.86
Municipal Equipment Replacement Fund	174,202.02
Electric Light Public Purpose Fund	47,552.30
Business Improvement District	11,400.00
Golf Fund	32,456.11
Municipal Capital Improvement Fund	1,214.31
Street Capital Improvement Fund	9,415.00

**JULY 8, 2010**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>
Bridge and Arterial Street Fund	11,541.33
Traffic Light Capital Improvement Fund	209,394.00
Airport Fund	150,193.07
Water and Sewer Fund	919,935.13
Sanitation Fund	2,349.38
Ambulance Fund	9,120.76
Electric Light Fund	3,268,932.23
Payroll Liability Fund	2,810,438.66
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 8,637,596.11</b>

The City Clerk presented several license applications, including BEER TO BE CONSUMED ON THE PREMISES LICENSES to JJ's and Copacabana, all carrying the required approvals, and requested authorization to issue those licenses.

The City Clerk requested Council ratification for the publication of legal notices calling for public hearings on July 8, 2010.

The Public Works Director submitted the following memo:

City of Idaho Falls  
July 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Chad Stanger, Public Works Director  
SUBJECT: BID AUTHORIZATION - WELL NO. 2 PUMP HOUSE RECONSTRUCTION

Public Works requests authorization to advertise to receive bids for Well No. 2 Pump House Reconstruction.

s/ Chad Stanger

It was moved by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Hally, that the Consent Agenda be approved in accordance with the recommendations presented. Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Hardcastle  
Councilmember Parry  
Councilmember Lehto  
Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Cornwell

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

The Airport Director submitted the following memo:

**JULY 8, 2010**

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City of Idaho Falls  
June 25, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Len Nelson, Airport Director  
SUBJECT: AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL BY SIXEL  
CONSULTING GROUP, INC.

Attached for City Council approval is the Air Service Development Proposal by Sixel Consulting Group, Inc. to work with the Idaho Falls Regional Airport on recruiting additional airline service.

The Airport Division recommends approval and requests the Mayor be authorized to sign proposal.

s/ Len Nelson

It was moved by Councilmember Cornwell, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, to approve the Air Service Development Proposal with Sixel Consulting Group, Inc. and, further, give authorization for the Mayor to execute the necessary documents. Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Cornwell  
Councilmember Parry  
Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Hardcastle  
Councilmember Lehto  
Councilmember Hally

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Human Resources Director submitted the following memos:

City of Idaho Falls  
July 6, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Brian J. Sagendorf, Human Resources Director  
SUBJECT: GROUP DENTAL INSURANCE CONTRACT – DELTA DENTAL  
OF IDAHO

It is respectfully requested the Council authorize the Mayor to sign a Policy Endorsement with Delta Dental of Idaho, which will renew the City's group dental insurance contract for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Attached for your consideration is the Policy Endorsement which would become part of the City's existing group dental insurance contract. Legal counsel has reviewed the

**JULY 8, 2010**

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Policy Endorsement. This contract renewal requests a 5% increase in group dental insurance rates; this following a 4% decrease in our rates for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

s/ Brian J. Sagendorf

It was moved by Councilmember Hally, seconded by Councilmember Hardcastle, to approve the Group Dental Insurance Contract with Delta Dental of Idaho and, further, give authorization for the Mayor to execute the necessary documents. Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Parry  
Councilmember Cornwell  
Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Hardcastle  
Councilmember Lehto

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

City of Idaho Falls  
July 6, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Brian J. Sagendorf, Human Resources Director  
SUBJECT: EARLY RETIREE REINSURANCE PROGRAM – APPLICATION  
AND AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

It is respectfully requested the Council ratify the Mayor's signature on the Department of Health and Human Services Early Retiree Reinsurance Program Application and the related Agreement to Provide Administrative Services for the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program with Blue Cross of Idaho. Attached for your consideration is the Application and Service Agreement which have been reviewed by legal counsel. If the City's application for funding under the Federal Early Retiree Reinsurance Program is approved, the related Service Agreement delineates terms and conditions under which Blue Cross of Idaho will act in relation to the City's participation in the Program as administered by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services.

s/ Brian J. Sagendorf

It was moved by Councilmember Hally, seconded by Councilmember Hardcastle, to ratify the Mayor's signature on the Department of Health and Human Services Early Retiree Reinsurance Program Application and the related Agreement to Provide Administrative Services for the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program with Blue Cross of Idaho. Roll call as follows:

**JULY 8, 2010**

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Aye: Councilmember Lehto  
Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Hardcastle  
Councilmember Cornwell  
Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Parry

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Municipal Services Director submitted the following memos:

City of Idaho Falls  
July 7, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: S. Craig Lords, Municipal Services Director  
SUBJECT: PURCHASE AGREEMENT – DKA FINANCIAL, LLC

Attached for your consideration is the proposed Purchase Agreement for the DKA Financial, LLC property located at 740 Park Avenue.

It is respectfully requested that Council approve said Agreement and authorize the Mayor or Mayor ProTem to execute the documents.

s/ S. Craig Lords

Councilmember Taylor requested the Municipal Services Director to come forward to further explain this property purchase.

The Municipal Services Director appeared to explain that this was first discussed before the Mayor and City Council in November 2009 with a question as to whether to pursue this property. In April 2010, the Mayor and City Council came to a decision as to how much to offer for this property. The building is approximately 3,700 square feet, with 2,500 square feet of parking. The City has a Division that is interested in occupying this building. This would provide for a \$5,000.00 savings in rental fees where that Division is located at this time.

It was moved by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Hally, to approve the Purchase Agreement for the DKA Financial, LLC property located at 740 Park Avenue and, further, give authorization for the Mayor or Mayor ProTem to execute the necessary documents. Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Hardcastle  
Councilmember Parry  
Councilmember Lehto  
Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Cornwell

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

**JULY 8, 2010**

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The memo from the Municipal Services Director regarding the Documentary Location Agreement was withdrawn by the Division Director.

The Municipal Services Director submitted the following memo:

City of Idaho Falls  
June 29, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: S. Craig Lords, Municipal Services Director  
SUBJECT: BID IF-10-17, GOODS/EQUIPMENT ONLY AND SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SOLIDS HANDLING SYSTEM

Attached for your consideration is the tabulation for the above subject bid.

It is the recommendation of Municipal Services in concurrence with the Engineering Firm of Murray, Smith and Associates, Inc. to accept the low bid as listed on Attachment "A".

s/ S. Craig Lords

It was moved by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Hally, to accept the recommendation of the Municipal Services Division concerning the low bid as listed on Attachment "A" for the Goods/Equipment Only and Special Services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Handling System. Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Parry  
Councilmember Cornwell  
Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Hardcastle  
Councilmember Lehto

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Parks and Recreation Director submitted the following memo:

City of Idaho Falls  
July 8, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: David J. Christiansen, Parks and Recreation Director  
SUBJECT: RYDER PARK PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT - PIERSON LAND WORKS, INC.

**JULY 8, 2010**

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Attached for your consideration is a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Idaho Falls and Pierson Land Works, Inc. for the purpose of providing landscape architectural and engineering services for Ryder Park. The scope of services will provide design and construction administration for the Urban Fishing Pond (Phase 1b.1) in the amount of \$35,410.00. The City Attorney and City Engineer have reviewed this Agreement.

The Parks and Recreation Division respectfully requests approval and authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and execute said Agreement.

s/ David J. Christiansen

It was moved by Councilmember Hardcastle, seconded by Councilmember Hally, to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Pierson Land Works, Inc. for the purpose of providing landscape architectural and engineering services for Ryder Park and, further, give authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents. Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Lehto  
Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Hardcastle  
Councilmember Cornwell  
Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Parry

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Public Works Director submitted the following memos:

City of Idaho Falls  
July 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Chad Stanger, Public Works Director  
SUBJECT: BID AWARD – ASPHALT OVERLAY OF STREETS

On June 29, 2010, bids were received and opened for the Asphalt Overlay of Streets. A tabulation of the bid results is attached.

Public Works recommends approval of plans and specifications, award to the firm providing the low bid, HK Contractors, Inc., in an amount of \$411,430.00; and authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the contract documents.

s/ Chad Stanger

**JULY 8, 2010**

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It was moved by Councilmember Lehto, seconded by Councilmember Hally, to approve the Plans and Specifications for the Asphalt Overlay of Streets 2010 Project; award the bid to the firm providing the low bid, HK Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$411,430.00; and, further, give authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary contract documents. Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Hardcastle  
Councilmember Lehto  
Councilmember Cornwell  
Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Parry  
Councilmember Taylor

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

City of Idaho Falls  
July 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Chad Stanger, Public Works Director  
SUBJECT: ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT - KELLER ASSOCIATES, INC., CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING, INSPECTION AND SAMPLING SERVICES

Attached is a proposed Agreement between the City and Keller Associates, Inc., to provide Construction Engineering, Inspection and Sampling Services for the asphalt overlay projects funded through Idaho Transportation Department. ITD requires these services be provided by a firm approved by them. The approximate cost for these services is \$40,000.00, which is reimbursable.

Public Works recommends approval of the Agreement; and, authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign necessary documents.

s/ Chad Stanger

It was moved by Councilmember Lehto, seconded by Councilmember Hally, to approve the Engineering Services Agreement with Keller Associates, Inc. to provide Construction Engineering, Inspection and Sampling Services for the asphalt overlay projects funded through the Idaho Transportation Department, at an approximate cost of \$40,000.00 which is reimbursable and, further, give authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents. Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Lehto  
Councilmember Parry

**JULY 8, 2010**

---

Councilmember Cornwell  
Councilmember Hardcastle

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

City of Idaho Falls  
July 6, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Chad Stanger, Public Works Director  
SUBJECT: HOLMES AVENUE TRAFFIC STUDY – LANE CONFIGURATION

Given crash history, safety concerns and a preliminary road diet study completed in 2009, the Idaho Falls City Council authorized Six Mile Engineering to evaluate the feasibility of implementing a change in traffic lane configuration on Holmes Avenue. The Final Report, Holmes Avenue Road Diet Study, was presented to the City Council at a Work Session on June 29, 2010.

Six Mile Engineering's written report was provided to City Councilmembers following the June 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting, recommending Holmes Avenue lane configuration be altered from four lanes to three lanes. This matter is presented for your consideration.

s/ Chad Stanger

Councilmember Lehto explained that Holmes Avenue will be seal coated in the near future. If this Road Diet is to be implemented, this would be the perfect time to accomplish the restriping of the roadway. The reason for considering this Road Diet is due to the significant crash history on Holmes Avenue, which is more than twice the state average and national average.

Larry White, Six Mile Engineering 10448 West Garverdale Court, Boise, Idaho, appeared to state that during the Council Work Session, he presented the road diet study results. The purpose of the road diet is to improve safety on Holmes Avenue. Holmes Avenue has a significant crash history. The recommended solution to this issue is to construct a center turn lane, with one lane northbound and one lane southbound. The question from the public would be "How is the three-lane roadway going to handle traffic that the four-lane roadway now handles?" The existing traffic counts were analyzed and signal phasing changes were proposed. This road diet is an interim improvement and will not last past the year 2020. Further improvements will need to be planned by 2020 in order to make Holmes Avenue more functional, preferably a five lane roadway.

Lorena Murdock, 3430 South Holmes Avenue, appeared to state that they also have a business at 805 South Holmes Avenue. She stated that it was not unusual for her husband to come home to say that there had been another accident at the bike shop. She expressed her concern for the large crown on Holmes Avenue. This makes it difficult to enter and exit driveways along Holmes Avenue. She requested that if the City Council approves the lane reduction, then the speed limit should be reduced to 25 miles per hour on Holmes Avenue at the same time.

**JULY 8, 2010**

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Lance Rovig, 425 Ash Street, appeared to request that the speed limit be reduced on Holmes Avenue instead of changing the lane configuration. If the City Council approves the three-lane roadway on Holmes Avenue, he suggested that at the same time changing the lane configuration on Boulevard to three-lanes. Mr. Rovig expressed his concern that the change in the traffic pattern on Holmes Avenue may force traffic to Boulevard.

Rod Mathewson, 333 South Holmes Avenue, appeared to state that the three-lane road configuration is a bad idea. He stated that traffic is backed up with two lanes in either direction. He, further, expressed his concern for the large crown that is on Holmes Avenue. In the winter, there are numerous slide-offs. Mr. Mathewson stated that many drivers are careless. He did not support the road diet configuration for Holmes Avenue. Further, he requested that the speed limit be reduced.

David Marlowe, 375 North Holmes Avenue, appeared to state that he operates a business at this location. He requested to know what decrease in the percentage of accidents would be seen with the road diet plan. He, further, requested to know whether the decrease in accidents would come due to the decrease in traffic using Holmes Avenue or would the decrease in accidents be due to the road diet configuration. He requested to know whether an economic impact study has been completed on Holmes Avenue should the road diet configuration be implemented. Mr. Marlowe expressed his concern that if traffic is reduced, it will affect his business. He stated, further, that there may be traffic issues with regard to the turning lane.

Cami Carlson, 573 Safstrom, appeared to state that she works at Idaho Falls High School. There are a great number of young people that come from the south part of town to attend Idaho Falls High School. She expressed her concern for traffic backing up in the morning with young people driving to school, as well as the concern for traffic when they leave for lunch. Further, Ms. Carlson requested the Mayor and City Council to reduce the speed limit on Holmes Avenue before any lane configuration change.

Jeff Forbes, 272 10<sup>th</sup> Street, appeared to state that he is the Vice President for the Idaho Falls Community Pathways. He commented that there have been approximately 20,000 of these lane configuration conversions completed in the United States in the previous decade. He cited an example of Lansing, Michigan, where they determined that they would implement a road diet. The public was extremely concerned with the change, but the City determined that they would test the process. Following a period of time, 95% of the people were in favor of the change. There is a great deal of misinformation regarding road diets. The concern that it drastically reduces the volume of the carrying capacity of the road is not true. Because of the center turn lane, people are not trying to turn left from a traffic lane. Lane switches are a cause of many of the accidents on Holmes Avenue. Mr. Forbes suggested that those in attendance research via the Internet regarding road diets. There is a lot of good information available regarding road diets and how they benefit residents as well as businesses.

Sandy Albaugh, 665 8<sup>th</sup> Street, appeared to request whether the engineers have placed cones for traffic traveling along Holmes Avenue to actually see how this type of roadway would work. She gave examples of traffic in her neighborhood. There are many older people that live in this area. They access Holmes Avenue from 8<sup>th</sup> Street, where there is not a signal. This will become more difficult for them to access Holmes Avenue. She expressed her concern for the high school students that are rushing to get to school each morning. Mrs. Albaugh stated that they own a business on First Street and wondered if this change would affect their business.

Dean Berggren, 355 South Holmes Avenue, appeared to state that the home he lives in was built in 1934. His grandfather lived in this house. They have lived on Holmes Avenue since 1972. He was not sure that the road diet was the answer to the

**JULY 8, 2010**

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accident problems on Holmes Avenue. He stated that there are many hostile drivers in Idaho Falls. Almost every night, there are drag races between diesel pick-ups going north on Holmes Avenue. Holmes Avenue has a speed problem. The Police Department needs to make this a priority area. Further, he suggested that the speed limit needs to be reduced on Holmes Avenue.

Larry Carlson, 877 Flora Circle, appeared to state that traffic will back up on Holmes Avenue during school hours. Holmes Avenue needs to remain a four-lane road. He, further, requested that the remaining four-lane portion between Lomax Avenue and First Street be extended to include Holmes Avenue, from Gladstone to First Street.

Randy Oksendahl, 1355 Austin Avenue, appeared to state that he has a business named Windshield Rescue at the corner of Third Street and Holmes Avenue. He has traveled Holmes Avenue for many years and has not seen many accidents. Mr. Oksendahl expressed his concern that traffic will move to other residential areas in order to move from Point A to Point B. He stated that there will be an economic impact to businesses that are located here. He requested that the Mayor and City Council lower the speed limit on Holmes Avenue.

Seth Cox, 150 11<sup>th</sup> Street, appeared to state that he graduated from Idaho Falls High School. He has experienced the lane weaving that goes on with the high school kids traveling back and forth to school. He supported the Holmes Avenue Road Diet. At the present time, the left-hand turns from Holmes Avenue to the residential streets creates a dangerous situation. He stated, further, that he did not believe that reducing the speed limit on Holmes Avenue would change that situation.

Jeff Croney, 925 North Holmes Avenue, appeared to state that he operates a business at this location and watches the traffic closely. At the present time, traffic backs up to the Northgate Mile. He counted traffic prior to this meeting, where there were 18 of 25 drivers using a cell phone. A cell phone law needs to be created. Mr. Croney stated that instead of a road diet, Holmes Avenue needs to be developed into a five-lane road. He gave examples where there was enough room on Holmes Avenue for accommodate five lanes. This would relieve many of the problems. Further, he requested the Mayor and City Council to delay their vote on this issue until an economic impact study could be conducted.

Stephanie Rose, 150 11<sup>th</sup> Street, appeared to state that she supported the road diet on Holmes Avenue. They have traveled in other cities where this has been implemented and has found that it streamlines the road, rather than making it more congested. She stated, that she feels safer when the lanes are a little wider. At this time, she avoids using Holmes Avenue because of the traffic issues. She shared examples of how accidents are occurring on Holmes Avenue, with pedestrians and with vehicles.

Bill Bower, 150 11<sup>th</sup> Street, appeared to state that the main reason for accidents on Holmes Avenue, are for the people who are turning left. The traffic lights could be synchronized when the road diet is implemented. Traffic will move smoothly should this be completed.

Councilmember Lehto requested the Public Works Director, the City Engineer, and Larry White from Six Mile Engineering to come forward to address the questions that were asked during this public comment period:

1. Did the Traffic Engineer examine whether the reduction of speed on Holmes Avenue would reduce accidents? The Traffic Engineer stated that reduction of speed limit was not considered. The three-lane configuration would not allow for passing vehicles. This would slow traffic by approximately 2 miles per hour. Reducing the speed limit would reduce the severity of crashes.

**JULY 8, 2010**

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2. Can the crown of the road on Holmes Avenue be reduced? The Public Works Director stated that the Public Works Division is conducting a Seal Coating Project on Holmes Avenue, not an Overlay Project. It would take a significant amount of money to lower the crown on Holmes Avenue.

3. Did the report take into consideration any socio-economic impact studies with the road diet plan? The Traffic Engineer stated that the report did not take into consideration any economic impact studies.

4. Did the City use any cones to test the three-lane road configuration on Holmes Avenue? The Traffic Engineer used a computer model to analyze the impacts of changing the roadway from four lanes to three lanes. Further, the computer model includes a queuing model, which calculates how far back the queues are expected to extend.

5. How does the computer model track the peak-hours of traffic in association with Idaho Falls High School? The Traffic Engineer stated that traffic counts were taken while school was in session at 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The highest traffic count was used in the analysis. The highest amount of traffic is in the p.m. peak-hour.

6. What does the computer model show regarding stacking of traffic? The Traffic Engineer stated that there is a lot of analysis that goes into the phasing of the traffic signals. More green light times are provided to the northbound and southbound traffic. Traffic movements can be coordinated better with the three-lane approach. He, further, described examples for different intersections along Holmes Avenue. The Public Works Director stated that prior to conducting the Road Diet Study, Idaho Falls Power and Engineering Department were looking at coordination of traffic signals. This coordination was postponed until the Road Diet Study could be completed.

7. How many accidents have taken place along Holmes Avenue, and over what period of time did those accidents occur? The Traffic Engineer stated that there were 375 accidents, with two fatalities, over a five year period of time along Holmes Avenue. Of these accidents, 234 were injury accidents.

8. There were several comments particular to Police Enforcement: Captain Mark McBride, Police Department, appeared to state that he was not prepared to address the amount of enforcement in this area. From the comments made, the Police Department needs to take a harder look at Holmes Avenue to be sure that the proper enforcement is in place. The State of Idaho has a website that Police Departments go to on a regular basis that gives information on the number of accidents and location of those accidents. He expressed his appreciation for the comments, and stated that the Police Department will do a better job looking at these issues.

9. The request to add the four lanes of traffic on Holmes Avenue, from Lomax Street to Gladstone Street: The Traffic Engineer stated that it did not make sense to extend the four lanes from Lomax Avenue to Gladstone Street, as Lomax is a one-way street going west. There would not be a southbound left turn at this location.

10. Why does the City not develop this to a five lane street? The Public Works Director stated that this would cost millions of dollars. A great amount of additional right-of-way would have to be purchased to accommodate the development of a five lane roadway.

**JULY 8, 2010**

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Councilmember Hally stated that Holmes Avenue is classified as a major arterial street. Holmes Avenue is not functioning as a major arterial street due to the number of access points along the roadway. The Traffic Engineer agreed with Councilmember Hally, stating that the stretch of roadway between North Yellowstone Highway and 17<sup>th</sup> Street has 113 access points. There is not efficient use of the inside lane due to left turns into the access points. Councilmember Hally requested to know the results of other road diet configurations. The Traffic Engineer stated that there was a 17% to 75% reduction in accidents noted. Councilmember Hally requested to know whether any economic impact was noted when the road diet configuration was put into place. The Traffic Engineer stated that he reviewed the results from several other road diets which indicated that the residents, as well as the businesses, were pleased with the results. Further, he stated that he could not find evidence that any road diet that was implemented in other states was ever returned to a four lane roadway.

Councilmember Lehto stated that his chief concern was the movement of traffic off of Holmes Avenue to other roadways. He requested to know whether crash histories will increase on other roads, such as Boulevard. The Traffic Engineer stated that by 2020 there would be approximately 3000 less vehicles traveling on Holmes Avenue. By the year 2035, there would be approximately 4000 less vehicles traveling on Holmes Avenue. According to the forecast model, some vehicles would move to Boulevard, some would move to Yellowstone, and a very few vehicles would go to Hitt Road. He stated, further, that he did not see this progression of traffic moving at this time because the traffic pattern would be that much different moving from the four-lane configuration to the three-lane configuration.

Councilmember Hardcastle stated that the main reason that she is considering the road diet, is to increase safety. In the past sixteen years, since she has been on the City Council, she has received calls regarding accidents that have occurred at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Holmes Avenue intersection. That was before the use of cell phones. Councilmember Hardcastle stated that in the five-year time frame discussed for accidents, there were 10 accidents on Elva Street, 39 on Lomax Street, 17 of 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 23 on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 5 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and 59 on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The Traffic Engineer was consulted because there was such a high rate of accidents on Holmes Avenue.

Councilmember Lehto expressed his concern for the narrowness of the traffic lanes on Holmes Avenue. The City Engineer stated that the public has made some very perceptive comments. Boulevard and Holmes Avenue are fairly consistent in the lane widths. Holmes Avenue provides for lane widths of approximately 11 feet each. By implementing the road diet, the lane widths would be 12 feet to 14 feet. He stated, further, that Boulevard may have some increased travel. In the future, Boulevard might be changed to the road diet also. The City Engineer compared the width for the new lanes on Holmes Avenue being approximately the same as those on the newly constructed Sunnyside Road. Councilmember Lehto questioned what the time frame would be to switch Holmes Avenue back to a four-lane roadway should the road diet not work. The City Engineer stated that public needs to have time to adjust to the change. Public should adjust to this change within 18 months of implementation.

Councilmember Parry requested to know how the shifting of lanes was going to work on Holmes Avenue. The City Engineer stated that there would be modifications as to where the signal heads would be placed. Further, there would be signage that would help to train the public where to go. Councilmember Parry stated that she was enthusiastic about this change, especially for pedestrians trying to cross Holmes Avenue.

Rod Mathewson, 333 South Holmes Avenue, re-appeared to question whether there would be crosswalks at all intersections along Holmes Avenue. The City Engineer stated that all new thermoplastic crosswalks will be placed at all sixteen intersections.

**JULY 8, 2010**

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Nathan Leatherman, 180 North Lloyd Circle, appeared to question how people will maneuver through the new lanes when winter comes. The City Engineer stated that the snow will be plowed to the center of the arterial street and removed, the same as it has been.

Councilmember Lehto stated that he and his fellow Councilmembers have reached out to the people most affected by this change for comments. Further, he stated that he has discussed this issue with the School Administration for School District No. 91. There is a general concern and fear about the unknown. The comments received from those visits were no more compelling than the ones brought forward at this time. The Traffic Engineer has stated that Holmes Avenue will be improved by implementation of the road diet.

It was moved by Councilmember Lehto, seconded by Councilmember Hally, to accept the recommendation for the Holmes Avenue Road Diet Study conducted by Six Mile Engineering and, further, instruct the Public Works Director to move forward with the recommendation and re-stripe Holmes Avenue to three lanes. Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Parry  
Councilmember Cornwell  
Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Hardcastle  
Councilmember Lehto

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Mayor ProTem Hardcastle requested Councilmember Taylor to conduct a public hearing, as legally advertised, for consideration of a ruling of similar use for an abattoir on property located generally south and adjacent to Pancheri Drive, north of Burggraf Enterprises, east of the Snake River, west of Yellowstone Highway and legally described as Ball Storage and Ice Addition. At the request of Councilmember Taylor, the City Clerk read the following memo from the Planning and Building Director:

City of Idaho Falls  
July 2, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Renee R. Magee, Planning and Building Director  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RULING BY CITY COUNCIL OF SIMILAR USE,  
ABATTOIR, 625 PANCHERI DRIVE – LOT 2, BLOCK 1, FIRST  
AMENDED BALL PACKING, DIVISION NO. 1

Attached is the application for a ruling of similar use by the City Council. Ball Storage and Ice, LLC is requesting such a ruling for an enclosed abattoir to be used in conjunction with meat processing at 625 Pancheri Drive. The site under consideration is zoned I & M-1. This request is being submitted to the Mayor and Council for consideration after a public hearing.

s/ Renee R. Magee

**JULY 8, 2010**

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The Planning and Building Director located the subject area on a map and further explained the request. Following is a list of exhibits used in connection with this ruling of similar use request:

Slide 1	Vicinity Map showing surrounding zoning
Slide 2	Aerial Photo of Site
Slide 3	Aerial Photo of Site – Close Up
Slide 4	Site Plan
Slide 5	Site Plan – Close Up
Slide 6	Floor Plan
Slide 7	South Elevation of Building and Section
Slide 8	Site Photo of Entrance to rear of Ball Storage and Ice
Slide 9	Site Photo of South of Building, Area of Future Abattoir
Slide 10	Site Photo of West of Building, Area of Cold Storage Expansion
Slide 11	Site Photo of Parking Lot West of Building
Slide 12	Site Photo of Door on East of Building for Removal of Waste
Slide 13	Site Photo of Golden West and Candlewood Suites West of Ball Storage
Slide 14	Site Photo of Property to South of Ball Storage and Golden Valley
Exhibit 1	Vicinity Map showing surrounding zoning
Exhibit 2	Aerial Photo
Exhibit 3	Site Plan for Additions
Exhibit 4	Application
Exhibit 5	Staff Report dated July 8, 2010

The Planning and Building Director explained that the cold storage is allowed under the I & M-1 Zone. The ruling of similar use has to do with the processing facilities, including the slaughtering of animals in the southern portion of the building.

Johnny Watson, 1152 Bond Avenue, Rexburg, Idaho, appeared as the representative from Ball Storage and Ice. This facility is more similar to a surgical center. It is completely enclosed, tightly managed and controlled through U. S. D. A. requirements. Following is a list of exhibits used in connection with this ruling of similar use:

Slide 1	Ball Storage and Ice proposed Abattoir Addition
Slide 2	Proposed Abattoir Addition is a similar use to the other approved uses in the I & M-1 Zone
Slide 3	Site Plan
Slide 4	Inside Building
Slide 5	Truck Access
Slide 6	Building Elevations – Masonry Construction
Slide 7	Entrance to Building
Slide 8	Processing – Products, Solid By-Products, Sanitary Sewer

Mr. Watson stated that when an abattoir (slaughterhouse) is being considered the first concerns are for site, smell, and noise. The new addition to the existing building provides a visual and sound barrier. One enclosed container of product would be brought into the enclosed facility. This would encourage new industry to be added to this zone. This would provide 47 new job positions. Ball Management, being the owner of Golden Valley, Ball Storage and Ice, and Candlewood Suites, would not do anything to harm any of their businesses. Mr. Watson explained that a pod would contain approximately 25 buffalo or 25-30 cattle.

**JULY 8, 2010**

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Mike Scott, 3801 Oak Trail, appeared to explain that Ball Storage and Ice ships their animals outside of the state to slaughter the animals, some as far away as Nebraska or Colorado.

Roger Ball, 625 Pancheri Drive, appeared to state that they have given a lot of thought to this project. Approximately 5 years ago, Ball Storage was processing 450 head of cattle every day at this facility. Further, he stated that he was not aware of any complaints regarding that operation. There are three negative issues that come with a slaughterhouse – smell from the lagoon, smell from the rendering process, and a feed yard. No animals will be held at this facility overnight. Everything is self-contained, so there will be no smell. All components are in place for this meat processing plant, with the exception of killing the animals. This is the best economic decision for Ball Storage, as it would cost three times the amount of money to build a facility in another location. At this time, Ball Storage ships their animals to Omaha, Nebraska or to Denver, Colorado for slaughter. There is only one facility left in Idaho which slaughters animals, and this facility does not offer the state of the art equipment that guarantees FDA approval.

Councilmember Parry discontinued her telephone call at 9:45 p.m.

Jerry Jayne, 1568 Lola Street, appeared to state that Idaho Falls does not provide a zone for a slaughterhouse. This is an exception to the I & M-1 Zone. He has seen nothing in the news regarding this request, except for the legal notice. Mr. Jayne expressed his concern about odor control. Ruling this facility as a similar use sets a bad precedent within the City, and the request should be turned down. The local government has the responsibility to protect the community's welfare, not business.

Sheryl Just, 620 Adell Avenue, appeared to request the City Council not to approve this proposal until they have visited an abattoir. The City Council has the responsibility to make sure that this facility will be all that the applicant says that it will be. She stated, further, that this facility does not fit within the parameters of the Zoning Ordinance. If the City Council passes something in a particular zone, and the economy becomes bad requiring the owner to sell that property, then something undesirable could take its place. It is more difficult to solve that type of a problem once it has been let in. The abattoir is not the best use for that property. Mrs. Just requested the City Council to study this very carefully before approving the abattoir as a similar use.

There being no further discussion either in favor of or in opposition to this request, Mayor ProTem Hardcastle closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Taylor requested Roger Ball to explain the current processing that is being conducted at the current facility.

Roger Ball re-appeared to state that they are still dealing with meat and meat processing at this facility. The killing feature is not present at this time.

Councilmember Hardcastle requested the Planning and Building Director to come forward to address comments made by Sheryl Just.

The Planning and Building Director appeared to state that if the City Council approves the ruling of similar use, then that ruling will apply to Ball Storage and Ice LLC. That would be for this particular operation at this location. This ruling cannot be transferred to another owner or another location without appearing before the City Council again. The abattoir is a similar use to what is already being operated at this location now.

Councilmember Lehto requested to know whether there has ever been a facility like this within the City of Idaho Falls.

The Planning and Building Director stated that there has been another operation similar to this one, also owned by the Ball Family at this location.

The City Attorney requested to know whether the prohibition under the I & M-1 Zone regarding "No Slaughterhouses", was repealed.

**JULY 8, 2010**

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The Planning and Building Director explained that under the Zoning Ordinance, each zone shows a list of permitted uses. The I & M-1 Zone used to state that any and every use was allowed, except the following 12 prohibited uses, of which the slaughter of animals was one. The I & M-1 Zone was revised to show a list of permitted uses. A slaughterhouse is not listed, nor is it listed as prohibited.

The City Attorney stated that the question was whether or not there was an intent by the repeal to specifically allow this as a permitted use.

The Planning and Building Director stated that there was no intent.

Councilmember Lehto requested the Public Works Director to come forward to address the practice of handling the by-products from this abattoir.

The Public Works Director appeared to state that he had a discussion with the Planning and Building Director regarding concerns he had about such a facility. Those concerns were included within the plan, providing for a sampling station at the end of the process. This would allow the Sewage Treatment personnel to monitor this facility for anything that would not be compatible with the Sewage Treatment Plant.

The City Attorney stated that the Sewer Ordinance requires this type of monitoring facility.

Councilmember Cornwell stated that she has been in an abattoir. The animals were treated with respect and it was a clean facility. She complimented Roger Ball for his great reputation, for providing jobs in the community, and for the good job he does with his business. She stated that she has no problem with approving this ruling.

Councilmember Lehto stated that the Planning Division will have to look closer at these types of facilities and incorporate them in the Zoning Ordinance. With the world economy, national economy and local economy struggling, these types of businesses will be found on a more local level.

Roger Ball re-appeared to state that when 25 buffalo are shipped the distance from here to Omaha, Nebraska or Denver, Colorado, by the time they reach their destination one or two of those animals are found dead. The number one export in Idaho today is dairy.

Councilmember Hardcastle explained that in her young life, a slaughter truck came to your home or farm. She stated that she has been a witness to that type of operation.

Councilmember Hally stated that he believes that the Ball's have gone to an extraordinary effort to make sure that this operation is sanitary and operational away from the public view.

It was moved by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Hally, that the abattoir be ruled a similar use to other uses permitted in the I & M-1 Zone, i.e., food preparation plants, meat processing, on property located generally south and adjacent to Pancheri Drive, north of Burggraf Enterprises, east of the Snake River, west of Yellowstone Highway and legally described as Ball Storage and Ice Addition, provided the following conditions are met to assure the objectives of the zone are fulfilled:

1. The abattoir and related activities be completely enclosed;
2. All by-products will be stored in refrigerated rooms and removed from the premises daily in enclosed vehicles;
3. All liquid by-product will be removed daily;
4. There will be no holding facility except for an enclosed staging area that will be washed and cleaned daily;

**JULY 8, 2010**

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5. The number of animals to be processed daily will be limited to thirty;
6. The trucks used in hauling and processing will be cleaned off-site; and,
7. A permit to construct or, in the alternative, an exemption be sought from the Air Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality.

Roll call as follows:

Aye: Councilmember Taylor  
Councilmember Hally  
Councilmember Lehto  
Councilmember Cornwell  
Councilmember Hardcastle

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Lehto, seconded by Councilmember Cornwell, that the meeting adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR

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