

June 10, 2019

The City Council of the City of Idaho Falls met in Council Work Session, Monday, June 10, 2019, 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 Michelle Ziel-Dingman
Councilmember Jim Freeman

Absent:

Mayor Rebecca L. Noah Casper
Councilmember John Radford

Also present:

Jeffrey Pettingill, Bonneville County Weed Control Superintendent
PJ Holm, Parks and Recreation Interim Director
Ronnie Campbell, Parks and Recreation Superintendent
David Pennock, Idaho Falls Zoo at Tautphaus Park Executive Director
Linda Beard, Idaho Falls Zoo at Tautphaus Park Operations Manager
Duane Nelson, Fire Chief
Michael Kirkham, Assistant City Attorney
Kathy Hampton, City Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Hally called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. with the following items:

Calendars, Announcements and Reports:

Mayor Pro Tem Hally noted Mayor Casper was on travel related to Idaho Falls Power. He stated the July calendar has been previously distributed regarding the upcoming budget sessions; a ribbon cutting is being held for The Broadway on June 11; and, a special meeting, combined with the Parks and Recreation Commission, will be held on June 17. Mayor Pro Tem Hally briefly reviewed upcoming Idaho Consumer Owned Utilities Association (ICUA) and Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) conferences.

Acceptance and/or Receipt of Minutes:

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

Liaison Reports and Concerns:

Councilmember Smede stated the Library and Community Development Services Departments are in their busy season. She noted the Planning and Zoning recommendations, accepted in the previous motion, contained 11 items. Councilmember Freeman stated RECreateIF survey results will be reviewed with the public on June 18; inspectors are in town for the Zoo accreditation process; and, the crosswalk on Broadway is being coordinated by Public Works, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), and, Idaho Falls Power.

Councilmember Francis stated the tree planting project in the downtown area is being coordinated with the Idaho Falls Downtown Development Corporation (IFDDC), Public Works, and, Parks and Recreation. There will be more (appropriate) trees planted than recently removed.

Councilmember Dingman stated the Bonneville Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO) Policy Board Meeting for June has been cancelled due to lack of a quorum. She also stated the Targhee Regional Public Transportation Authority (TRPTA) building is being cleaned out following the dissolution of this agency, she indicated she will keep the Council informed of future progress. She noted Lisa Farris, City Grants Administrator, has recently been

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appointed as a member to the TRPTA board. Councilmember Dingman stated Community Youth in Action (C'YA), a nonprofit local youth group, will be using the Sr. Citizen Community Center building. Mayor Pro Tem Hally stated the Broadway Streetscape project will be one of the last projects funded from the Idaho Falls Redevelopment Agency.

Bonneville County Weed Ordinance Update:

Interim Director Holm introduced Mr. Campbell and Mr. Pettingill. Mr. Pettingill stated he has visited other City Councils within Bonneville County regarding the relationship with weed control. He noted the ordinance regarding the height of weeds was developed as a fire suppression ordinance. He believes the City ordinance mirrors the County ordinance with the exception of agriculture or horticulture. The County weed height requirement is currently 10", he prefers the height requirement be at 14". Mr. Pettingill stated the County adopted a new ordinance approximately four (4) months ago enacting rules and regulations for the protection of right-of-way and roadside from noxious weeds. He noted this is a four-tier system to assist with contractors of new development. He briefly reviewed the four (4) tiers. Mr. Pettingill requested the Council review this ordinance for possible adoption as well. Mr. Campbell stated he agrees with the ordinance. He also recommended the weed height be increased. Mr. Pettingill reviewed Idaho Statute 22-2405 regarding County powers and duties for all landowners. He stated this statute authorizes the County to initiate cooperative agreements with other agencies. The City has the responsibility to control noxious weeds and every County shall have proper control methods and shall fund the position. Mr. Pettingill stated State law sets the noxious weed law. He noted Idaho has the strongest weed laws in the nation. He briefly reviewed priority weeds for removal with general discussion. To the response of Councilmember Freeman, Mr. Pettingill stated burning of weeds is not effective as the fire does not get hot enough or deep enough to kill the seeds. Mr. Pettingill commended the coordination with the City. Mr. Campbell reiterated the working relationship with the County.

Zoo Accreditation Process Overview:

Mr. Pennock stated the zoo is amazingly multi-dimensional. He also stated the zoo is operating on the highest level according to the best industry standards. Two (2) organizations assist with these standards – the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). A USDA license is required for any organization that exhibits animals to the public. The zoo is inspected multiple times on an annual basis for this license. There are approximately 2,800 animal exhibitors in the country. The AZA is the highest/gold standard for accreditation. Idaho Falls obtained the AZA accreditation in 1998 and was the first zoo in Idaho to obtain this accreditation. Idaho Falls has obtained the AZA accreditation since that time. Every five (5) years the zoo must be accredited gain, this is not a re-accreditation. Of the 2,800 animal exhibitors licensed by the USDA, less than 10% are accredited by AZA. Mr. Pennock reviewed the multiple steps for the accreditation process noting the zoo has been working on the application for two (2) years. Three (3) inspectors will perform an extremely thorough inspection for three (3) days. Mr. Pennock briefly reviewed the inspection criteria. A report will then be compiled with a list of concerns. This report will be given to the AZA accreditation commission. In September 2019, in association with the annual conference, zoo staff will appear for a face-to-face hearing to respond to the list of concerns followed by the possibilities to grant the accreditation, not grant the accreditation, or, table the accreditation (will remain accredited but will be reviewed in the following year). Mr. Pennock noted Dr. Rhonda Aliah, the zoo veterinarian, is an AZA inspector. He stated the zoo has been working extremely hard for this inspection preparation. Ms. Beard stated all policies have been reviewed, pictures and documents submitted, and, staff has been working on the facility for repair, maintenance, and knowledge of each area. She believes the previous five (5) years has seen the most remarkable changes for animal welfare. There are internal inspections to ensure staff is aware of inspection readiness and to be continually trained. Area assessments are also performed by keepers reviewing other keepers' areas to assess animal welfare. Ms. Beard reviewed the Quarters for Conservation, which allows .50 cents of each admission fee be accrued for conservation. She stated the previous two (2) years of Quarters for Conservation has accrued ~\$49,000. Half of this funding is used for local conservation and half of this funding is used for global conservation efforts. Mr. Pennock stated he is very proud of the zoo staff regardless of the accreditation. He is also proud to say the zoo is AZA accredited. Interim Director Holm commended the zoo staff, he does not see any issues with the accreditation process and is 100% confident for the accreditation. He believes the zoo is a gem in the community. Councilmember Francis questioned the response process. Mr. Pennock stated previous problems/recommendations will be addressed first, with the opportunity to disagree. He believes there are always ways to improve.

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Issue Briefing: 2015 Fire Code Adoption:

Chief Nelson stated the International Fire Code (IFC) is adopted by the State and used by the City to perform inspections. These inspections govern and provide life safety issues in occupancies throughout the City. The Code adoption does not relate to single-family dwellings or duplexes, it only relates to commercial or larger residential dwellings (3-4 complex). Chief Nelson requested the IFC 2015 Edition be adopted to bring in-line with the State Fire Marshal and with the international codes used by Community Development Services Department, which were adopted in June 2018. He briefly reviewed the requested changes in Chapter 10, including the addition of portable fire extinguishers. Additional changes include verbiage of the ordinance, the elimination of duplication/redundancy from Fire Code, and, exceptions of above-ground storage tanks with current practice. Chief Nelson stated adoption of the IFC Edition will also require amendments in multiple chapters of current City Code that will become duplicate. He reiterated this is clean-up language to City Code. He stated the IFC is adopted every three (3) years with a three (3) year delay. He indicated City Code can be more restrictive than State Code. Councilmember Freeman questioned the jurisdiction. Chief Nelson stated fire protection services are provided into the County for the fire district, however, the inspection work is not part of the contract. Councilmember Francis questioned the ordinance that references blocking a fire hydrant. Mr. Kirkham stated the Fire Code addresses this issue. He indicated the proposed ordinance will streamline the process for the public safety officers. This item will be included on the June 13 Council Meeting agenda.

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Smede, to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

s/ Kathy Hampton _____
CITY CLERK

s/ Rebecca L. Noah Casper _____
MAYOR