

March 19, 2018

The City Council of the City of Idaho Falls met in Special Meeting (Council Work Session), Monday, March 19, 2018, in the Council Chambers in the City Annex Building located at 680 Park Avenue in Idaho Falls, Idaho at 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

There were present:

Councilmember Thomas Hally
Councilmember Jim Francis
Councilmember Shelly Smede
Councilmember Jim Freeman
Councilmember Michelle Ziel-Dingman (arrived at 3:03 p.m.)
Councilmember John Radford (arrived at 3:11 p.m.)

Absent:

Mayor Rebecca L. Noah Casper

Also present:

Pamela Alexander, Municipal Services Director
Bryce Johnson, Police Chief
William Squires, Police Captain
John Marley, Police Sergeant
Will Jensen, Research & Business Development Center (RBDC) Business Research Director
Randy Fife, City Attorney
Kathy Hampton, City Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Hally called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. with the following:

Acceptance and/or Receipt of Minutes:

It was moved by Councilmember Smede, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to receive the recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to the Local Land Use Planning Act (LLUPA). Roll call as follows: Aye – Councilmembers Freeman, Smede, Francis, Hally. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Calendar, Announcements and Reports:

None noted.

Liaison Reports and Concerns:

Mayor Pro Tem Hally stated budget sessions will be occurring in the near future. He recommended the Council, as liaisons, discuss budget items and priorities with the department directors. He noted Budget Watch, held for citizens to engage with City staff and the elected officials, will be held May 1, 2018 at the Idaho Falls Public Library.

Councilmember Francis stated Fire Ops 101 will be held April 21, this will include Council participation. He also stated a Consent Agenda item for the Idaho Falls Fire Department (IFFD) will be included on the March 22, 2018 Council Meeting. This item is time sensitive related to the replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

Councilmember Dingman stated several applications have been received for the Airport Director position. She briefly reviewed the interview process.

Councilmember Smede stated the Library Board Meeting will be held on March 22, 2018.

Councilmember Freeman stated the needs assessment for the Police Department has been received and is currently being reviewed. He also stated he is working to advance local legislation regarding cell phone use.

Discussion of Replacement of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Robot:

Director Alexander stated an opportunity with Homeland Security has become available for financial assistance to replace the current robot in the Idaho Falls Police Department (IFPD). This funding would be over a two (2) year

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period with \$100,000 set aside for the first year. The City financing instrument would not take funds from the current budget. Director Alexander stated consideration to accept the Homeland Security funds for a replacement of the explosive ordnance disposal robot would include a 12-month note for \$160,000 with \$5000 closing cost on the note at 3% interest (paid off in approximately three (3) months) for a total cost of \$6,200 of City funds. These City funds would be used to leverage \$153,000 for replacement of the equipment. Councilmember Francis questioned the possibility of the grant not being approved. Director Alexander stated \$100,000 is currently set aside for regional participation. The City would pay the remaining amount, which would extend the term of the note. She believes, following conversation with Homeland Security, this is considered a priority item. Chief Johnson briefly reviewed explosive device training for officers. He then introduced Sergeant Marley, Commander of the Bomb Squad for Region 7. Sergeant Marley stated the Region 7 Bomb Squad was established in 2007 as a regional asset to eastern Idaho. The bomb squad is funded by Homeland Security and accredited by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The area of response includes 16 counties, which is one of the larger response areas in the State. He briefly reviewed the history of the bomb squad stating since inception, hundreds of calls have been received related to a variety of explosive devices. Sergeant Marley stated following an assessment with the FBI it was determined additional bomb techs were needed. He introduced Ryan Krumbli, Bonneville County Sheriff's Office Bomb Tech, who appeared in the bomb suit. Sergeant Marley stated the bomb suit weighs approximately 100 pounds and hinders movement. He indicated the mission of the bomb squad is to stay remote as safety is the primary concern. He stated many functions can be performed by the robot. Sergeant Marley, with the assistance of Shane Kaiser, IFPD Lieutenant, demonstrated the current robot, which is ten (10) years old. He reviewed maintenance and replacement that has occurred on the robot. Sergeant Marley stated the replacement robot is smaller, more maneuverable, has important technology capabilities, and additional specs could be purchased at a future time. He indicated the current robot will be utilized during dual call outs and/or as a backup. Brief discussion followed regarding grant monies. Director Alexander stated this is an unbudgeted item due to not being aware of the grant funding during the budget time. She indicated next steps will include an agreement and the funding mechanism for Council consideration.

Discussion of Information Technology (IT) Work Space:

Director Alexander stated the Space Utilization Committee, consisting of representatives from Library; Legal; Parks and Recreation; Community Development Services; and several City Hall staff members, has been meeting on a regular basis to evaluate City buildings with the focus on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) projects. The committee began the evaluation with City Hall, including work space which has been provided for the Council since the relocation of IFFD Administration. Director Alexander reviewed the remodeling process occurring in the location previously designated for the IFFD barracks for potential use of the IT staff. She stated the preference is to have the IT staff, currently consisting of eight (8) personnel, in one (1) location with adequate room for the staff to increase. She believes, due to the controlled work space, there should not be public access to the IT area. She noted ADA accessibility to this area does not currently exist. Director Alexander stated approximately \$75,000 would be needed to repurpose this area. She reviewed the renovations for the area, indicating the project has been adjusted to allow individual work space. She stated funding would include available encumbrances, re-prioritizing Municipal Services projects, and utilizing in-house work. She indicated the Space Utilization Committee has concurred with the recommendation to move IT to this area. Following brief discussion and comments, there was consensus from the Council to proceed with the renovations. Additional discussion followed regarding the use of City Hall Annex B, currently used for the Cayenta staff. Director Alexander stated City Hall is currently located on the Historical Register and is grandfathered from the requirement of an elevator. However, she indicated discussion has been occurring regarding the installation of an elevator, said presentation will be forthcoming.

Idaho's Aging Population:

Mayor Pro Tem Hally stated this topic was recently presented at Rotary. He then introduced Mr. Jensen. Mr. Jensen stated the majority of the research for this presentation was focused on Bonneville County, Idaho Falls makes up the bulk of the data as being within Bonneville County. He presented the following with general discussion throughout:

Economic Situation –

- State Unemployment: 2.9% (December 2017)
- Idaho - fastest growing State: +2.2% (2016-2017)

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- Idaho ranked 29th in GDP growth (2017:Q3)

Mr. Jensen stated the Idaho Falls metropolitan rate has the lowest unemployment rate of other metropolitan rates.

Mr. Jensen reviewed Idaho's Population Change (2010-2016) including percentage of change in total population and percentage of change in those 65+. He stated Bonneville County continues to grow. He also stated rural counties across the nation, those with 20,000 population or less, indicate a population decline.

Increase In Age Dependency Ratio –

- Working-age to Non-working Age Individuals: 1970 - 10:1, 2016 - 4:1

Mr. Jensen reviewed older dependents to working-age population compared to Canada, the United States, and the world. He noted that Canada is increasing at the highest rate and the world is decreasing at the lowest rate.

Idaho Age Dependence Ratio –

- Idaho Worker Ratio for age 25-44 to 45-64: 1991 - 2:1, 2010 - 1:1

Mr. Jensen believes women entering the workforce was a large impact.

Mr. Jensen reviewed quick facts (population, population age 65+, and economy) and industry mix (specifically construction, healthcare and social assistance) for Bonneville County, Idaho versus Washington County, Utah. He also reviewed socioeconomic impact on eastern Idaho including demands on local services and demands on our healthcare system.

Mr. Jensen reviewed senior living demands including aging in place and multi-generational families, variety of housing, and senior facilities currently at or near capacity (assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing, independent living).

Mr. Jensen stated Medicare was created in 1965 which is funded by birth rates. The birth rate has decreased since 1960. He noted eastern Idaho, in general, has a larger birth rate.

Mr. Jensen reiterated the Idaho Worker Ratio stating issues could include: major structural change in the labor force, no room for attrition, demand for labor decrease, wage pressure, healthcare services mix, housing, and other services.

General comments and discussion followed. Mr. Jensen noted RBDC is a non-profit 501(C)(3) education-based entity. RBDC has assisted with Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-I) and College of Eastern Idaho (CEI). Impact studies, economic studies, and, wage and benefit analysis have also been performed for several other entities. Mr. Jensen recognized the RBDC staff.

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Dingman, to adjourn the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

s/ Kathy Hampton
CITY CLERK

s/ Rebecca L. Noah Casper
MAYOR