

## June 28, 2021 Work Session

The City Council of the City of Idaho Falls met in Council Work Session, Monday, June 28, 2021, 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:

Mayor Rebecca L. Noah Casper  
Council President Michelle Ziel-Dingman  
Councilor John Radford  
Councilor Thomas Hally  
Councilor Jim Freeman  
Councilor Jim Francis  
Councilor Lisa Burtenshaw

Also present:

PJ Holm, Parks and Recreation Director  
Chris Fredericksen, Public Works Director  
Bryce Johnson, Police Chief  
Jeremy Galbreath, Police Captain  
Michael Kirkham, Assistant City Attorney  
Kathy Hampton, City Clerk

### Calendars, Announcements, Reports:

June 30, Public Works Annual Utility Meeting  
July 2, Budget uploaded for Council review  
July 3, Chamber of Commerce Parade; Riverfest; and Freedom Celebration  
July 4, Independence Day  
July 5, Independence Day observed, City offices closed  
July 6, City Council Work Session  
July 8, Idaho Falls Power (IFP) Board Meeting; and City Council Meeting  
July 12, Budget Special Session  
July 15, Budget Special Session  
July 16, Great Race for Education  
July 19, Budget Special Session  
July 20, Budget Special Session (as needed)  
July 21-22, Idaho Consumer Owned Utilities Association (ICUA)  
July 23, Special Budget Session (as needed)  
July 26, City Council Work Session  
July 29, Council Meeting  
August 11, City Employee Picnic  
August 14, Funland Donor Event; and Duck Race  
August 19, Employee Benefits Fair

Mayor Casper stated Jacobs (who bought out CH2MHill)/the Idaho Environmental Group (IEG) was recently awarded the clean-up project at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) by the Department of Energy (DOE). However, this contract has been protested. Mayor Casper indicated the original contract is to expire October 1, however, there is 90-day transition for the new group, which could be approximately in January. She briefly explained the transition process.

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### Liaison Reports and Councilmember Concerns:

Council President Dingman announced the Funland website. She noted she will be absent from the June 30, Public Works Annual Utility Meeting.

Councilor Radford believes the Looking Glass Academy training was very informational and compelling. He noted the electric bikes and scooters are being well-used on the river pathways, and there is a benefit of trees for protecting the roadways. It was noted the training was announced through a previous Connecting Us-Sustaining Progress (CUSP) member. Councilor Freeman noted, per this training, there were some non-compliance issues in the downtown area.

Councilor Burtenshaw reiterated the budget session calendar, she expressed her appreciation to Information Technology (IT) in their efforts regarding cyber security, she gave a brief update on the splashpad, and she noted the Idaho Falls Fire Department (IFFD) is preparing for the amount of heat during the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities.

Councilor Francis stated the War Bonnet Roundup Rodeo will be held August 5-7 with a rodeo kickoff on August 4, and Mayor and Council night on August 6. He noted there is a plan for Heritage Park, the Sister Cities 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held virtually on July 16, and the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) position with the Idaho Falls Police Department (IFPD) has been filled internally.

Councilor Freeman stated the IFPD will be swearing-in new officers on June 30. He noted this is an extremely busy time for the IFPD during the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities.

Councilor Hally stated per the IFFD, there has been a 17% increase in fire and ambulance calls since July 1, the forecast for lost revenue during the pandemic is anticipated to be \$400,000, fire service agreements with other counties will show increases, and the five-year plan will be available on July 12. He believes it would be a courtesy of the IFFD to visit Delaware Avenue. Brief comments followed regarding the drought conditions and fire/fireworks hazards.

### Discussion: Alcohol Permitting at Funland:

Director Holm stated this would tie into the current ordinance that allows alcohol in the 11 locations throughout the Parks system, which includes the zoo and the multi-use shelter at Tautphaus Park. He indicated this would allow Funland to host picnics, fundraisers, etc. as Funland is located just outside of the zoo and the multi-use shelter. He noted the ribbon cutting for Funland may be moved from August 14 (as was announced in Mayor Casper's calendar review) to August 21. Brief comments followed. There were no concerns from the Councilmembers.

### Update: Contracts for Landscaping City Rights of Way:

Director Holm stated the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Department has been trying to do contracting for a couple of years. He also stated a bid was advertised in the previous winter for snow removal on some right-of-way (ROW) areas as well as The Broadway Plaza, however, no bids were received. He indicated P&R is reviewing the contract to potentially include turf management/maintenance and snow removal. Director Holm briefly reviewed the four (4) divisions of the Parks and Cemeteries including Park Maintenance, Horticulture and Urban Forestry (there are more than 25,000 trees in Idaho Falls), Cemeteries, and Weed and Snow Enforcement. He also reviewed park properties (57 properties, 1,201 acres maintained on a weekly basis), trails and canal pathways (26 miles of trails and 19.5 miles of canal trail although the additional canal trails that will add connectivity to the community also adds significant maintenance), snow dumps and others (25 properties, 137 acres of which most are not City property), and storm ponds (37 properties, 84 acres – Director Holm noted the City of Ammon has 84 acres in their entire park system). Per Councilor Radford, Director Holm confirmed the number of storm ponds will increase as the number of subdivisions increase. Director Fredericksen noted this will be part of the development review process and if P&R does not take on the maintenance of the storm ponds it will be deferred to the developer/Homeowner's Association (HOA). Director Holm continued to review ROWs which include City, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), and railroad (48 properties, 151 acres). He noted there is no funding from ITD.

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Director Holm stated a formal bid was advertised earlier in the year for all ROWs, however, there were no submitters. This contract would have required a variety of equipment and included edging, weed trimming, and trash removal. Director Holm stated T&T Lawn Services was awarded a smaller bid to mow, edge, trim, and collect trash on six (6) ROW and street medians, totaling 22.5 acres. He identified the locations which include Hitt Road, Sunnyside Road, 25th Street, Pancheri Drive to Bellin Road, Skyline Drive, and Lindsay Boulevard. He stated staff has requested notification from T&T Lawn Services of any issues, such as broken sprinklers. He noted this bid does not include irrigation, winterization, tree spraying or weed spraying. He also noted this has been a tough year for weeds and spraying since weed spraying cannot occur if the wind is greater than 10 mph. Director Holm stated the contract amounted to \$49,000 for 27 weeks. He indicated there was \$250,000 in the previous budget year for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) for contracted services, specifically for ROW services. The remaining amount of these funds have been utilized for other projects. Director Holm indicated the contract was signed on May 17 and is going well so far. Per Mayor Casper, Director Holm stated this has always been included in the P&R budget. Mayor Casper believes this will require additional discussion related to impact fees. Director Holm indicated the maintenance of ROWs has always been a struggle within the P&R although he believes this contract will be a good start. General comments followed.

### Discussion: Fee waiver for Fourth of July celebration:

Director Holm stated this resolution has been approved for the previous several years. He indicated the fee resolution shows a breakdown of fees and services as requested by Melaleuca and Snake River Landing. Fees and services by the three (3) involved departments amount to \$26,339 for Public Works, \$7,778 for P&R, and \$550.16 for IFP. This resolution does not include costs for services provided by Fire and Police as public safety is not a fee-based service. These departments will incur overtime costs as necessary. Councilor Freeman noted this is not a cash donation, these are services provided. It was then moved by Council President Dingman, seconded by Councilor Radford, to approve the Resolution and Indemnification Agreement to waive certain Fourth of July fees for services performed. Roll call as follows: Aye – Councilors Francis, Dingman, Freeman, Hally, Radford, Burtenshaw. Nay – none. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION NO. 2021-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, WAIVING FEES FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF THE 2021 COMMUNITY FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE EFFECTIVE UPON ITS PASSAGE, APPROVAL, AND PUBLICATION ACCORDING TO LAW.

### Update: Connecting Our Community (COC) Bikelanes and Sharrows:

Mayor Casper noted this presentation was postponed from the June 7 Council Work Session. Director Fredericksen stated the COC Plan was developed in 2014 to identify the existing bike/ped facilities and recommend additional paths, bike routes, etc. to fill in identified connection gaps. He indicated a number of these recommendations have been completed which include the west side Riverwalk, the east side Riverwalk, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets, S. Boulevard, the path around Pinecrest Golf Course, and the Grandview path from Skyline to Saturn. Projects currently in design or construction include the west side Riverwalk from Sunnyside to Snake River Landing (Heritage Park project) and the Idaho Canal Trail. Director Fredericksen stated the proposal includes pavement markings only (which can easily be changed) and no removal of on-street parking. He indicated these proposed changes would allow better connectivity within the City. Director Fredericksen explained that a sharrow is a pavement marking within a bike lane which indicates vehicles and bikes need to share the lane. Brief comments followed regarding public outreach and education for sharrows. Director Fredericksen believes bike lanes are better than sharrows although not all roadways are wide enough for a bike lane. He noted sharrows should not be installed on streets that are more than

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35 mph. He also noted most of these proposals were brought forward by the COC. Mayor Casper indicated Public Works and P&R are working on grants for these extended routes. Director Fredericksen indicated there are significant costs associated with additional facilities. He reviewed the existing bike routes, proposed bike lanes, and proposed sharrows throughout the community. He noted the proposed bike lanes would be 5' wide. He is hopeful an app could be available for the bike routes. Per Councilor Francis, Director Fredericksen stated a Rapid Flashing Beacon is anticipated to be installed at the Tautphaus Park entrance on Boulevard. Brief discussion followed regarding the color of paint, a sharrow from Rose Hill Cemetery onto the Tautphaus Park pathway, utilizing grant funding for public notification, and prioritization of projects.

### Review: 2020 Idaho Falls Police Department Crime Statistics and Update: Department Policy:

Chief Johnson presented the following with general discussion throughout:

#### Calls for Service (CFS)

- 1% increase in IFPD CFS
- Average 137 CFS per day (that's a new CFS every 10.5 minutes)
- 5% increase in 911 calls (2019-2020)
- 20% increase in 911 calls (2017-2020)

Chief Johnson noted there were 206,728 phone calls handled by Idaho Falls/Bonneville County dispatch.

#### Decreases – Proactive Work

- Arrest -22% (due to Coronavirus (COVID-19))
- Traffic – Traffic stops -10%, DUI arrests -8%, drug arrests -17%

#### Group A – Persons Crimes

- 10% overall increase (2019-2020)
- 85% increase in aggravated battery (2019-2020)
- 2 homicides (+1 negligent homicide, normal average is 1/year)
- 5% increase in clearance rates (2019-2020)
- 16% increase (2017-2020)

Chief Johnson noted the Clearance Rate is the number of cases solved. Part of the increase is due to improvement with the records management system. Chief Johnson recognized Crime Analyst Victoria Estrada for getting the IFPD in compliance with national standards reporting.

#### Group A – Property Crimes

- 20% overall increase (2019-2020)
- 14% increase in burglary reports
- 115% increase in vehicle burglaries
- 94% increase in vehicle thefts
- 33% increase in robberies (2019-2020)

#### Group A – Society Crimes

- 15% overall category decrease
- 46% weapons violations increase (2019-2020)

#### Group B – “Quality of Life Crimes”

- 26% decrease overall

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- 62% increase in trespasses

### Mental Health/Psychiatric incidents

- 19% increases (2019-2020)
- 49% increases (2017-2020)

### Takeaways

- Your police officers are busy
- More serious crimes occurring that require more officers and more resources to handle
- Less time to conduct proactive work, traffic enforcement, address lower level/quality of life issues
- Despite that, increased clearance rates in all categories

Chief Johnson reviewed Demographic Data – Traffic Stops by race, quarter, percentages of total traffic stops, population percentages previously used, and population percentages 2020 census. Grand total of traffic stops = 6,491.

### Internal Affairs Investigation

- Six (6) internal affairs investigations conducted in 2020 (Chief Johnson noted these complaints are initiated by a 50/50 split between a citizen complaint and an internal complaint)
  - Two (2) sustained
  - Four (4) not sustained

### General Updates

- Use of Force (this has increased although Chief Johnson could not get accurate data due to system issues)
- Code Enforcement (this was a difficult transition but is now working well)
- Law Enforcement Chaplaincy of Idaho (have assisted with major crimes)
- CIT Detective (effective June 20, Detective Rome Stiffler)

### 2020 – Police Reform (Chief Johnson believes this was positive in this community)

- Engagement, proactive/invited
- Individuals and organized groups
- Good ideas
  - Many already in place
  - Some in progress – Strategic Plan
  - New ideas
- Room for education

### Changes, Updates, Takeaways

- Policy Manual Updates
  - Duty to Intercede and Duty to Report
  - Chokeholds banned, carotid control moved to higher use of force designation
- Minor compliant tracking
- African American/Hispanic liaison officers

Per Councilor Radford, Chief Johnson explained the restraining method of positional asphyxiation. He also reviewed the number of ethnicity of officers, the number of female officers, and language skills by officers. He noted the IFPD

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has been authorized 95 officers, the 95<sup>th</sup> officer was just recently hired. This number of officers has not occurred for several years.

Use of Force Review Board

- Three (3) appointed civilian members – Anna Gruel, David Snell, Lilliana Olivas

Mayor Casper stated a law enforcement-themed bill will be reviewed by the United States Congress. She expressed her concern with un-informed initiatives, use of force issues, and immunity issues. Councilor Francis questioned the policy and procedures for illegal aerial fireworks. Chief Johnson stated issues are prioritized pending the resource of officers, fireworks are a priority three (3) call, and an officer may not be available for several hours. Discussion followed regarding permitted fireworks. Mr. Kirkham stated Fire Marshal Scott Grimmett investigates these incidents and has previously issued citations as permitted fireworks events are very limited. He also stated Fire Marshal Grimmett and the IFFD is very vigilant about keeping the community safe from fire.

Conversation regarding possible Council policy initiatives desired through the end of the 2021 calendar year:

Mayor Casper requested Councilmembers contact her with any requested topic items for future discussion. Council President Dingman wants to ensure there is Council discussion regarding any budget concerns or policy initiatives that may be brought forward by Councilmembers. Mayor Casper stated the City is complex with a lean but highly capable staff and a highly engaged and collaborative City Council. She indicated she has strived to achieve high standards of performance to assist directors where needed although she believes the City is nearing the limits of performance in a practical sense. She stated directors and staff continued to work through the pandemic with no slow down. She prefers to get priorities clear and a clear understanding of what is and is not possible. She also prefers to clean some things up prior to the election. Mayor Casper believes discussion worthy topics include the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committees, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conversion, Resolution 2019-22 implementation (Carbon-free electricity generation), drought planning, retention ponds/neighborhood parks, instant (election) run-off, land use training, and neighborhood meetings. Councilor Freeman believes there should be discussion with Bonneville County regarding the Area of Impact. Councilor Radford believes there should be discussion with roads, the subdivision ordinance, and accessory dwelling units. Councilor Francis believes there should be policy-makers suggestions from the Bonneville Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO) regarding road issues. He also stated there is a group discussion regarding Dispatch and funding. Councilor Hally doesn't believe there are a lot of options to improve some of the roads. Mayor Casper indicated these topics will be discussed at Work Sessions as time allows.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

s/ Kathy Hampton  
Kathy Hampton, City Clerk

s/ Rebecca L. Noah Casper  
Rebecca L. Noah Casper, Mayor