

City Council Minutes
May 20, 2013

Mayor Thayer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present: Councilors Paul Canter, Brandy Rainey, Carol McGlasson, and Lonnie Koroush; and Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard. Councilor Harry Myers was excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tim Eastridge presented another suggestion to the Council; this time that it consider looking into a signalized crosswalk at Ash Street to improve pedestrian safety. Councilor Canter asked Mr. Eastridge of the issues he had raised for the Council to address over the past few months, which would be a priority for him.

Joanne McMackin requested the Council look into having Republic Services provide yard debris bins as they do in other cities; and read a letter of concern about the state of properties in the City with trash and weeds and tall grass.

STAFF REPORTS and UPDATES

Nate Walker, Interim Project Manager with CH2M Hill, gave a background on the raw water pump issues and the efforts undertaken to remedy the cavitation problem. Despite the efforts of Siemens (the plant manufacturer), City Engineer Ron Staehlin who designed the plant, and consulting engineers, experts in field on such pumps, the cavitation still continues.

Councilor Koroush expressed his concerns and dismay over the amount of money spent on this pump for repairs and replacement. Mr. Minard noted there was one more test to run, extending the intake line further under water; he would keep the Council informed.

Mr. Minard informed the Council that the Habitat for Humanity home would be under construction starting next week. He had received a policy options for renting the meeting rooms at the new library that would be on next month's agenda. Knife River had offered to donate wheel stops for the Legion Hall. The well had been connected to the irrigation system at the City Park ball field and things were progressing nicely. Two trees had been cut down on the drainage at Fir and N. 3rd; one had blown over and one was being undercut by the storm water and threatened a nearby home.

CONSENT AGENDA:

With questions and amendments to the bills, Mayor Thayer removed that item from the consent agenda. Councilor Canter moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rainey and unanimously approved.

Minard noted that two additional bills had been received: Honey Buckets for \$120 and Tim Nash for \$166.53 for parts for the ball field. Councilor Koroush asked about the bills to Beard Logging, Michael Morrell, Monroe Telephone, and Southwood Engineering. Minard responded that Beard was for cutting the two trees, Morrell's bill was for two months and not exceeding the Council directed limit, the telephone bill included all the lines for city facilities including the alarm systems at the water plant and sewer pump station, and Southwood Engineer was for City Engineer and his consulting engineer on the raw water pump. Councilor Koroush suggested removing the phone from the Legion Hall, but there were

concerns from the Council and no action taken. He also suggested that staff look into consolidating the C.O.O and facsimile lines. Councilor McGlasson moved to pay the bills as amended, which was seconded by Councilor Rainey and passed 3-1 (Koroush – NO).

NEW BUSINESS:

Renewal of Contract with Benton County Sheriff's Office. Mayor Thayer called on Sheriff Simpson to speak to the contract proposal. She noted the contract was for two years, with three percent (3%) increases in each year. She noted that the contract amount failed to cover even the personnel costs for a deputy at \$51.51 per hour in wages and benefits.

Mayor Thayer asked what the City received in extra benefits, since the citizens already should be receiving service for their County taxes. Sheriff Simpson noted that of the taxes paid to the County, \$14,000 was Monroe's share that went to the Sheriff's Department to cover all its operations; \$479 of Monroe's taxes pays for the City's share of patrol for the year.

Councilor Koroush noted that the Sheriff's contract for service still was a net expense for the City. Sheriff Simpson responded that she has no control over the City's Municipal Court.

Councilor Rainey asked if the new Interim Sheriff Jackson would continue with the level of service provided the community. Simpson cited the years of experience she had with Deputy Jackson and expected things to remain much the same as the Interim Sheriff.

Councilor Rainey moved to accept the contract with the Benton County Sheriff's Office as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Canter and approved 3-1 (Koroush – NO).

CH2M Hill Contract Renewal: Nate Walker of CH2 provided a presentation on the contract services provided by the company and the increased demands brought about by the new water and wastewater systems, such as staff time, chemicals and testing. He noted the contract resulted in an annual average increase over the past seven years of only 1.25% per year. He noted this contract called for a three percent (3%) increase based on extra labor costs from the past year. There were also two changes needed to delete the existing language for weekend payments of \$150 per day, that had never been assessed, and including the new library for maintenance under the contract.

The Council had questions about taking the "consumables" out of the contract. Minard noted he was still working with CH2 personnel on reducing or taking over these items, but was meeting resistance given operational concerns from CH2 staff. Mr. Walker noted he would be looking into this with Mr. Minard. The Council felt that this contract needed to be scrutinized and other options, such as taking this work back in-house, needed to be evaluated.

Councilor Canter moved to accept the contract with the proposed amendments. Councilor McGlasson seconded the motion which passed 3-2 (Koroush and Rainey – NO; Canter, McGlasson, Thayer – YES)

OLD BUSINESS:

Utility Systems on Territorial Hwy.: Frank Walker, representing Dan Werner, was present to discuss Mr. Werner's issues with the water and sewer system Werner installed for his

development on the east side of Territorial Hwy. Mr. Walker provided some historical background on how this development came to be installed by Mr. Werner and submitted several exhibits.

Councilor Koroush asked Mr. Walker exactly what it was he or Mr. Werner were seeking; were there damages or cost incurred he was looking to have reimbursed? Mr. Werner responded there were no repairs, other than damage during some highway improvements, and the system was operating perfectly. Werner stated he was looking for some response from the City accepting this line as agreed to in 1995. Councilor McGlasson asked him why he had not raised these issue years earlier. Werner explained he had years ago, but he never got a response from City Hall. Mr. Walker indicated he wanted to present the issue to the Council and meet again next month.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Arik Santiago was in the audience and said he was visiting to see the Council in action and he planned to submit his name as a candidate for the Council vacancy. The Mayor requested he submit a letter of interest for the Council's consideration at its next meeting. Joann McMackin had also written to the Mayor to express her willingness to serve.

Councilor Comments and Committee Reports: Councilor Canter reported on his and Councilor McGlasson's meeting with the South Benton Nutrition Program (SBNP) Board. He mentioned the window blinds donated by the SBNP were installed and ceiling molding need to be installed. He informed the Council the Employee and Finance Committee had met and would be recommending employee raises, directing PERS payments on behalf of Mr. Minard be paid to him directly. A full report would be prepared for the June Council meeting. He added performance evaluations would be done in the next month or so.

Councilor Rainey gave a brief report on her meeting with the Council of Governments and that Director Cynthia Solie would be retiring.

Councilor Koroush requested the Council go on record to request ODOT and Benton County post signs entering town precluding the use of exhaust breaks. Koroush made a motion to that effect, which was seconded by Councilor Canter and unanimously approve.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business Mayor Thayer adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Signed: _____
Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest: _____
Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard